

# Powering Sydney into the Future: the Science of Alternative Energy



6.30pm Monday 17 August 2015 | Wesley Conference Centre



## Media Statement

11 August 2015

## Underground reactors part of energy solution

Small nuclear power plants housed underground could be the most cost effective and naturally safe way for Australia to tackle its future energy needs.

According to Tony Irwin who is part of a Public Forum panel that will discuss alternative energy this month, nuclear technology such as Small Modular Reactors (SMRs) could be a viable alternative energy solution for Australia.

Tony, Technical Director of SNR Nuclear Technology and Fellow of the Institution of Engineers Australia (FIEAust) said that the driver for any alternative electricity generation to fossil fuels in Australia is the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

"If we are serious about reducing emissions, we have to consider all technology options," Mr Irwin said.

Tony believes that SMRs are the most practical energy solution as they are particularly suitable for Australia's small grid system and remote areas.

Tony has more than 40 years' experience with nuclear reactors. He is currently the Chairman of Engineers Australia Nuclear Engineering Panel and a visiting lecturer for the Masters of Nuclear Science course at the Australian National University.

Tony will be part of a panel of five leading scientists and engineers who will be asking if Sydney is ready to tackle alternative energy. The Public Forum will be held by the Geological Society of Australia on 17 August.

*Powering Sydney into the Future: the Science of Alternative Energy* is being held as part of the Sydney Science Festival and National Science Week and will tackle the scientific challenges of creating sustainable management plans for our country.

The event will be held 6:30pm to 8:30pm Monday 17 August at the Wesley Conference Centre, 220 Pitt Street, Sydney. Tickets are available from Eventbrite and are just \$15 each or family (2Adults + 2Children) for \$40. School groups are also welcome at a discount rate of \$10 per person (min of 5 and maximum of 30).

Questions for the panel are invited and can be sent to [gsapublicforum@applebyolutions.com](mailto:gsapublicforum@applebyolutions.com) including your full name and contact mobile phone and email address.

**For information: Ruth Appleby 0417 498 881.**

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