

To the Parliament of Australia
Joint Standing Committee on Industry and Resources
The Secretary of the Committee
PH: (02) 6277 4594
FAX: (02) 6277 4516

Submission to the -Inquiry into developing Australia's non-fossil fuel energy industry.

To the committee, parliamentarians of Australia;

I write to express my disgust at the continuing policy of allowing uranium to be mined in and exported from this country. This mining itself creates ever-increasing amounts of radioactive waste via tailings and wastewater.

In every uranium export agreement between us and another country it states that our uranium must not be used for military purposes. It says that we reserve the right to take back our uranium in this instance. It usually says that it must not be enriched to more than 20% in U235.

And yet, we have no way of knowing whether our uranium is being used in any military capacity.

We have no way of knowing whether or not, when our uranium becomes spent fuel and gets reprocessed, that the plutonium that results and is stockpiled is going to be used for military purposes.

The world's stockpiles of plutonium are increasing.

When our uranium can no longer be reprocessed it becomes the most insidious sort of waste. This waste will stick around for hundreds of thousand of years with some isotopes into the millions of years.

Our uranium creates waste, it may also assist in the proliferation of weapons, from nuclear bombs to depleted uranium weapons, both of which have been used in war by our closest ally, and used and exploded by many more nations -even on this continent, with no regard for the innocent people exposed directly or indirectly to the effects, and with no regard for the health of this planet.

One thing can be said here to illustrate the point, in all of the wars over the millennia, the seas, land and even rocks have been fought over, countries and continents have changed hands, the blood has flowed and yet before the nuclear age the blood would wash away.

Now, mistakes will not wash away and generations into the future may have a direct and continuing link to history, the rocks may not be safe to touch or climb, the water not safe to drink or swim in, the air not safe to breath, and as every single day and decision counts, history is in the making.

To say that the resort to nuclear power is an answer to global warming is a lazy response to the worlds problems.

In our country we mandate less than 3% of our energy production must come from renewable sources. And yet this federal government is willing to buy its way to the next election buy squandering tens of billions of dollars in tax cut bribes.

It has absolute control of the senate and yet it is unwilling or even opposed to using this power for the benefit of human kind by alleviating poverty and remediating the environmental effects of human stupidity .

To continue mining uranium with its resultant waste and even increase it, to continue the nuclear industry and even increase it, to continue creating radioactive waste that may pollute this planet for hundreds of thousands of years and even increase it, to add to the stockpiles of weapons grade uranium and plutonium and even increase them and to take part in the proliferation of these weapons – shows a callous disregard for justice and intergenerational equity, a contempt for the human race and the planet and a love for the vile pursuit of profit over the people of this nation.

I call on the parliament of this nation to ban uranium mining, say no to nuclear power and not to take part in the proliferation of this insidious weaponry. I call on the parliament of this nation to leave it in the ground, fix the planet, proliferate smart, clean and green alternatives, and pull your fingers out while you are at it.

Given that history is in the making, and you have the chance to make it one way or another, think very carefully how you want to be judged, by it, and us, your fellow citizens.

Print Name:..... RITA WARLEIGH

Signature:..... 

Address:.....

Date:.....