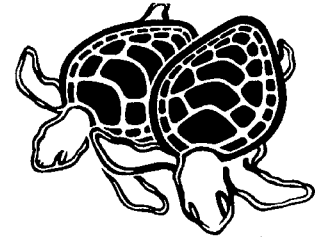


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Friday 13 May 2005

The Secretary

House of Reps. Inquiry into developing Australia's non-fossil fuel energy industry

Parliament House
Canberra

By email

Dear Sir/Madam

Normally the Environment Centre of the Northern Territory (ECNT) would provide a full written submission to a Parliamentary Inquiry on this topic – having had 23 years of experience in dealing with all the problems created by the uranium mining industry in the Top End.

However, due to Senator Campbell's recent decision regarding GVEHO funding we are now in a situation where, at least until we are informed otherwise, we must assume that our budget for the current financial year will be in deficit by \$55,000. In light of this we cannot allocate the time and resources to a full submission to your inquiry.

Suffice it to say that:

1. uranium mining is a dirty and dangerous industry with a very poor environmental and social record across Australia and around the world;
2. nuclear power is a dangerous and highly expensive form of energy generation;
3. there is no safe long term means of treatment, disposal or containment of the ever-growing volume of highly dangerous radioactive waste spread around the planet;
4. nuclear fuel is being turned into nuclear weapons in a growing number of countries around the world;
5. if any government is truly concerned about greenhouse emissions and global warming, the best, safest, most cost-effective and job-rich approach would be to invest in renewable energy and energy efficiency, not waste hundreds of billions of dollars (worldwide) on nuclear power and the consequent production of radioactive waste and nuclear weapons.

If the Inquiry visits Darwin we may have personnel available to appear before it.

Yours faithfully

Peter Robertson

Coordinator

ECNT is a member of the IUCN World Conservation Union

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