

COLLIE - NUCLEAR REACTOR SITE

755. Mr M.P. MURRAY to the Minister for Energy:

Can the minister confirm that Collie has been identified as the site of a future nuclear reactor?

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order, members! I call to order the Leader of the National Party for the first time.

Mr F.M. LOGAN replied:

Before I answer the question, I acknowledge the presence in the gallery of students from the North Balga Primary School. I welcome them to Parliament.

I thank the member for Collie-Wellington for the question and his justifiable concerns about a nuclear power station in his electorate. Unfortunately, I can confirm that Collie has been identified as a future site for a nuclear power station. During an interview on 6PR yesterday, John Howard's nuclear trigger man, Liberal MP for Tangney, Dennis Jensen, was asked -

So where would you likely put one -

That is, a nuclear power station -

if you were going to build a couple here in Western Australia?

His reply was -

Well, potentially, obviously you could put one down where the Collie Power Stations are.

He is talking about an area that still has the potential to supply coal for the next 120 years as an energy source. What does he suggest? Put a nuclear power station on top of the coal. It also happens to be a Labor seat. I notice that he did not suggest that one be put in Capel or Warren-Blackwood or Vasse. Does the Leader of the Opposition support a nuclear power station being put in Collie?

Mr P.D. Omodei: Ah, I think -

Mr F.M. LOGAN: Ah!

Mr P.D. Omodei: Let me answer!

Mr F.M. LOGAN: What about the Leader of the National Party? Does he support a nuclear power station in Collie? No answer. Does the member for Collie-Wellington support a nuclear power station in Collie?

Mr M.P. Murray: No.

Mr F.M. LOGAN: Absolutely!

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order, members!

Mr F.M. LOGAN: The member for Tangney said basically that nuclear power stations can be built anywhere. He said that the generation 4 power stations can be put anywhere. They could be placed in Mt Pleasant, Applecross or wherever.

Dr J.M. Woollard interjected.

Mr F.M. LOGAN: The member would like one, would she not? What about at Duncraig House? That is a good site for a nuclear power station! The problem is that not one generation 4 power station has been built yet. The member for Tangney forgets to tell people that.

Let us be serious about this. If the federal government wants to build nuclear power stations in Western Australia, it has to go somewhere. It now looks like Collie is in its sights, unfortunately.