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Media release

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Nuclear Power Plants

Port Augusta most likely

Following reports that Australian Nuclear Energy Pty Ltd is examining the viability of setting up Australia's first nuclear power plant in Victoria or South Australia, the Australia Institute today named Port Augusta as the most likely site.

"The available information indicates that if a nuclear power plant is going to be built in Victoria or South Australia, Port Augusta would be the most logical site", Institute Deputy Director Andrew Macintosh said.

"Port Augusta meets all of the basic criteria for siting a nuclear power plant and we have been unable to identify any factors that would exclude it from consideration.

"A nuclear power plant at Port Augusta could provide electricity to surrounding mines and other industry. There is also a possibility it could be co-located with a desalination plant that would provide an additional source of freshwater for the Adelaide region," Mr Macintosh said.

The identification of Port Augusta as the most likely site draws on a report that was recently released by the Australia Institute, titled *Siting Nuclear Power Plants in Australia*, which identifies 19 likely areas for nuclear power plants in Australia.

The other sites identified in South Australia were Mt Gambier/Millicent and Port Adelaide. The sites identified in Victoria were South Gippsland, Western Port, Port Phillip and Portland.

"The economics of the nuclear industry mean there won't be just one or two nuclear power plants. As the Switkowski report identifies, the more likely number is somewhere between 12 and 25 by 2050", Mr Macintosh said.

"These power plants are likely to be located along the eastern and southern coast of Australia, between Townville and Port Augusta.

"If a company with close links to the Federal Government is looking into the viability of nuclear power plants, the public deserves to be told exactly which sites are being considered," Mr Macintosh said.

Copies of the report Siting Nuclear Power Plants in Australia are available on the Australia Institute website.