

## **Willmott snubs nuke motion in Shoalhaven, Australia**

*Nuclear Power built on small meetings such as these.*

Milton Ulladulla Times  
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Councillor John Willmott has snubbed a motion calling for the Shoalhaven to remain nuclear free. He told the Times he doesn't see a problem with the use of nuclear power and supports the idea of investigations into the possibility of a nuclear power plant in the region.

"I think debate needs to be had before we say no to nuclear power.

"If the research and investigations show it is a safe and efficient energy source for the future then it is something we could look at as a council," Cr Willmott said.

Crs Willmott and Jim McCrudden were the only two councillors to vote against a motion put forward by Cr John Finkernagel at last week's council meeting that opposed any plans for a nuclear reactor at Jervis Bay.

The majority of councillors reaffirmed that Shoalhaven is a nuclear free city and have assured the community that council will oppose any plan or attempt to establish a nuclear power plant in the city, in the Shoalhaven River catchment or the Commonwealth Territory of Jervis Bay.

Cr Finkernagel said he was concerned about reports identifying the South Coast and Jervis Bay as potential reactor sites. He said Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation's executive director Ian Smith told the Canberra Times that four or five nuclear reactors would have to be built along the nation's east coast if the nuclear power industry was to provide a viable alternative to coal-fired power. He said the prospect of a nuclear power station at Jervis Bay was "certainly feasible" and should be revisited as a suitable site when debating Australia's role in a nuclear energy future. "These comments and John Howard's expert review of Australia's nuclear future, has Shoalhaven City residents asking: 'where will you build nuclear reactors and where will you dump the waste?'," Cr Finkernagel said. "If you're not willing to talk about sites and dumps, then you're not willing to have the debate. "If you want to have a nuclear power debate, let's start talking about the main issues – sites, dump sites and economics. "We need a full debate on all energy sources, including clean coal power plants, carbon capture and burial, and renewables such as wind and sun. "A nuclear power plant is not compatible with the Shoalhaven environment, is not part of our vision for the city and will be vigorously opposed by council," Cr Finkernagel said.

Cr Willmott said it was premature to reject investigations into the use of nuclear energy. "Twenty years ago nuclear medicine was feared and now people are hailing it a success. "You only hear about the negatives, but there are many positive aspects. "I have swum off the coast of Sweden where the cooling waters from nuclear power plants are discharged. "It's a popular summer holiday destination now that all the nuclear hype has died down. "It's certainly something that needs to be looked at and could be an environmental and economical benefit for our region," Cr Willmott added.

Council has called on the State and Federal Government for more research into the development of renewable energy sources and for society to become more energy efficient.

