

Unconvincing on energy

Since his recent appointment, Energy Minister Angus Taylor has done nothing to dissuade the public that he remains a shill for the renewable energy industry (“Renewables are coming, but we need to secure supply”, 7/11). He continues to bluster about taking a big stick to energy companies, while his government continues to encourage investment in wind and solar by the continuance of subsidies to these sources of costly and unreliable energy.

He makes the amazing claim that “leaving Paris will not create new price pressures”, which flies in the face of an IPA report estimating that the Paris emissions targets will impose a \$52 billion economic cost to the country, over 2018-2030. This equates to \$8566 per family.

His energy bucket list should include four things — scrap the RET and all subsidies; get out of the ridiculous Paris agreement; facilitate the building of one or more coal-fired power stations; and legislate to enable our best and brightest to study the advantages of nuclear power.

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One always gets the impression when Angus Taylor writes or speaks about energy policy that he is dancing around the issue. The fact that renewables will amount to almost a quarter of generation in the next few years is good for emissions impact, but does little for reliability. Taylor is always vague about the obvious factor — the need for immediate investment in coal-fired plants to replace base-load and sustain reliability.

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