

Submission to Joint Standing Committee on Treaties  
Inquiry into Proposed Uranium Sales to China

Dear Committee Members

I oppose uranium sales to China for the following reasons:

- Australia will encourage the nuclear industry rather than foster safer alternative energy sources by selling uranium to China.
- Nuclear energy is directly linked to the production of nuclear weapons (Weapons of Mass Destruction). It can readily be diverted to such use.
- The IAEA safeguards are inadequate due to insufficient funds and personnel.
- Australia's bilateral agreements with China are not going to influence what China chooses to do with the material.
- China is a nuclear weapons nation already. China is also a military exporter. This is not a good combination.
- China's record on human rights and on freedom of information is poor to say the least.
- Safety and environmental concerns are serious. What will be done with the spent fuel? Catastrophes do happen.

So the Australian government will encourage nuclear power plants and nuclear weapons proliferation by selling uranium to China which is not in the interests of international well being.

Regards  
Dr Christopher Walker

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