

It is unclear why AEMO would rely on a GenCost study that has excluded consideration of large scale nuclear based on a few notes held by Paul Graham from a consultation that did not include any nuclear expertise.

The GenCost study should at least seek advice from credible and disinterested experts (perhaps from ANSTO) on the costing and viability of large scale nuclear, while power industry expertise could advise on the integration costs of the additional protection that may be required for fault protection should GW scale nuclear units be proposed.

The much longer life cycle for large scale nuclear compared to variable renewables also needs to be considered.

With regards to integration costs, it is not clear why this still considers pre-2030 renewable integration costs as sunk costs, considering that these costs need to be recovered from consumers; presumably at a regulated rate of capital return.

Overall, as an energy consumer concerned about decarbonisation and cost: it is unclear why there hasn't been a serious study comparing the full system (and financing) cost of swapping out large scale coal for large scale nuclear (over 50+ years that large scale nuclear could be expected to operate) to swapping out coal for firmed VRE and incredible amounts of distributed storage (all of which may need replacing over a 50 year period).

Until there is a genuine apples with apples comparison; there appears to be a severe risk that the electricity system will be re-engineered for the benefit of renewable energy investors at unnecessary cost to energy consumers, including industrial users burdened with uncompetitive electricity prices. The large scale nuclear myopia in GenCost contrasts with the declaration at COP28 of 22 world leaders to triple nuclear energy by 2050.

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