Should We Have Nuclear Power?

The use of nuclear power in Australia has been hotly debated by scientists and environmentalists. Scientists argue it is cost-efficient and produces more power than any other power source, although environmentalists are concerned about its safety.

A common belief is that nuclear waste is toxic and difficult to dispose of, however scientists and government officials state the amount of waste produced by nuclear energy is the smallest of any major energy product process. In addition, nuclear energy provides other benefits besides electricity.

Uranium is needed to create nuclear energy, and in Australia it is available in enormous quantities. This is significant, as Australia would not need to import materials to generate its own power, which would lead to a healthy economy. Likewise, scientists also claim nuclear power is capable of producing significantly greater amounts of power than any other forms.

On the other hand, environmentalists argue nuclear energy produces cancer-causing pollutants and toxins. There have been serious accidents involving this type of energy in the past, and many people have been affected by the fumes and toxins released from nuclear power plants. Approximately 10,000 people died from cancer as a result of the Chernobyl disaster in the Ukraine in 1986.

Environmentalists suggest safer forms of energy can be produced by solar, water and wind power. Whilst these forms may be more expensive than nuclear energy, they are safer for people and the environment.

Furthermore, nuclear power plants are vulnerable to terrorist attacks. If one was targeted by terrorists in Australia, it would be disastrous. Many people would die from the explosion, and the radiation would cause thousands of deaths from cancer.

In summary, it appears Australia's energy can be provided with clean and environmentally-friendly forms of power. As a result, I encourage Australian children and adults to support campaigns which promote environmentally-safe forms of energy.