



NT Greens will oppose any Federal move to allow any further Uranium mining in the Territory, and seek to end association with all aspects of the nuclear industry.

Every aspect of the nuclear industry violates the principle of intergenerational equity, as enshrined in the Inter-governmental Agreement on the Environment (1992).

Uranium, the mineral basis of nuclear fuel, is a finite resource : some estimates suggest we have only 50 years worth of economically retrievable uranium. The use of uranium as a fuel therefore cannot be sustained, and can only temporarily delay the need to develop sustainable energy options for the long term. By spending on the significant capital costs of nuclear energy, we not only delay but also reduce our capacity to generate the necessary investment activity in the inevitable sustainable energy options of the future.

More significantly, the nuclear fuel cycle creates long-lived radioactive waste and almost permanent environmental contamination. This leaves future generations with the difficult and costly task of managing this toxic, radioactive waste, into and beyond the foreseeable future. In this way, everything that the nuclear industry promises for some in this generation, comes at great expense to all future generations.

The long-lasting waste and health implications of nuclear power condemn it as an unacceptable response to the global challenge of atmospheric carbon pollution. The transport of nuclear materials poses risks of accidental environmental contamination. Potentials for catastrophic technical failure or human error, as have been demonstrated at the Ranger Uranium mine, represent a further unacceptable risk both to human health and the environment.

The real solutions to the global problem of greenhouse gas emissions are to be found in truly sustainable renewable energy sources such as wind, solar, geothermal and tidal power. These emerging industries are an essential component of future global energy production, and Australia should act now to ensure a leading role in their inevitable development.

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