

Bishop To Investigate Tidal Power Proposal

Federal Science Minister Julie Bishop is expected to request that her department assess a tidal power proposal which would see the 11-metre tides of Western Australia's Kimberley region harnessed to provide power for Australia's east coast. WA-based Federal backbencher Wilson Tuckey says tidal power is "the best-kept renewable energy generation secret in Australia" and could alleviate the need for nuclear power in Australia. Tuckey wants to see a Federal Government inquiry into its potential, saying tidal power is emission and fuel-free, and could be used to supply baseload power. He says the project would be similar to the Snowy Mountains hydro-electricity scheme. "If Australia is to be a future participant in carbon trading... why not use its clean image and tidal carbon credits to offset other nations' emission[s] when they purchase our coal and gas?" says Tuckey. Bishop, also from WA, says the idea is worthy of further investigation. Despite the Kimberley's remoteness acting as a barrier to tidal power uptake previously, Tuckey says potential demand from the North-West Shelf and developments in tidal power use in North America could see it become feasible. Opposition environment spokesman Peter Garrett has welcomed the discussion.

[Source essa news]