

Probus Neutral Bay Guest Speaker – Tues. 10th Nov. 2020

MARTIN THOMAS AM



“Nuclear Power - Australia’s Answer to Climate Change?”

Nuclear power generation has served the international community well and with remarkable safety for over 60 years. Today it is part of the portfolio of over 30 countries and growing with over 440 civilian power reactors in service worldwide. It provides about 10% of the world’s electricity. Over 50 new reactors are under construction, with over 400 more planned or proposed. Despite having nearly 30% of the world’s easily won low cost uranium resources, nuclear power is not part of Australia’s generation portfolio and remains illegal. Should this be so?



Martin Thomas Martin read engineering at Cambridge University and after early years in the UK migrated with his family in 1967 to join Merz Australia in Perth, managing isolated power projects for developing mining companies. Because of his extreme modesty he has forbidden me to elaborate on his extraordinary achievements and subsequent recognition, other than to mention “Retired Engineer”. Let’s just say

In 2006 he served on Prime Minister Howard’s Uranium Mining, Processing and Nuclear Energy Review. He was MD of the Cooperative Research Centre for Renewable Energy and a founding member of the Warren Centre Energy Committee at Sydney University. He has served the profession as President of Engineers Australia, President of the Australian Institute of Energy and Vice president of the Australian Academy of Technology and Engineering. Martin is a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) for services to energy and engineering. Some other name titles ... FTSE, HonFIEAust and HonFAIE.

Martin’s interests are primarily his family of three married daughters and seven grandchildren, but over his life he has enjoyed mountaineering and skiing (when young), gliding and sailing (feeling the wind) and now cycling (with other young at heart oldies), while maintaining an abiding interest in evolving technologies.

THE PRESENTATION...

- The findings of John Howard's Uranium Mining, Processing and Nuclear Energy Review taskforce.
- Areas covered include the issues of cost, sustainability, the alternatives, safety and spent fuel disposal.
- Following the change of Federal Government in 2007 and its re-election in 2010, policies surrounding uranium and nuclear power generation in Australia have remained on hold. What are the current thoughts of politicians?
- The Australian nuclear debate is far from over – indeed it is really only just beginning. And.... **Q** “Should nuclear power be part of Australia's 2050 clean energy commitments?”

This promises to be a very informative and thought - provoking presentation.