

GREENPEACE

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australia news



ENVIRONMENT IN CRISIS

**OILING ALONG
URANIUM MINING?
RESOURCE SECURITY**

WORDS FROM THE INSIDE CONTENTS

from Paul Gilding, executive director of Greenpeace Australia

I want to write to you about some momentous changes occurring behind the scenes in Australian politics and, as a result, in Greenpeace. These changes will affect all of us as Australians and, in particular, as members of Greenpeace. We are facing a crisis in the environment movement, a crisis which could see us fail in our ultimate aim to save the planet from environmental ruin or which could lead us to great successes. This issue of our magazine is devoted to some of the critical threats that the environment is facing in Australia right now - threats to our forests through logging and Resource Security legislation, threats to our marine life through oil exploration and threats to our whole environment from expanded uranium mining.

First, though, I want to share with you an important lesson I learned during the time the Hawke government made its decision to pass Resource Security legislation. During the several days the Cabinet was debating, I had the very interesting experience of being present at Parliament House.

Parliament House is a strange place, with very little in common with everyday life. It is a huge building and most people there are working from early in the morning to late at night. The building becomes their world. And so, necessarily, sometimes politicians can lose touch with the greater world outside. Their decisions will always be dictated by many different and conflicting interests - leadership ambitions, factional manoeuvring and diverse constituencies to represent. It became obvious to me that the principles behind the Resource Security decision mattered very little. The actual effect on Australia's environment mattered far less than issues like the economic fundamentalist ministers getting one up on those they opposed in Cabinet. Exposing the Prime Minister to attack by the conservation movement as part of a process of leadership challenge appeared to be the main aim of some of those supporting Resource Security.

Observing this decision-making process brought home to me a very important lesson, with major implications for Greenpeace. There is really nothing surprising about this process for people who know how Canberra works. However, being there and watching it happen had a major impact on me. Comparing the process of decision-making which will commit generations of Australians to a path of environmental destruction to the enormity of the global environmental crisis we absolutely must face revealed to me the absurdity of our political process. It drove deep into my thinking that the only way we are to have any hope for the future of this planet is to change the way we conduct politics.

Being right is not enough. Having the support of the majority of the population is not enough. If we want to change the way decisions are made, we, and I mean all Australians who care about the environment, have to make our voices not just heard, but felt. Felt at every level of society as they have never been felt before.

The government's choice to support Resource Security was a turning point for the environment movement. Not just because it was a terrible decision and a potential tragedy for our native forests, but because of what it represents. What it represents is much worse than this tragedy alone. It signals a major turn-around by the Hawke government away from true sustainable development and to uncontrolled economic growth and exploitation.

As discussed in the article "Resource Security = Insecurity", the issue is not one of jobs vs trees, environmental preservation vs the economy. We know Australia is facing a recession. We are facing it at Greenpeace as well. It is hardly surprising the level of concern over the economy has risen in recent months as people are suffering the effects of the recession. But, it is important to note that while concern over the economy has risen, concern for the environment has not fallen. It has not fallen because,

unlike politicians, the public as a whole realises that ultimately it is not the economy which sustains us. Without clean air to breathe, clean water to drink and safe food to eat, we do not exist. You can't eat a healthy balance of payments.

We must make our voices heard and felt throughout the country. We need to force rapid change. If we don't, we will fail at our task of preserving our planet. If we do, we will be able to look back on the 1990s as one of the most positive decades of change in history.

As a result of these political developments, we at Greenpeace are reviewing all of our operations, all of our campaigns. We are going to redirect our energy and resources towards mobilising community action. We now have an extraordinary membership of over 75,000 people. In a year's time we are aiming to have over 100,000. We will soon be one of the largest organisations of any type in the country and we are going to make our voice, your voice heard and felt throughout Australia.

Greenpeace made the decision many years ago that the most effective way for us to operate was to mobilise people to be active in their own local groups, in their workplaces, at schools, and with their friends and families. We welcome your ideas about the best ways to encourage this involvement. Please send your suggestions to me, in writing, at our Sydney office. Over the next several issues of *Greenpeace Australia News* we will share some of our ideas with you. In this issue, we include a revised version of "Stepping Lightly on the Earth", a leaflet full of practical ways to make changes in your everyday lives.

We want to redefine activism. Being an environmental activist should mean living the changes we need to make and encouraging those around us to do the same. Whatever change you choose to begin with, choose it now. Time is no longer on our side.

2 Words from the Inside

4 Merrily We Oil Along by Peter Gill and Vera Hughes

7 Campaign Updates

8 Clever Countries Don't Mine Uranium by Jean McSorley

11 Resource Security = Insecurity by Rick Humphries

13 Local Offices Letters to you from staff and volunteers

14 Roving Reporter News from Around the World

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LOCAL OFFICES

Our local offices are our first means of support to our members and to the general public. If you have questions about environmental issues, if you would like advice about community action you can take, if you would like a speaker for your school or group, or if you would like to become a Greenpeace volunteer please contact the office nearest you.

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Merrily, we oil along.

Greenpeace believes that from exploration to use, oil causes environmental havoc. Some of the environmental impacts of oil include:

- During seismic testing there is a risk to whales and other acoustically sensitive marine creatures.
- During oil drilling a range of toxic substances are released in the marine environment. Of course, there is always the constant threat of oil spills from drilling rigs.
- The various stages of oil transport from rig to final user, through pipes and ships, present the danger of spills with devastating consequences.
- The use of oil in transport produces pollution, which is choking our cities, and greenhouse gases, which are choking our planet through Global Warming.

Added all together, oil is environmental disaster. So, where does this leave us? We can't always walk or ride bicycles. We need to heat our homes and we need plastic products. Greenpeace certainly accepts that we need energy and energy security. But, we also believe that oil can provide neither in the long term. Any serious and unbiased examination of the issue shows that there is no future in fossil fuels as an energy source.

In addition, the economic consequences of continuing importation and exploration of oil to supply our growing domestic demand will increase our balance of payments problems. By the year 2005, two thirds of Australia's oil will need to be supplied by imports and from newly-found oil fields if our consumption is not curbed. Our import bill is growing at a staggering rate, approximately \$5 billion by 1995 and set to soar into the 21st century.

Dr Joe Hamilton, Programme Manager Petroleum Exploration from the CSIRO, has indicated that in order to maintain Australia's 83% self-sufficiency in oil, around \$13 billion will be required for oil exploration. Even though the contribution from future oil discoveries is very uncertain, governments insist on relying on heavy investment in oil exploration to the exclusion of other options. Greenpeace believes that any government assistance to these projects should be re-directed into eliminating our dependence on oil in the transport sector.

Despite the realities of Global Warming, and the Hawke government's commitment to a 20% reduction on greenhouse gases by 2005, the government is promoting oil exploration while virtually ignoring the need for energy efficiency programmes and a sensible transport system. We must, as a nation, develop a Rational Energy Strategy which incorporates

existing technology and promotes research into alternative energy sources. More efficient cars, expanded public transport, moving freight from road to rail, and the building of an export industry in solar and other safe energy sources are the paths forward for Australia. It is true we are dependent on oil. It is also true that, in the long run, this dependence is not healthy for us. To truly live a life of quality we must stop enduring air pollution, oil contaminated waters and all the traffic problems caused by our free and easy use of cars. For a sustainable and healthy future we must search out and develop the alternatives for renewable energy. With all this in mind, Greenpeace decided it was time for action. We have already spent a lot of time and money researching and promoting renewable energy and transport alternatives. So, we decided it was time to confront oil-prospecting BHP directly.

BHP - Meeting at Sea

In March the *Rainbow Warrior* sailed into the Otway Basin, off Victoria, to confront BHP's seismic testing vessel, *Western Odyssey*. The *Western Odyssey* was on contract to the Big Australian to prospect for oil and gas on the sea floor off Warrambol. The aim of the confrontation was to disrupt the seismic vessel's operation while the issue of oil exploration was raised both locally and nationally. This area is well known as a calving ground for endangered southern right whales. Along with the right whales, the area's rich marine life includes several other species of whales and dolphins, as well as seals, penguins, other sea birds, fish and marine invertebrates. The local economy is based on the natural wealth of the region - tourism, fishing and agriculture.

BHP had revealed details of their seismic testing to a select, largely development-minded group of the local population. But they failed to consult the residents, many of whom depend on the welfare of the sea for their livelihood, in a meaningful way. BHP's attitude reflects that of the Federal Department of Primary Industries and Energy, whose brainchild it is to open up two-thirds of our continental shelf for oil exploration, despite less than

4% of the nation's coastline being in any way protected. Oil exploration and development is a technically complex environmental issue. Each stage of the process is fraught with potential hazards. Ocean Ecology campaigners doing preparatory work in Warrambol, Portland and other centres found abysmally low levels of understanding of the issue. It seems that this is the atmosphere in which BHP prefers to work.

On the night of Sunday March 24, the *Rainbow Warrior* and the *Western Odyssey* made radio contact, but the *Rainbow Warrior* stood off and attempted no interference. The following day, Ocean Ecology Co-ordinator Molly Olson requested permission to board the *Western Odyssey* by a scout boat operating with them, called on BHP to stop seismic testing by noon that day or Greenpeace would attempt to disrupt the tests.

As the testing continued past noon, inflatables were launched from the *Rainbow Warrior* and a series of experiments were tried to see which had an effect on the seismic testing. The power of the seismic apparatus was soon apparent. Seismic air guns produce explosive

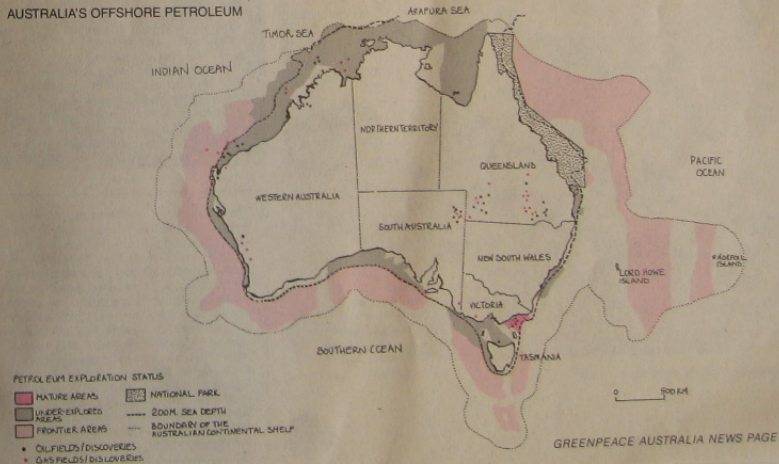
Greenpeace protesting against BHP offshore oil exploration



pulses of sound of about 240 dB. A jumbo jet produces 90 to 120 dB at take-off and 140 dB is regarded as the threshold of pain for human ears. The pulses were felt through the hull of the physically jolted nearby inflatables out of the water. These sounds may constitute far-ranging harassment of marine creatures, and have prompted BHP's permit requirements to state they must be clear of the area before the

right whale calving period. However, they have not made the same provision to avoid other species of marine mammals, birds and fish which may be present at any time of the year, but which are not the focus of a tourist industry. For example, a blue whale and two humpback whales were seen in the area while the testing was in progress.

AUSTRALIA'S OFFSHORE PETROLEUM





On the first day of the action, the aim was to disrupt the testing by creating noise that would interfere with the acquisition of seismic information. Greenpeace personnel in the inflatables made loud noises underwater, while the *Rainbow Warrior* motored alongside the seismic receiver at the end of the three kilometre long seismic cable.

The following day presented a different picture. A southwest change had come through during the night, with two to three metre seas and winds gusting to gale force at times. The *Western Odyssey* had tested throughout the night and in the morning the action recommenced. The objective this time was to physically attempt to move the end of the seismic cable out of alignment, on the assumption that the precision of the seismic process depended on the correct alignment of the cable. Ropes were connected to the buoy at the end of the cable. Rope with a weak breaking strain was deliberately chosen to ensure no damage was done. An inflatable attempted to then pull the end of the cable to one side. In accordance with Greenpeace policy, there was never any intention to damage the cable or, in fact, any of BHP's property. Our purpose was merely to disrupt testing to the point where the cable would be retracted.

While the inflatables were attempting to tow the cable offline there were repeated collisions with the scout boat, on contact to the *Western Odyssey* to remove cray pots from the path of the testing. This certainly was the most critical time of the action, when tensions were high. But finally there was jubilation on the *Rainbow Warrior* as the BHP vessel announced it was drawing in the cable and postponing the testing programme. The *Western Odyssey* then proceeded to Portland, and the *Rainbow Warrior* close behind. While the *Warrior* tied up at the wharf in Portland, the *Western Odyssey* anchored off shore. Later in the day we learned that BHP had brought an injunction against Greenpeace in the Federal Court, preventing any Greenpeace vessel or person from approaching within three nautical miles of the *Western Odyssey*. In the late afternoon the *Western Odyssey* slipped away to resume its testing programme, but by this time we had made our point. Our next priority was to prepare for the public meeting we had organised in Warnamboof for that night.

With three days' notice of the meeting, on the Thursday before Easter, we had 250 people attend. BHP declined an invitation to attend. Speakers included Moly Ineson, Joel Stewart, the Captain of the *Rainbow Warrior*, a repre-

The toxicity of oil has generally been underestimated. The effects on wildlife are not restricted to the visible effects of oiling. The coating of fur and feathers with oil causes a loss of insulation and the animals die of hypothermia. While attempting to groom themselves, oil is swallowed causing damage to the intestinal tract. Inhalation of oil and fumes may result in damage to the lungs and 'chemical pneumonia'. There is evidence of disorders to the liver, heart and nervous system as well as genetic damage and other reproductive effects.

sentative of the local Aboriginal community, a local shire engineer talking about geothermal energy (which is available in the area but which the government won't fund), and the local council Economic Development Officer, who admitted that the information on which decisions had been based had been one-sided in favour of BHP. After these speakers, a succession of local people stood up and spoke passionately about how they valued the beauty and purity of their coast, and how they resented the way BHP had avoided consulting the local community, while putting their greatest asset, the natural environment, at risk.

At press time, legal action by BHP against Greenpeace was pending. Whatever the outcome, one thing is sure. Greenpeace stands by its actions on Warnamboof's coast. Corruption of our environment for the short-term profit of the few has never been right and never will be. Prospecting and drilling for oil is no long-term answer to our energy needs. Maintaining a safe and healthy future for our children cannot be accomplished by burning still more oil. We must work together as a community and influence government and business to make the changes in cars, in public transport and in all technologies that we know are possible, and that we know we need.

In May 1990, an oil spill of approximately 50 tonnes occurred at Apollo Bay, Victoria. Oiled penguins soon started to show up on beaches, as did other species such as cormorants, prions, diving petrels and Pacific gulls. The confirmed penguin death toll stands at 226. However, studies after the Exxon Valdez spill indicate that only 10%-30% of oiled sea birds actually wash ashore, so the Apollo Bay mortality may have been far higher.

The leasing of commonwealth off-shore waters to the oil industry can result in long-term economic costs, which are generally borne by local communities. The companies involved in off-shore operations are generally multi-national, and experience shows that the capital benefits of drilling operations do not remain within the communities in which they are generated. Oil development offers only minimal employment opportunities to the local labour pool. The rigs themselves are largely automated. Workers are brought in from other regions or overseas and return home during their time off. Oil drilling activities can adversely affect local on-shore employment through damage to both the tourism and fishing economies.

CAMPAIGN UPDATES

antarctica

Keeping on the Pressure

Later in 1990 the American Congress passed legislation supporting an indefinite ban on minerals activity in the Antarctic. Despite this encouraging sign, the United States has recently proposed that a possible 'common tolerable ground' for this indefinite ban might be a 20-40 year moratorium if the Minerals Convention, or something similar, comes into force at the end of the period. The Soviet Union is also going along with this position and the United Kingdom's recently announced position is very similar to the American.

On the surface, this may look like a positive compromise for these nations. In reality, it is just a re-packaging of the Minerals Convention option. Originally, at the time of the completion of the Minerals Convention negotiations, most nations indicated that they were not interested in mining for another 20-30 years. A moratorium, in fact, legitimises the right to mine but just defers the starting time.

On the positive side, Australia now has domestic legislation prohibiting all Australian citizens and companies from engaging in mineral resource activities in the Antarctic, and banning all such activities within the Australian Antarctic Territory. The Australian government appears to be totally committed to the international initiative to ban mining and make Antarctica a World Park. Because of the strength of this commitment, the Greenpeace Australia Antarctic campaign is focusing its attention on other Antarctic Treaty nations, especially those on the fence.

For instance, although expressing some sympathy for the World Park concept, Chile currently supports a position part-way between the Australian/French demand for a permanent mining ban and the Japanese position of pushing for the Minerals Convention to be put in place as soon as possible. Greenpeace Australia wants its supporters to illustrate the existing and growing support for World Park Antarctica to the Chilean government. **Please write letters to:** The Chilean Embassy, Address them to: Ambassador of Chile Mr Juan Salazar PO. Box 69, Monaro Crescent, A.C.T. 2603. We are also asking Australia's Chilean community to support this campaign.

India's position is more sympathetic but is not solid. Greenpeace believes that India is ready to be swayed by public opinion. Direct approaches by Greenpeace executives to India's Minister for the Environment have been made, while the Australian Indian community is also being approached for support. **Please write letters of concern to:** Ministry of Environment and Forests, Paryavaran Bhawan, C/O O Complex, Phase II, Lodhi Road, New Delhi 110003. Let's make sure the beauty and power of Antarctica is preserved.

Lyn Goldsworthy

ocean ecology

Turtle Tour

Greenpeace Australia's chartered sailing vessel, *Redbill*, recently completed a two month campaign along Queensland's east coast. The purpose of this tour was to promote investigation and protection of our sea turtles. The first part of the tour focussed on loggerhead turtles and the search to find ways to protect them after a 50% drop in their population in the last decade. The second stage centred around the hawksbill turtle, which is hunted the world over for its shell.

In Brisbane, Greenpeace received assurances from Queensland Environment Minister, Pat Comben that Mon Repos, a major nesting site for the loggerhead, will be designated a marine park before the end of 1991. Bundaberg was also visited, where public education days were held and contacts were made with local commercial fishing people.

The second half of the tour began in Cairns and continued on into 40 islands along the east coast of Cape York and into eastern Torres Strait. Greenpeace and the Queensland National Parks and Wildlife Service worked together to conduct a survey to gather information on the numbers of hawksbills in the area. The surveyors tagged and measured the turtles and their eggs. In some cases, blood tests were taken to determine genetic relationships. In addition, surveys of plants, birds, lizards and crocodiles were made.

All in all, the *Redbill* and crew gathered much useful information to help our campaign to protect our sea turtles. For more information on the results of the survey or on the loggerhead or hawksbill sea turtles, contact Trevor Daly in the Sydney office.

atmosphere

A Long Haul Ahead

On the warmest fourth of February on local record, government representatives from over one hundred countries gathered in a conference centre in Chantilly, Virginia, forty miles from Washington, D.C. A sense of urgency could have been expected from the work ahead. These government representatives had the task of laying the groundwork for a Global Climate Change Convention that would set targets and limits on methane, carbon dioxide, nitrous oxide and other emissions which cause Global Warming.

The meeting was given greater urgency due to the failings of the Second World Climate Conference held in Geneva last spring. The Conference failed to gain agreement on reduction of carbon dioxide levels, or on any policy agreements to halt Global Warming. These negotiations followed three years of intensive scientific investigations on climate change under the United Nations Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). Their report showed unprecedented Global Warming is occurring as a result of human activity.

Many countries, such as Australia, New Zealand, Italy, Austria, Denmark and Germany, are prepared to accept a 20% reduction in 1988 carbon dioxide levels by the year 2005 for industrialised countries in a climate convention (known as the Toronto Targets). Although this is not the 60% to 80% necessary as described by the IPCC, it is a beginning. But despite this, just as at the Second World Climate Conference, the world's governments again failed to engage in serious negotiations on emission targets.

The United States, the Soviet Union, Saudi Arabia, the United Kingdom and Japan, countries Greenpeace has labeled 'Climate Criminals', continue to thwart any action to commit themselves or encourage others to aid the development of a Global Climate Change Convention which includes carbon dioxide reduction targets. The majority of the delegates spent all available time either making general statements of policy or discussing procedural matters. The only concrete outcome of the meeting was the partial organising of the Inter-governmental Negotiating Committee which will conduct future negotiations.

The Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS), which consists of small island states in the Pacific, Caribbean and Indian Oceans as well as the Mediterranean, are angry and frustrated at the sink or swim policy towards island states put forward by these Climate Criminals. AOSIS nations will be completely under water if sea level rise occurs as predicted.

Greenpeace demands that the United Nations Global Climate Negotiating Committee accept the analysis of the IPCC and commit itself to measuring that go all the way to halt Global Warming. We can only hope that future meetings, to be held in Nairobi and Geneva later this year, can pave the way for a comprehensive Climate Change Convention to be signed at the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. We are running out of time.

Steve McDermott



Greenpeace in action off the Victorian coast

CLEVER COUNTRIES DON'T MINE URANIUM



by Jean McSorley

Australians have long had difficulty coming to terms with the mining of uranium. In the early days some believed that the industry would earn Australia very big money. But for others the sale of uranium was the first step in Australia's part in fuelling the global nuclear arms race. So, the politicians came to a compromise. The Labor Party's uranium mining policy currently allows uranium mining but limits it to three named mines - Nabarlek (now mined out), Ranger in the Northern Territory and Roxby Downs in South Australia.

Despite the fact that the economic miracle of uranium mining never came to fruition, the mining companies are presently lobbying to significantly increase the number of uranium mines in Australia. The change in federal policy can only come if the Australian Labor Party changes its policy when it discusses the Uranium Review at the party's Biennial National Conference in June.

GREENPEACE

STEPPING LIGHTLY ON THE EARTH



Every day each of us unwittingly contributes to the growing environmental crisis confronting the future of our planet. From the fumes in the car to the nitrates in the sandwich, from the flea collars on our dogs to our insatiable use of our finite supply of energy resources, modern western society has left its imprint on the

earth. It is not a gentle nudge either. In fact, we have placed ourselves in a situation in which there is no option but to change. We must learn to walk more lightly on the earth. Or, the earth herself will have the lesson upon us as she reaches the end of her capacity to provide us with the luxuries we currently enjoy.

To maintain our lives and the earth there is a very logical solution. Reduction.

We can all reduce the strain we place on resources by changing and reducing our consuming habits. By consciously placing an environmental value on every product and service we consume, we can distinguish between what is truly necessary in our modern lifestyle and what is merely easy or convenient. Each item we bring into our household has an environmental price. The money we pay for a product does not necessarily reflect the full costs of goods consumed.

Along with the gift of the beauty and riches of the earth comes the responsibility for it as well. The more we learn, the more we realize the absolute necessity for humanity to step lightly and responsibly on the earth. The sum of the results of the apparently insignificant choices of products we use and practices we employ makes a significant total by the end of our lives. When multiplied by the influence we have on our friends, families and work places, the results are even greater.

The recipes and ideas collected here are just guidelines. They are meant to be used as a starting point for your household. Do not limit yourself to these columns. Explore and experiment to discover what suits you. Just remember that there is power in each of your daily living choices. It is up to you to determine how this power affects you, your family and all of the citizens of the earth.

CLEANERS UP CLEANLY

While groups such as Greenpeace conduct long running campaigns to stop the terrible amounts of industrial pollution affecting our air, land and water, there is immediate action individuals can take to reduce our toxic impact on the earth. Informed choices about the products we bring into our homes not only make our homes safer, but they also directly influence industry. When reduced sales cause profits to fall, supply and demand industries will be forced to clean up their acts. An care for our home environment becomes care for the environment as a whole.

We have been conditioned to believe that we need a different chemical substance for each individual cleaning job in our homes, and that all household surfaces need to be chemically clean and superficially sparkling. These expectations are not realistic. Households have been kept clean and safe for thousands of years without the use of these massive chemical cleaners. All you need is a little common sense and creativity.

Some key ingredients for all cleaning jobs are pure soap, bicarbonate of soda (soda), a little ammonia, vinegar, washing soda and borax. Use the simplest, simplest method to get the job done. First try warm water mixed with soap for grease. If the surface being cleaned will show spots adding washing soda, borax or bleach if needed. Here are five recipes for all sorts of cleaning jobs.

Try them or formulate your own.

Recipe 1
4 litres hot water
1/4 cup white ammonia
1 tablespoon bleach
For a stronger mixture, double all ingredients except water.

Use on floors. Always use sparingly with bleach. Highly toxic fumes may be formed.

Recipe 2
3 heaped spoons
1 heaped cup
1 litre water
This can be stored in a spray bottle.

CONSIDER THESE FACTS

Because of pollution from cars and industry, breathing air in Bombay, India is equal to smoking 10 cigarettes a day. In the United States 150 million people breathe an estimated unhealthy air by the Environmental Protection Authority.

A 16 km push bike ride uses 150 units of energy, equivalent to the energy in a loaf of rice. The same trip in a car uses 18,000 units of energy, approximately 2 tons of petrol.

We use 250 litres of water to produce a kilo of wheat and 25,000 litres to produce a kilo of meat. An amazing 99.5% of all fresh water is contained in polar ice caps and glaciers.

Car plants in New Jersey have a capacity of 100 cars a day. At present rates of production this could grow to three spaces on a base in just 10 years.

In 1985 more than 60 billion aluminium beverage cans were used worldwide.



100% recycled paper • saves energy • saves trees

ALL AROUND YOUR PLACE

Washing dishes

Commercial dishwashing liquids are designed to create unnecessary suds. Replace dish detergents with soap. (Dissolve flakes in hot water first.) Add vinegar for really tough baked-on grease. For burnt pots and pans coat the area with a thick paste of bicarb and water and leave for several hours before washing.

Ovens

Prevent the problems from happening by avoiding over-filling pans and scraping up spills as soon as they are cold enough to handle, and put a baking tray on bottom rack when spilling seems unavoidable. When accidents happen, combine the strong version of Recipe 1 with bicarb. Wear gloves when scrubbing.

Drains

Your drains can be kept open, clean and odour free without the use of corrosive drain cleaners. There are two simple rules. Never pour grease down the drain. And, always use a drain sieve. In addition, use this preventative measure for routine maintenance up to once a week. Pour 1/4 cup bicarb down the drain. Follow with 1/2 cup vinegar and plug the drain until foaming stops. Flush with four litres of boiling water. If you have two sinks, plug one side before commencing the procedure. Also try this method if a clog does happen.

Bathroom

Most commercial tile cleaners do more harm than good because they contain chlorine, a serious irritant to the eye, nose and skin. For general bathroom cleaning, use a firm bristled brush with either bicarb and hot water or one of the cleaning recipes. For mouldy tiles, wipe vinegar onto mould, leave overnight and scrub by the morning. To clean the toilet, apply a thick paste of borax and lemon juice to stubborn areas. Leave for several hours and then scrub. Or, a strong solution of vinegar can be used.

Windows and mirrors

For routine cleaning, use three tablespoons of vinegar with 1 litre warm water. If the glass is especially dirty, first wash with warm soapy water. To dry surfaces, use re-usable cheesecloth or crumpled newspaper.

LAUNDRY

Laundry soap - Add 1/3 cup washing soda to water before adding clothes and substitute soap flakes or powder for detergent. Flakes may need to be dissolved in a bit of hot water before adding to the machine. When making the initial switch from detergents to soap, wash items often with washing soda only. This will eliminate detergent residues that might otherwise react with soap to cause yellowing of fabrics.

Pre-soak - Soak heavily soiled items in warm water with 1/2 cup washing soda for 30 minutes. Rub soiled areas with liquid soap. **Bleach** - Substitute 1/2 cup of borax per washload to whiten and brighten colours.

Fabric softener - Add 1/2 cup vinegar or 1/4 cup bicarb during final rinse. To reduce static cling in tumble dried synthetics, dampen hands when folding.

Dry cleaning - Buy items you can wash on your own. Most dry cleaning solvents are toxic. If you must dry clean, air clothes thoroughly before bringing indoors. Many garments labelled "dry clean only" can be safely handwashed using mild soap.

CARPETS

To fully clean and deodorize carpets, mix 2 pans cornmeal (polenta) with 1 part borax. Sprinkle liberally, leave one hour and then vacuum. For tougher stains, repeatedly blot with vinegar in soapy water. Quick deodorizing is easy if you sprinkle the carpet with bicarb, then vacuum. When buying carpet, avoid synthetics in favour

of natural materials such as cotton and wool. Buy rugs and carpets which have not been treated with insecticides and fungicides. When rugs are cleaned, make sure no pesticides are used. Avoid commercial products containing chlorine, formaldehyde, and solvents such as trichloroethylene, methylene, nitrobenzene, etc. If a product fails to list its ingredients, write to the manufacturer for ingredient information. It is always your right to know exactly what you are buying. If they will not tell you their ingredients, write back and let them know you are not able to buy their product. And, ask them what they are hiding.

CLEAN INGREDIENTS

Soap - Biodegrades safely and completely and is non-toxic. Available in grocery stores, some health food stores and chemists. Sold as liquid, flakes, powder or bars. Bars can be grated to dissolve more easily in hot water. Look for soaps without synthetic scents, colours or other additives.

Bicarbonate of Soda - Cleans and deodorizes. Softens water to increase sudsing and cleaning power of soap. Good scouring powder. **Borax** - cleans and deodorizes. Excellent disinfectant. Softens water. Available at chemists and supermarkets.

Washing Soda - Cuts grease and removes stains. Disinfects. Softens water. Available in laundry section of grocery store.

Vinegar - Cuts grease and freshens.

Cloudy Ammonia - Ammonia cuts heavy grease and grime, but it can be dangerous. Fumes irritate eyes and lungs and can be harmful to people with respiratory problems. Use ammonia only when other cleaners won't do the trick and always provide good ventilation. **Disinfectant** - For a hospital quality disinfectant, use 1/4 cup borax dissolved in 2 litres hot water. Keeping surfaces clean and dry reduces the need for disinfectants.

CONTROLLING INDOOR PESTS

Indoor pests can be controlled without the use of toxic chemicals harmful not only to the intruding pests, but potentially to the human inhabitants as well. As common sense dictates, prevention plays a key role in safely controlling indoor pests. Keep your home as clean as possible, particularly food areas. Seal up cracks, repair screens - any points giving intruders easy access. Remember, while the following methods are non-toxic to the environment, some may be dangerous (and attractive) to children and pets. Be careful how you use these remedies.

Cockroaches

Plug all small cracks along skirting boards, wall shelves, and cupboards, and around pipes, sinks and bathroom fixtures. A light dusting of borax around refrigerator, stove and duct work (or any of the 'roaches' favourite spots) is effective. Replace the borax if it gets wet, as it then is no longer as effective. To make a trap, lightly grease the inner neck of a bottle and put a little stale beer or raw potato in it.

Flies

Sunny windows are flies' most common point of entry into your home, so close windows before the sun hits them. Use sticky flypaper to catch unwelcome visitors. You can make your own with honey and yellow paper.

Mice and rats

Keep storage areas clean and tidy, and seal holes in walls. Use mousetraps or cats or mix 1 part plaster of paris with 1 part flour and a little sugar or cocoa powder. Sprinkle it where rodents, but not children or pets, will find it.

Moths

Keep vulnerable clothes clean, dry and well aired. Store cleaned clothes in cedar lined wardrobe or trunk. Seal clothes tightly in boxes or bags with moth repellent sachets - small cotton bags filled with cedar shavings, dried lavender or equal parts dried rosemary and mint. Or try dried orange peel scattered through materials. Rid clothes of moth eggs by hanging in the sun for several hours or running through the clothes dryer. To trap moths, mix 1 part molasses with 2 parts vinegar and place in a yellow container. Clean trap regularly. Avoid conventional mothballs and flakes made of toxic chemicals.

Mosquitoes

Preventative measure: if you have a rainwater tank, pour 1/2 cup paraffin oil into tank. This will stop mosquitoes breeding. Also there are a number of herbal products on the market containing ingredients such as citronella, lavender and tea tree oil to keep mosquitoes at bay. Or, you can simply rub yourself with the crushed leaves of basil, mint, chamomile or tansy.

Silverfish

Prevent dampness that encourages silverfish. Make traps by placing 1 part molasses to 2 parts vinegar in a dish. Silverfish can be repelled by treating skirting boards, table legs and cracks in cupboards with a mixture of borax and sugar (or honey).

Spiders

In general, leave spiders alone because they help to control pests.

Ticks and fleas

If your pets are infested, wash them well with soap and warm water, dry thoroughly and use this herbal rinse. Add 1/2 cup fresh or dried rosemary to a litre of boiling water. Steep 20 minutes, strain and cool. Spray or sponge evenly onto pet and allow to air dry. Do not towel down as this will remove the residue. Alternatively, use a commercial penny royal shampoo regularly. To prevent infestations, add brewer's yeast and garlic to your pets' meals.

IN THE GARDEN

For those fortunate enough to have gardens, there are very effective alternatives to chemical fertilizers and pesticides. Beautiful, healthy gardens can be grown fertilized by household compost alone and maintained solely by organic means of pest control. A good compost heap is not difficult to maintain and its benefits both to you and the greater community are great. If you do not have garden space available to you, investigate the possibility of communal composting and garden space with your neighbours and local council. You will be healthier for it and save precious natural resources as well.

There are many excellent books about organic gardening. Check with your local gardening store and your library. If environmentally safe products are not immediately available, use your consumer power and demand the right to purchase safe products.

A gift of our modern society is the luxury of choice. For every product we bring into our home, and even for the ways we build our home, we are presented with a wide range of choices. Our habit of taking these choices for granted has caused us to step far too heavily on the earth.

Here we have compiled some basic tips to reduce your own imprint on our world. Once you begin, you will discover new methods each day.

BUILDING YOUR HOME

Before considering the products you bring into your home, it is a good idea to consider your home itself. Safe, non-toxic constructions will benefit both you and the environment.

Asbestos

This carcinogen is restricted from use in new buildings, but is still found in older structures. Avoid it at all costs. Seek expert advice before removing or handling suspect materials.

Caulking

All liquid caulks emit solvent fumes when drying. Do-it-yourself brands emit them for months. Use roll type soft caulk or permanent moulding instead. When you must use a liquid caulk, have a professional use a "double-component polyurethane" and provide ventilation as long as odour lingers.

Insulation

The safest bets are probably "rock wool" or aluminium-backed fiberglass. New products are coming out all the time, so get as many facts as you can before buying any insulating materials. Harmful gaseous emissions, cancer causing or irritating particles are common among the following insulating materials: urea-formaldehyde, polyurethane (brown-in-place and rigid panels), asbestos, fiberglass on kraft paper with asphalt adhesive, cellulose, vermiculite and perlite.

Paint

Where available seek out specially formulated non-toxic paints. Where these are not available, use water based rather than solvent based products to minimize toxic emissions and allow clean up with water. Emissions from the more than 300 toxic chemicals that have been identified in solvent based paints may linger for months after painting. When removing old paint, sand or scrape as much as possible to reduce the need for solvents and wear a mask. To remove old paint from brushes, place them in an old pan with vinegar, boil several minutes and wash with soap and water.

Plywood and particle board

Use whole woods whenever possible. Formaldehyde emissions from plywood and particle board are major contributors to airborne toxics in homes, although this "off-gassing" does diminish with time. Where possible, these materials may be sealed to reduce emissions.

Wood finishes

Use natural oils or beeswax rather than products containing solvents or synthetics. Simple non-toxic finishes may be used to seal interior and many exterior woods.

Wood preservatives

Use rot resistant woods, concrete and construction techniques designed to eliminate the need for preservatives. Otherwise, indoors use boric acid and acetic acid products. Outdoors use copper and zinc mixtures. Wood preservatives containing pentachlorophenol (Penta) are among the most hazardous of consumer products. Despite well known health risks, Penta is still widely used in Australia and throughout the U.S. and Canada. Avoid it whenever buying treated wood products.

One of the major myths of the industrial era is that of "safe" or "acceptable" levels of contamination. So-called acceptable levels of lead, radiation exposure, chemical exposure, etc. keep dropping as scientists learn more. And, no one knows just how all of these safe levels interact when mixed up together, in our bodies, for example. It is important for us all to reduce the toxic loads we are carrying.

DAILY LIVING

Transport

Australia is an incredibly mobile society. We routinely journey distances in a day that our grandparents may not have travelled in years. We owe this freedom, of course, to our cars and we take the privilege utterly for granted. The idea that this mobility may be too costly for us in terms of Global Warming and burning fossil fuels, in terms of the process of oil production, in terms of wasted resources is not an easy or comfortable one. But it is an idea that each of us must come to grips with. We need to begin questioning some of our habits. We need to re-think how and where we live and how we structure our daily lives. A switch from car-based living for at least some of our travelling is our only option.

To make the switch, start out slowly. Figure out where you go and when you use your car in an average week. Make sure each trip is really necessary. Try combining several trips into one. Try taking public transport at least once a week. If you live close enough, try making at least one weekly shopping trip to the local shops on foot or bicycle. It's good for the environment, good for your health and good for your local community. The fast pace imposed on us by frequent use of the car contributes to the stress so many of us feel on a daily basis. Cutting back on car use and slowing down our lives is not only good for the long-term survival of our planet, but also for the long-term survival of ourselves.

Simple and Natural

Rather than using a product with several complex chemical ingredients, make or buy a simple substitute. Natural materials usually involve less pollution and interact more gently with the environment and our bodies than do highly processed, synthetic materials.

Plastics

Plastics are popular because they are cheap. Their price tags, like those of many other petroleum products, do not include the health and environmental debts incurred during their production and disposal. Plastics cause pollution in all stages of their production and use. Some forms of plastics, such as styrofoam and vinyl, constantly give off harmful gases. And, of course, styrofoams are blown with gases which contribute to Global Warming. Remember to recycle plastics whenever possible.

Solvents

Petroleum based chemicals are used as solvents in thousands of household products. These synthetic solvents are sold alone as cleaners and degreasers. The solvents in many household items - paints, polishes, cleaners, glues, some correction fluids and thinners - evaporate quickly, filling the air with toxic fumes.

Energy Use

As our gas and electricity notices testify, energy in our homes is not cheap. Not only does our heavy use of energy drain our financial resources, but it drains our finite environmental resources as well. Coal, oil and natural gas are all non-renewable resources. They will run out. And burning coal and oil contributes in a major way to the pressing problem of Global Warming. It is up to all of us to begin to cut back on our wasteful rates of consumption. There are many practical and relatively easy things we can each do to save our environment and to save our money. We can use energy efficient appliances and light globes and use them less often. Turn down the temperature on hot water heaters. Switch to solar power when possible. A well maintained wood burning slow combustion heater is the most environmentally friendly way to heat your home. Reverse cycle air conditioning is also very energy efficient. Question and value every use of energy in your home.

Aerosols

Banning ozone destroying propellants does not end the aerosol problem. The unrecyclable canisters are a waste of resources and a long term pollutant. Everytime you use an aerosol product, minute particles of the propellant and polish, paint or hairspray contaminate the air you breathe. Also, the propellants contribute to Global Warming.

Food: the universal consumer item

Though most of us are fortunate enough to take it for granted, eating meat takes a big toll on our natural resources. Growing grains, vegetables and fruits uses only 5% as many raw materials as meat production. Twenty pure vegetarians can be fed on the land needed to produce food for one meat eater. No matter how you look at it, the best environmental choice is to eat low on the food chain. You might even feel better for it too.

COMMUNITY ACTION - EVERYONE'S PRIVILEGE

Considering the troubled state of the world is an overwhelming exercise. The problems are so large and the individual is so small. When thinking of confronting the evils of pollution, of poverty, of racial and sexual prejudice, of social injustice it seems impossible to know where to start. But there is a logical and effective place to begin - our own backyards. If we all take care of our own backyards, then logically the greater community itself will become healthier.

Education is the first step. We need to find out what is happening in our area. For example, what industries exist nearby? What legislation is in place to control polluting activities? What sort of Council governs local decision making processes? Discover if there are problems in any of these areas. If there are, then work out how the individual can influence or change policy makers. Local groups can be formed. Letters can be written. You can influence government and business by letting your opinion be known. The squeaky wheel does often get the grease. Change will not begin until each of us makes it happen. Greenpeace is glad to give support and advice to anyone interested in making change happen.

The effort you make to change your living habits may seem insignificant and pitiful to you. If you become discouraged, remember that Greenpeace Australia alone has produced thousands of these leaflets which, in turn, are freely reproduced and shared. Many thousands more have been circulated through North America. Other groups are also distributing this sort of information. When added together, our collective efforts make a colossal impact. As individuals we are not powerless to make a difference.

Greenpeace has compiled this information from a variety of sources and can assume no responsibility for the effectiveness of the suggestions. Caution is urged in the use of cleaning solutions and pest control substances. Keep them out of the reach of children.

Greenpeace Offices in Australia

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3rd Floor, 389-393 Lonsdale Street, Melbourne Vic. 3000
93 Leichhardt Street, Spring Hill Qld. 4000
25 Moore Street, East Perth WA 6000
158 Collins Street, Hobart Tas. 7000
111 Davenport Street, Dickson ACT 2601
3130 Carrington Street, Adelaide SA 5000

However, the potential expansion of the uranium mining industry is just one of three developments indicating greater Australian involvement in the global nuclear industry. The other two developments are the proposal to build yet another nuclear reactor at the New South Wales Lucas Heights Research Station, and the Indonesian government's plans to build twelve nuclear reactors.

For the past two years the ALP has come under mounting pressure from the pro-uranium lobby, especially mining companies, to change its three mine policy and allow unlimited mining. In light of the Federal Government's Resource Security Decision, the concern is that a similar pro-industry choice will be made in favour of unlimited uranium mining across Australia. This could happen in spite of the fact that the vast majority of the public, government and industry submissions to the ALP's Uranium Policy Review Committee called for no expansion of the existing number of mines and/or a phase-out of current mines.

Uranium mining is environmental disaster. The process itself gives rise to the largest amounts of radioactive waste to the whole nuclear cycle. For every four kilograms of yellowcake exported, one tonne of ore has to be mined. The waste left behind here in Australia contains 80% of the radioactivity of the original ore. Because there is no safe level of radiation, some of the workers and public exposed to radiation as a result of mining will suffer lung cancers, leukaemias and genetic defects, as well as other cancers and illnesses.

Australians have to face up to the fact that when we supply uranium to nuclear weapons states we are, in reality, supplying the global nuclear arsenal.

LUCAS HEIGHTS

Australia's Very Own Nuclear Problem

There are two small research nuclear reactors at the Lucas Heights site, only thirty kilometres south of Sydney's city centre. The reactors were built in the mid 1950s as part of the spread of civil and nuclear technology. At the time, the larger of the two plants, HIFAR, was seen as a

forerunner to a full-scale nuclear power programme. The Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation (ANSTO), the government arm of the nuclear industry which operates Lucas Heights, states that HIFAR is now used primarily for the production of radioactive isotopes for industrial and medical purposes. And now ANSTO says that it wants to build a third reactor to replace the ageing HIFAR. Greenpeace was keen to listen to what ANSTO had to say about Lucas Heights, and last November we visited the site to put some questions to them.

ANSTO was kind enough to answer some questions, but some important points remain unanswered. We began by questioning the purpose of the proposed reactor. Why build a new reactor for medical purposes when there exists an alternative technology, the medical cyclotron, available to produce most of the isotopes? The ANSTO representative we spoke with said they needed the new reactor "to keep our finger in the nuclear pie". No mention was made of medical isotopes.

When asked who will pay for the new reactor and who will pay for the decommissioning of the existing reactors we were not given a direct answer. Instead, we were told that Australian Radiosotope (ARI), a semi-privatised sector of ANSTO, would not be contributing to the cost of the decommissioning, even though the ARI makes money from the sale of isotopes created in the reactor. So, effectively, the ARI receives a government subsidy by not having to pay the cost of decommissioning or capital loans on the facilities they use.

In addition, ANSTO has so far refused to release a breakdown of the \$57 million per annum in government grants it receives, despite requests from Greenpeace and several federal senators. We were informed that the main reactor costs \$8 million a year to operate, but not how much is set aside for decommissioning. How much is set aside for decommissioning. How much of the total goes into pure research is anyone's guess. How much goes into experiments that should be the responsibility of the Department of Health or the CSIRO is also a secret. And a key question remains unanswered. Why does ANSTO receive so much government money, for which they are not even publicly accountable, when alternative energy programmes in this country received only \$2.2 million in government grants in 1987?

Along with these financial worries, there are also growing concerns about the disposal of

the spent fuel that is currently stored at Lucas Heights. Spent fuel is the highly radioactive material that has undergone the fissioning process in the reactor, in other words, the ashes of a nuclear plant. At present there are 1600 spent fuel rods at the site, for which there is no safe disposal method. A court case in the United States prevents them from being sent to American re-processing plants. And, the Scottish did not take too kindly to the suggestion that the waste might be sent to their re-processing plant at Dounreay. In addition to the spent fuel rods, the people who live near the site also have to cope with the increasing amount of nuclear waste being dumped at the Lucas Heights site. The fact that spent fuel now seems to be stored indefinitely at Lucas Heights lends credibility to locals' fears that their Shire (Sutherland) is becoming Australia's de facto nuclear dump.

Questions concerning liability - such as who will pay compensation in the event of a major release of radioactivity - remain only partly answered. No insurance company in Australia will cover you, your home or your car for damage caused by radioactive contamination from a nuclear installation. In theory, we are all covered by a Commonwealth Liability Act, although no one is willing to name the figure that will be made available in case of an accident.

And the problems don't stop here. The issue of liability is certain to become a more controversial matter as the New South Wales government has recently decided to decrease the restricted building zone around the Lucas Heights site from 48 km to 1.6 km. Some 5000 houses and a 3000-pupil school are to be built near the plant. A number of prospective buyers of housing lots have already contacted Greenpeace for advice on the matter. Some people were particularly annoyed as some of the estate agents said that the reactors were no longer operating. Other people expressed concern that their land would lose value if a new reactor was built. Let alone if an accident happened. At a recent meeting of the Sutherland Council, the head of ANSTO's publicity team is reported to have said there will always be a reactor on the site. Is this ANSTO's idea of letting the people decide? ▶

The crippled reactor at Chernobyl, entombed in its temporary sarcophagus, must remain isolated for thousands of years.



INDONESIA

Australia's Nearest Nuclear Neighbour

The Indonesian Energy Department has announced plans to build twelve nuclear reactors, four of which will be sited on the Munia Peninsula in Central Java. The stated purpose of the reactors is to help meet future energy needs, even though the country has large deposits of oil or gas, or could develop alternative and renewable energy for less money. Australia is directly involved in the project, as Indonesian technicians attended Lucas Heights for training and a further course at the Northern Territory University is being discussed.

Of course, our involvement could extend even further. Certain Australian mining companies and politicians have made no secret of the fact that they would like to sell uranium to Indonesia, even though no one can guarantee that Indonesia will fulfil all of the qualifications of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). This Treaty was designed to stop the spread of nuclear weapons material and technology which several other countries - Pakistan, Israel and India - have managed to bypass. In September of last year, *The Australian* quoted a leaked ASIO document which raised fears about the spread of nuclear technology in the Asian region. These fears have been increased with the news that Indonesia is now buying ballistic missile technology.

Even if we take the present Indonesian government on face value as being entirely peaceful in its intent for nuclear power, we can't take absolute safety as guaranteed. If we allow them to go ahead, Indonesia's nuclear plants will pose an environmental threat to Australia. A major accident at one of the plants could contaminate vast tracts of Australia, just as Chernobyl did in Europe. The likelihood of an accident in Indonesia is increased by the fact that the region is one of the most actively volcanic in the world. If there was an accident, imagine the impact on the Australian population, on tourism and on agriculture. The concern is such a vital one that several countries around the world are objecting to the threat of trans-frontier pollution posed by nuclear plants. For example, Luxembourg has taken legal action against a French nuclear plant sited on its border.

You can help. You can take a part in shaping a nuclear-free Australia. Write to your federal and state MPs. Tell them that you don't want any more uranium mining in our country. Tell them we want a truly nuclear-free Australia.

The Chernobyl accident is estimated to have cost \$200 billion to the U.S.S.R. No compensation has yet been paid to other countries. Estimates of the number of fatal and non-fatal cancers range from 10,000 to 100,000. So far, 250,000 people have been evacuated, with another 100,000 still living in highly contaminated areas waiting to be re-housed. The horror of this accident is incomprehensible. If there was an accident in Indonesia, how would Australia cope? Especially since we would have trained the technicians and, may have, in fact, literally fuelled it with Australian uranium.

Over the years, many Australians have fought long and hard to stop uranium mining. The industry exists due to the bloody-mindedness of the mining companies, those who know that for the vast majority, Australia's uranium mines do not pose any immediate threat. In the past, the distances of the world's nuclear power stations have been so great that we have not stopped to consider the full impact of the nuclear industry we are supplying. This situation is rapidly changing.

Australia has rejected nuclear power. Let's now work to reject the uranium mining industry too.



Map 1. Following the Chernobyl nuclear in 1986 the European Community banned sales of fallout contaminated sheep within the radius of Chernobyl shown on the map. Not all sheep within this area were affected as levels of radioactivity in particular regions vary considerably depending on topography and the amount of rainfall that occurs when radioactivity passes overhead.

Map 2. The radius from Map 1 is projected onto a map of Australia/Indonesia to show the possible area affected by fallout if a nuclear accident of a similar magnitude to the Chernobyl accident, was to occur in Indonesia.



RESOURCE SECURITY

by Rick Humphries

If enacted by Federal Parliament, Resource Security legislation means the destruction of still more of Australia's already dwindling ancient native forests. The legislation guarantees large pulp companies exclusive access to publicly owned forests. But beyond the fate of our forests, this sell-out by the Hawke Labor government has serious implications for a whole range of other environmental issues, including uranium mining and pollution prevention. The sell-out also raises very serious questions about the ability of both major parties to deliver real change on the environment front.

Like other major environmental issues, forestry and pulp mill campaigns focus on changing the way society utilises natural resources and re-ordering priorities away from the pursuit of uncontrolled economic growth to ecologically sustainable development. Over the last decade, the pulp and paper industry has become the most voracious consumer of what is left of our native forests. Pulp mills require the clear-felling of vast areas of forest, causing the devastation of wildlife habitat. The predominantly single species, single aged 'new' forest that follows clear-felling lacks diversity in its structure and in the species for which it provides. Clear-felling will never be sustainable ecologically. The only means of ensuring an ecologically sustainable resource base for the pulp industry is the transition of the industry from native forests to eucalypt plantations. In short, pulp mills, in addition to being non-chlorine bleaching and non-polluting, must be required to grow their own resource.

Resource Security legislation, however, entrenches the practice of clear-felling our native forests. The Hawke government has deserted its public commitment to ecologically sustainable development and, in so doing, has condemned vast areas of Australia's publicly owned forests to be pulped.

Resource Security gives the right of exclusive access to large pulp companies, which is, in reality, the privatisation of our publicly owned forests.

The proposed legislation would also include a guarantee from the Commonwealth government that it would not use its available Constitutional powers to protect the environment after a pulp mill was established. While environmental impact statements and forest heritage value assessments would be carried out before the construction of a pulp mill, this would only be a one-off assessment. Thus, under Resource Security legislation, the use of environmental protection powers is severely restricted. This guarantee assures we possess perfect knowledge about the forests. But considering we have not yet documented all the existing range of forest species (let alone understand their complex inter-relationships), such an assumption is utter nonsense. If new information, discovered after the initial assessments, reveals severe degradation, the Commonwealth's ability to intervene and protect the forests is severely handicapped, if not totally removed.



Pulp Mill, Tasmania

RESOURCE SECURITY

Plantation establishment is a component of the legislation but both the forestry industry and the Federal Department of Primary Industries have rejected the total substitution of plantations for native forest. Under this proposal, plantations will form only a small part of the resource base - our native forests will continue to face on-going destruction through clearing.

The Commonwealth has two principle Constitutional powers it can use to protect the environment. These are known as the 'export' and 'corporations' powers. By using its export powers, the Commonwealth can issue export licences for commodities such as forest products and apply conditions to those licences that protect the environment. Corporations powers provide the Commonwealth with the capacity to regulate the activities of any incorporated body in the country. While the export powers have been used frequently to protect areas such as Fraser Island and to limit the number of uranium mines to three, corporations powers are rarely, if ever, used, even though this Constitutional clause remains the Commonwealth's most powerful environmental protection tool. The Commonwealth used the corporations power to stop the Franklin River in Tasmania from being dammed. Without these powers, the Commonwealth is virtually powerless to intervene in disputes and protect the environment. Under Resource Security legislation, both these powers will be willingly given up by the

Commonwealth after a project is approved and operating.

We know that stopping the destruction of our life support system, the environment, requires rapid and fundamental change in the way our economy operates. The Commonwealth government has an important role to play in fostering and implementing these vital changes in our economic behaviour. In the past, the state governments have not been able to work together to respond to environmental challenges, which has led to ineffective approaches to problems. The Commonwealth has a pivotal role in ensuring a consistent, co-ordinated and effective programme of reform. The fact that the Hawke government has, through its backing of Resource Security legislation, signalled it is not prepared to use its Constitutional powers also signals that it is not prepared to make the hard decisions that will lead to an ecologically sustainable economy. This makes the Hawke Labor government virtually indistinguishable from the Coalition, which has consistently ruled out the use of Constitutional powers to protect the environment.

For these reasons, Greenpeace has withdrawn from the government's Ecologically Sustainable Development process. While the Hawke government has protected some of Australia's most precious natural areas, these moves in themselves will not save the planet. Fundamental, institutional change must occur at both state and Commonwealth levels if environmental destruction is to be stopped.

An example of this change is the proposed Federal Environmental Protection Agency (FEPA). The Environment Minister, Mrs Kelly, promised the 'world's toughest' pollution standards as part of the establishment of a FEPA. This initiative would provide the mech-

anism for a national, co-ordinated approach to combatting pollution instead of the current ineffective state-based attempts. If the government is serious about pollution, about cleaning up the mess, about clean air and clean water, then it must be prepared to intervene if necessary. It must be prepared to apply the full suite of Constitutional powers if it is to establish and implement the 'world's toughest' pollution standards. Instead, we have a government that is willing to voluntarily give up the option of using its constitutional powers as part of a package that will see more of our precious forests destroyed.

The adoption of Resource Security also raises serious questions about the Hawke government's forthcoming decision on its uranium mining policy. The ALP is currently reviewing its uranium policy and any changes will be put to the ALP National Conference in June. Given the magnitude of the sell-out on the forests and the reversal of its commitment to ecologically sustainable development, there is every chance that the ALP will succumb to the economic fundamentalist's 'free market' creed and change its policy to allow more uranium mining in Australia.

The Resource Security Issue signals a change of heart by the Hawke government. Environmental protection has fallen far down the list of its priorities.

The economic fundamentalists within the Hawke Cabinet now dominate and this, coupled with the unwillingness to use its available powers to protect the environment, points to the regression of the Government back to 'quarry Australia' mentality.

Now is not the time for political compromise. If we are to turn the ecological crisis around, now is the time for fundamental change. Unless the community raises its voice and demands change, politicians will take advantage of the silence and back the status quo. **The community is the agent of change and it is the community that must mobilise and hold the Government accountable.**

BRISBANE

Busy Brisbane

In February, the Brisbane City Council released the draft of the Brisbane Plan, a report and strategy outline on the growth of Brisbane over the next twenty years. The plan, although one month for community comments, Greenpeace Brisbane made a submission to the Council concerning the plan. We believe the plan does not give sufficient weight to Global Warming and other environmental disturbances currently occurring as a result of poor environmental planning. Using the Greenpeace Australia Transport Policy as a basis, Delton, Stephen and Sue (a trio of dedicated volunteers) wrote our submission.

People were out in force cleaning up beaches for the Adopt-a-Beach campaign on March 24, as part of the National Clean-up Australia Day. The Brisbane Carvass teams helped clean up the Brisbane River, while there was a lot of involvement by community groups along the beaches.

The schools team has been reaching further out, with a visit to the Sunshine Coast in late April. We hope this is the first of many visits reaching areas around Brisbane. If you are outside of Brisbane and are interested in a Greenpeace visit, please contact Julie or Robin on (07) 832 0077. Don't forget that speakers are also available for talks to local community groups.

World Environment Day is June 5. Come and visit us on the Queen Street Mall. And remember to look out for Greenpeace stalls at your local market. If you would like us at your market or fair, contact our office.

Robin, Caroline, Delton and Nicki

ADELAIDE

Growing Along

While the Gulf war raged into our lives and our living rooms, Greenpeace South Australia was setting into new premises. Although the aftermath of the war still shocks and upsets all of us, some news closer to home is not so bad. Our Adelaide office is growing on the campaign front and increasing the number of services we are able to provide to our community.

LOCAL OFFICES Letters to you from staff and volunteers

Congratulations to everyone involved. We now have 150 Adopt-a-Beach teams, stretching across Australia into New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, South Australia and Western Australia. Many of the teams got their start by holding picnics, barbecues or even by sharing tea and scones. Just as important as having fun and meeting neighbours is the fact that these teams have helped save the lives of marine mammals, fish and sea birds. And they are also actively working to reduce waste at its source. If you want to become part of this successful campaign, we will give you all the help you need to get started. Please contact the Greenpeace office in Sydney.

Anne Reynolds

MELBOURNE

Member Alert!

Within our greater community we have people who prey on the goodwill of others. Our canvassers have encountered potential and current Greenpeace members who have met bogus canvassers. We need your help.

Please be on the lookout for people claiming to be collecting money for Greenpeace. Genuine canvassers work between 5:00 pm and 8:30 pm, and have I.D. badges with the Greenpeace address and phone number. The badges also have an expiry date and a photograph of the canvasser. And Greenpeace canvassers are equipped with a clipboard and a Greenpeace receipt book. Do not be fooled by unfortunate imitations.

If you are at all suspicious of any collector, please call our office on 670 1633 and ask for Richard Mann.

HOBART

Hard Work Paying Off

After much hard work and support from volunteers and other Greenpeace offices, Greenpeace Hobart has a new character. Our new canvass operation has proven to be an excellent information exchange. There is definitely a lot of concern within Hobart's community about the release of pollutants into the Derwent River, along with the willingness to make change. Please contact our office for more information about this.

Our thanks go to Halina, our Canvass Director, who recently left us. Her contributions to the growth of our office was much appreciated.

Matt Gee

merchandise

Greenpeace merchandise is available through mail order. For your copy of our catalogue send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to:

S & K Riggins
P.O. Box 56
Mullumbimby NSW 2482
Phone (066) 84 1418

GREENPEACE AUSTRALIA NEWS PAGE 13

roving reporter

news from around the world

Poland Citing the Soviet Army's setting of 92 fires in Silesian forests and the dumping of oil and wastes into rivers and lakes, the Polish government will demand millions of dollars in damages from the U.S.S.R., according to Trybuna, the former newspaper of the disbanded Communist Party. Czechoslovakia and Hungary are also negotiating with Moscow for compensation for environmental damage. Both countries have hired western firms to help them clean up after Soviet troops.

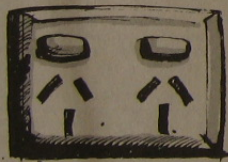


Ireland Thousands of people, from both sides of the border and from various political, social and economic groupings, gathered in Derry's Guildhall Square to oppose the proposed Du Pont toxic waste incinerator. Greenpeace campaigner Clare O'Grady Walsh pointed out to the assemblage that incineration, a crude technology, does not destroy waste and does not prevent the creation of new toxic compounds, nor does it eliminate the need for further handling of toxic materials that collect in filters and ash residue.

U.S.A. Federal Judge Thomas Zilly has ordered the American government to identify areas crucial to the survival of the northern spotted owl, the most visible symbol of the struggle between northwest environmentalists and loggers, who fear that environmentally-sound logging restrictions will cost them their jobs. Zilly's decision made the survival of the owls, who live primarily in dwindling regions of never-logged forests, the main priority. The Fish and Wildlife Service has avoided identifying critical owl habitat by claiming it was "undeterminable." Government scientists have estimated that three million acres (1,200,000 hectares) would have to be protected to save around 3000 pairs of owls remaining there.

Belgium Following the discovery by the Nuclear Energy Study Centre of radiation levels (as much as 20 times higher than normal) in the village of St. Jozef-Olen, the 2000 inhabitants are to be screened for contamination by radioactive waste. The screening will include examination of children's teeth to see whether they contain radium, and checks on houses for radon gas. Jos Geysels, member of parliament for the Belgian Green party, Agalev, said 55,000 tonnes of medium-grade radioactive waste were stored in the radium producing plant. He alleged that the division, Metallurgie Hoboken-Overpelt (MHO), also dumped 120,000 cubic metres of slightly radioactive waste.

United Kingdom A report by the Committee on the Medical Aspects of Radiation in the Environment (COMARE) further links radiation in the environment surrounding the reprocessing plant at Dounreay and an increased rate of childhood leukaemia there. Radiation is the only established cause of childhood leukaemia. The report reaffirms the findings of the 1988 COMARE 2 report, which confirmed higher rates of leukaemia in people living closer to Dounreay and Sellafield, and suggests a connection between children playing on local beaches and the incidence of leukaemia. The 1990 Gardner report found a strong association between childhood leukaemia and radiation doses received by fathers working at Sellafield.



Finland Greenpeace has published a poll by Suomen Gallup, the Finnish polling agency, that shows:

- 1) only 10% of Finns want to increase power capacity to solve energy problems,
- 2) 61% prefer improved efficiency in regard to energy,
- 3) 71% feel that product labels should give energy information.

The poll makes clear that public opinion is opposed to increased power capacity as a solution to energy demand.

The Near East According to U.S. Pentagon documents and U.S. Congressional sources, the U.S. plans to sell \$1.6 billion in new weapons to Egypt, including 46 F-16 fighter planes, 80 air-to-ground Maverick missiles, 240 cluster bombs and 48 guided glide bombs of the type the United States used to hit targets in Baghdad. There are \$33 billion in proposed weapons sales this year to American allies around the world, with more than two-thirds of it destined for Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Turkey, Israel and the United Arab Emirates. The House Appropriations Committee has approved \$650 million for Israel to offset additional defence costs caused by the Gulf war. A \$1 billion credit programme through the Export-Import Bank in President Bush's 1992 budget request is aimed at facilitating U.S. weapons sales abroad. Michael T. Klare, professor of peace and world security studies at Hampshire College in Amherst, Massachusetts, has pointed out that for Iraq's neighbours in the Middle East, the lesson will be that Saddam Hussein's mistake was not in building up his military but in buying the wrong weapons.

Germany In Schwern, in former East Germany, Greenpeace and the Gruena Liga have presented a new ecological concept for waste management in the Schwern area. According to the study presented at a joint press conference by the two organisations, domestic waste can, in the short term, be reduced by 30%-50%, and, in the long term, up to 70% through waste avoidance, recycling and biological disposal. A pre-condition for achieving this drastic waste reduction is to switch over from one-way, disposable packaging to returnable systems. The ecological concept for waste management was presented as a counter-proposal to the twenty new waste incineration plants that are tentatively planned in the former East German area.



New Zealand Protesting the importation, use and disposal of hazardous chemicals, fifty Greenpeace activists sealed off the Auckland hazardous goods wharf by handcuffing themselves to concrete-filled barrels stretched across its entrances. During a six week tour of New Zealand, the crew of the Greenpeace ship *Rainbow Warrior* found that most industrial and household hazardous wastes are carelessly dumped. Although safe alternatives exist for many products, chemicals such as chlorinated solvents are used in schools, homes, workplaces and even hospitals and disposed of carelessly. Greenpeace is demanding bans on chemicals that are toxic, persistent and bio-accumulative and, further, that a tracking system be implemented, with full public disclosure of the whereabouts and effects of hazardous imports.

World Greenpeace is calling for a fifth Geneva Convention to put the environment under international legal protection in times of armed conflicts. (The four current Geneva Conventions aim to secure at least minimal human values in war time.) First, Greenpeace will hold a conference on the issue with international law and war studies experts from the London School of Economics and the Centre for Defence Studies from Kings College. Greenpeace would like to see the new Geneva Convention outlaw the use of the environment as a weapon and outlaw environmental impact on third party states, international waters and the atmosphere.

USSR The presidium of the City Council of Moscow has resolved to shut down all the nuclear reactors in the city of Moscow and to terminate the construction of all new ones. Greenpeace has supported the decision and called for active development of alternative energy sources.

Japan A sudden jump in pressure in a reaction chamber at an experimental nuclear fuel reprocessing plant caused an automatic shutdown at the Tokai Works plant in Tokai Mura, about 140 km north of Tokyo. The incident followed three nuclear accidents last month that have raised public concern over the government's nuclear energy safety policy. Japan, which must import almost all of the oil and gas it requires, has 39 nuclear power stations that provide a quarter of its total energy needs.

Netherlands Greenpeace has introduced a new ship to its fleet, the *Solo*, which will be assigned to the North Sea. The *Solo* is a former Dutch tugboat 67m long, 14m wide and powered by two 4000 horsepower engines. *Solo* has been modified and equipped with a helicopter deck, an animal hospital, a laboratory, a darkroom and an exhibition room.

The *Solo's* first assignment was in Dunkerque, France, to protest the transport of nuclear waste on ships not built for that purpose. Containers of spent nuclear fuel from European power stations are loaded on roll-on, roll-off ferries in Dunkerque, sent to Dover, England, and from there to the Sellafield reprocessing plant in Cumbria.

USA The International Hardwood Products Association (IHPA) has formed a public relations committee called CURE: Conservation, Utilisation, Reforestation and Education. IHPA claims that the forest products industry is "working to sustain the forests and meet local human needs." Hardwood logging destroys 12.5 million acres (5 million hectares) of tropical rainforest each year and threatens the livelihood and culture of forest-dwelling people. Tractors and skidders compact the delicate forest soil, increasing erosion and making regeneration of plants and trees impossible. Waste bark and resin from killed trees pollute rivers and suffocate fish. Experts have said that an immediate 85% reduction in logging in Sarawak, Malaysia, is needed to save the forest and its people. In Burma (Myanmar), teak exports that are systematically depleting the nation's rainforests support the military dictatorship there.



Germany Greenpeace activists used a crane to dump a 1.8 ton roll of chlorine-free paper in front of the offices of *der Spiegel*, where Greenpeace hung a banner reading "CHLORINE-FREE INTO THE FUTURE." The larger German publishers (Kluge, Gruner & Jahr, Bauer, Springer, Burda and Jahreszeiten Publishing) continue to publish on chlorine bleached paper. Thousands of tons of toxic chlorine bleach are released into the environment solely for the production of publications. Many of the roughly one thousand persistent compounds in pulp emissions, among them chloroform, PCP and dioxins, are deemed carcinogenic or mutagenic, or weaken the immune system.

USA Greenpeace has applauded the announcement that the U.S. Interior and Commerce Departments will move towards invoking economic sanctions against Japan, under the Pelly Amendment, for that country's trade in endangered sea turtles. This is the first time the U.S. has actually certified a nation on a wildlife trade issue. Japan is the world's largest importer of hawksbill and olive ridley turtles, in spite of the international ban on such trade under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES). Ironically, Japan will host the next international CITES meeting scheduled for March 1992. Japan has continued to maintain an exception to the CITES listing of sea turtles for more than 10 years - effectively exempting itself from the ban on trade of turtle products.



Correction

On page 11 of our last issue, paragraph four of the article 'Contained and Complicated' the Mufarm Cover-up should read, "Mufarm's licence to discharge waste was rescinded in 1988..." rather than 1983.

WE CAN'T LET BHP SUCCEED WHERE THE FRENCH SECRET SERVICE FAILED.



There is a new name on the endangered species list.

Greenpeace.

Once again we are under attack. This time it's not secret service skin divers armed with limpet mines. This time the attack is ultimately more powerful - teams of lawyers armed with affidavits and injunctions.

We know this court action will cost us dearly. Money we don't have. Billion dollar BHP are counting on the weight of their dollars to silence us in a way that the French never could.

In this fight Greenpeace represents the little people, those who cannot afford to go to court alone to challenge political decisions. We are fighting for the rights of groups and individuals to protest and be heard.

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