

Searle, Julia (REPS)**Submission 5**
TT 14 May2008

From: Lamotte, Danielle [Danielle.Lamotte@dpc.wa.gov.au]
Sent: Tuesday, 10 June 2008 5:20 PM
To: Committee, Treaties (REPS)
Subject: AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF AUSTRALIA AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION ON COOPERATION IN THE USE OF NUCLEAR ENERGY FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSES, SYDNEY, 7 SEPTEMBER 2007

Dear Mr Thomson

Thank you for your letter of 20 May 2008, inviting comments from the Western Australia State Government regarding the above named treaty.

Please see the comments below provided by the WA Office of Energy:

Office of Energy

The State Government considers that nuclear power carries with it very significant issues that have not yet been resolved. The risk of nuclear accidents and the need for secure transport and long-term storage of high-level nuclear waste mean that nuclear power is risky and expensive.

In the context of the State's abundance of conventional and renewable energy sources the Government considers that nuclear power is unnecessary.

Western Australia has abundant renewable energy resources such as wind, solar and bio-energy, and technologies are emerging to enable fossil fuels such as coal and gas to be used with low or zero greenhouse gas emissions. These existing renewable generation and emerging low-emissions technologies mean that we can reduce emissions from electricity generation without incurring the risks of nuclear power.

Accordingly the State passed the *Nuclear Waste Storage and Transportation (Prohibition) Act 1999* to ban storage and transport of nuclear waste, and the State has introduced to Parliament the *Nuclear Facilities Prohibition Bill 2007* to prevent the construction or operation of nuclear facilities, including power plants and enrichment facilities.

It is also current Government policy not to allow uranium mining to occur in the State.

Please do not hesitate to contact me on the details below if you have any further queries.

Yours Sincerely

Dani Lamotte

Graduate Officer
Intergovernmental Relations
Department of the Premier and Cabinet
197 St Georges Tce, Perth WA 6000
Ph: +61 (08) 9222 9732 | Fax: +61 (08) 9222 9858
Email: danielle.lamotte@dpc.wa.gov.au | Website: www.dpc.wa.gov.au

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