

“Nuclear energy is a bad fuel, a dirty fuel, a dangerous fuel. This is not a good industry to encourage..”

former PM Paul Keating, October 2006



*image: A now redundant nuclear power station
source: Bill McKelvie, shutterstock.com*

Nuclear Power: No Solution to Climate Change

Nuclear power is too costly, too risky and too slow to be a solution to climate change.

Doubling nuclear power output by the middle of the century would cost several thousand billion dollars, produce enough plutonium for more than one million nuclear weapons and create a literal mountain of high level radioactive waste. The climate dividend from such a massive nuclear expansion would be a meagre 5% reduction in global greenhouse emissions, less than one-tenth of what is needed.

Most renewable energy sources are more greenhouse-

friendly than nuclear power and produce none of the high-level waste or plutonium.

All energy efficiency measures are far more greenhouse-friendly than nuclear power. And they are all cheaper. A US study found that every dollar invested in energy efficiency delivers seven times more greenhouse reductions than nuclear power.

Nuclear power is a dangerous distraction to developing renewable energy and using energy efficiently - the real solutions to climate change. Nuclear power has no place in a sustainable energy mix.

What You Can Do?

Let Labor know that you don't support further uranium mining. If Labor want their opposition to domestic nuclear power to be taken seriously then they have to get serious about uranium – the fuel that makes nuclear possible. Your phone call or letter will only take a little time but it will make a big difference.

Contact ALP Leader Kevin Rudd:
Parliament House, Canberra, ACT, 2600.
Ph: (02) 6277 4022,
Fax: (02) 6277 8495
<Kevin.Rudd.MP@aph.gov.au>

Or send a letter to Kevin Rudd
via this website:
<http://www.melbourne.foe.org.au>

Let your local Labor member or Senator know:
www.aph.gov.au/house/members/mi-party.asp

Write a letter to your local or state paper calling for no further uranium mining

Contact Labor's environment spokesperson Peter Garrett and

urge him to oppose any policy change
Parliament House, Canberra, ACT,
Ph: (02) 6277 2037,
Fax: (02) 6277 8402
<Peter.Garrett.MP@aph.gov.au>
Contact state/territory Labor branches:
<alp.org.au/action/contact.php>

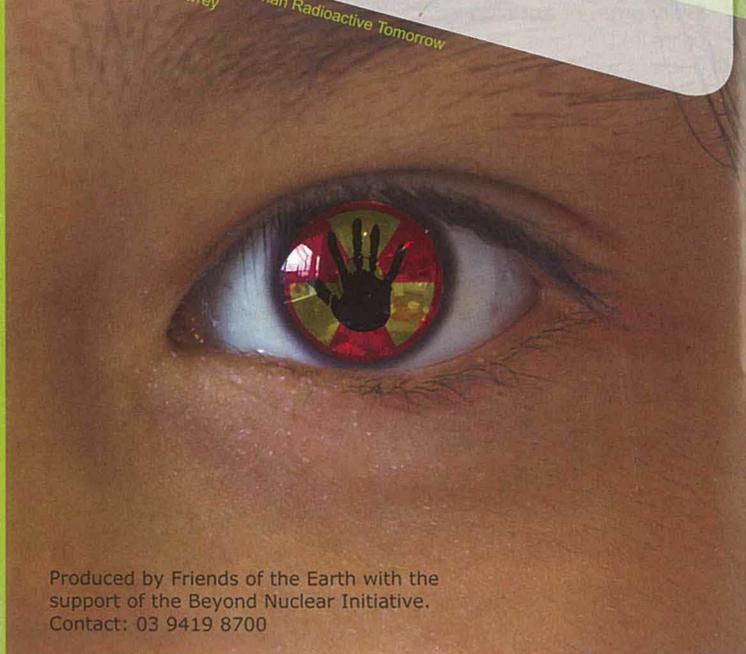
More information:
Friends of the Earth, Australia
<www.foe.org.au>
Australian Conservation Foundation
<www.acfonline.org.au>

EnergyScience Coalition
<www.energyscience.org.au>

Medical Association for the Prevention of War
<www.mapw.org.au>

Stay in touch:
Subscribe to No Nukes News, a monthly email newsletter, email <jim.green@foe.org.au> with 'NNN Subscribe' in the subject line.

*image: Better Active Today Than Radioactive Tomorrow
source: Natalie Lowrey*



Produced by Friends of the Earth with the support of the Beyond Nuclear Initiative.
Contact: 03 9419 8700

ACT NOW stop uranium mining



Despite the Howard governments enthusiastic support for uranium mining only one new mine has started in Australia in the past decade.

The ALP's 'no new uranium mines' policy has been an important part of the community opposition that has stopped the development of new uranium mines during this time.

Now Labor's 'no new mines policy' is under challenge with moves to dump the policy at the ALP National Conference in Sydney from April 27-29, 2007.

We need your help to stop Labor adopting John Howard's open-slathe uranium mining policy and to stop those who want to turn Australia into the world's uranium quarry.

Our uranium is only safe when it is in the ground – together we can keep it there.

The most effective thing you can do is to contact Labor leader Kevin Rudd and your local Labor politician today. Let them know that you don't want more uranium mining.



Friends of the Earth Australia

Better Active Today Than Radioactive Tomorrow

“For eight years in the White House, every weapons proliferation problem we dealt with was connected to a civilian reactor program.”

Al Gore, former US Vice President, May 2006



image: launched nuclear missile
source: Sebastian Kaulitzki, shutterstock.com

Uranium: Fuelling Nuclear Weapons & Radioactive Risks

You only need 10 kilograms of plutonium to build a nuclear weapon powerful enough to destroy a city. Australia's uranium exports have already produced enough for over 8,000 nuclear weapons. The more uranium we export the more risks we create.

We are totally reliant on the work of the International Atomic Energy Agency to prevent our uranium being used in nuclear weapons. But the IAEA's safeguards system is deeply flawed and doesn't always work.

The head of the IAEA, Dr. Mohamed El Baradei, has confirmed that the IAEA's basic inspection rights are "fairly limited", efforts to improve the system have

been "half hearted", and that the whole system suffers from "vulnerabilities" and operates on a "shoestring budget comparable to a local police department".

Nuclear technology is dual use technology and civilian equipment has and can be used to make nuclear bombs. Five of the ten countries to have built nuclear weapons did so using their so-called 'peaceful' nuclear power or research programs - and there are links between the civil and military nuclear programs in the other five weapons states.

And then there is the risk of 'dirty bombs' and terrorist attacks on nuclear facilities.

Uranium: Dirty, Thirsty & Risky

Uranium mining is a contaminating industry that has severe environmental impacts. In 2003 a detailed Senate Inquiry identified "a pattern of under-performance and non-compliance" in Australia's uranium mining industry and called for urgent changes "in order to protect the environment and its inhabitants from serious or irreversible damage".

The Olympic Dam (Roxby) mine in South Australia has over 70 million tonnes of radioactive tailings and

uses over 33 million litres of precious Great Artesian Basin water each and every day - free of charge. The Ranger uranium mine in the NT has a radioactive tailings stockpile of over 30 million tonnes and there are regular spills and leaks that threaten Kakadu. At the Beverley uranium mine in SA radioactive and acidic liquid waste is simply dumped in the underground water.

Where ever it occurs - and however it is done - uranium mining degrades the environment and public health.

Uranium: Wasting the Future

The problems of uranium don't end at the mine sites - in fact they get far worse. Every gram of Australian uranium becomes high-level nuclear waste in nuclear power reactors around the world. Despite decades of effort, promises and funding there is still not a single repository anywhere in the world for the permanent

disposal of high-level nuclear waste.

There is growing pressure on Australia to consider taking back radioactive waste from overseas. Some people want Australia to be the worlds dump as well as the worlds quarry and the more uranium we export the more this pressure will grow .

image: Mound springs, dotted all across Arabunna land in South Australia are drying up due to Roxby Downs uranium mine sucking up 30-40 million litres of water each day from the Great Artesian basin.
source: Natalie Lowrey



Uranium: Undermining Indigenous Communities

Indigenous communities continue to bear the brunt of the social and environmental impacts of uranium mining. They are subjected to divide-and-rule tactics, bribery and persistent and unwanted pressure from uranium companies.

Speaking against uranium mining on her country in Kakadu that includes the Ranger uranium mine and the stalled Jabiluka project, Mirarr senior traditional owner Yvonne Margarula said: "None of the promises last but the problems always do".



image: Yvonne Margarula source: Dominic O'Brien

Uranium: High Cost & High Risk

Uranium accounts for less than one-third of 1% of Australia's export income. It has never accounted for more than 1% of export income and never will. And this limited financial return comes at a very high price to our environment, community and security.

Australia should be a renewables world leader not a nuclear world loser.

Renewable energy can create many more jobs than nuclear, particularly in regional Australia.



Uranium: Unsafe & Unwelcome

Most Australians are concerned over plans to expand the uranium industry. In mid 2006 a Newspann found that 66% of all Australians, and 78 % of ALP voters, oppose any new uranium mines.



Better Active Today Than Radioactive Tomorrow