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## Media release

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# Nuclear Plants - Where would they go?

Two thirds of Australians oppose nuclear power plants in their local area according to new research by the Australia Institute.

The finding is made in *Who Wants a Nuclear Power Plant?*, a paper analysing support for nuclear power in Australia by Institute Deputy Director Andrew Macintosh.

Polling for the Institute by Newspoll shows that while 50 per cent of people oppose the construction of nuclear power plants in Australia, opposition escalates when people consider the prospect of a plant being sited in their local area.

“Middle Australia is most concerned,” Mr Macintosh said. “A large 73 per cent of middle income households are opposed to living near a nuclear plant, compared to 61 per cent of low income and 63 per cent of high income households.

A large proportion of women (75 per cent) and people with children (72 per cent) are also opposed to living near a nuclear power plant.”

In a second paper, *Siting Nuclear Power Plants in Australia*, Mr Macintosh identifies 19 likely sites for nuclear power plants in Australia.

Launching the papers today, Institute Director Dr Clive Hamilton said “Overseas experience shows that the siting of power plants is one of the most politically contentious aspects of the nuclear debate.”

“The Prime Minister has called for a thorough and full-blooded debate about nuclear energy,” Dr Hamilton said. “We can not have this debate without considering siting issues”.

Based on four primary and six secondary criteria, including proximity to seawater for cooling and access to the national electricity grid, areas identified as possible nuclear plant sites are:

- in Queensland – Townsville, Mackay, Rockhampton, Gladstone, Bundaberg, Sunshine Coast and Bribie Island;
- in NSW/ACT – Port Stephens, Central Coast, Botany Bay, Port Kembla and Jervis Bay/Sussex Inlet;
- in Victoria – South Gippsland, Western Port, Port Phillip and Portland; and
- in South Australia – Mt Gambier/Millicent, Port Adelaide and Port Augusta/Port Pirie.

*Copies of the two papers are available on the Australia Institute website.*