

SUBMISSION TO JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON TREATIES
INQUIRY INTO PROPOSED URANIUM SALES TO CHINA

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I strongly oppose the proposed sales of uranium to China for the following reasons.

1. Nuclear power and uranium are inextricably linked to nuclear weapons that is Weapons of Mass Destruction.
2. Polls reveal most Australians oppose uranium sales to China, oppose more uranium mines in Australia and consider inspections by IAEA as ineffective.
3. Australia has no control over uranium once it leaves Australia.
4. The IAEA Director-General Mohamed El Baradei has described the IAEA's basic inspection rights as "fairly limited" and seriously under funded.
5. Uranium mining, transportation, building nuclear power plants and decommissioning cause considerable greenhouse pollution.
6. No new nuclear power plants have been built in USA in last 30 years. It is clear the people don't want them. They are dangerous, too costly and renewable energy is far preferable. No acceptable waste dump for nuclear waste has been built.
7. Renewable energy is the way to go, China should with Australian know-how and products increase its plans for renewable energy.
8. China is very friendly with Iran. Will Australian uranium feed Iran's nuclear plans as well as China's nuclear weapons. And what could or would Mr Howard do about it? He may be dead and leave huge problems to next generation.
9. China is a secret, repressive society. Dissidents who reveal faults at nuclear plants are hardly going to be revered, more likely murdered or imprisoned as Israel did to Vanunu.
10. China is renowned for selling weapons technology to any country that wants it.
11. Uranium sold to China will just allow China to substitute China's uranium for nuclear weapons program.
12. The proposed sale of a South Australian uranium mine to China should come under this Inquiry or a separate Inquiry as should the proposed sale of any uranium mine to China.
13. Uranium mining and nuclear industry is dangerous for workers (like asbestos, health effects take a long time to show up) to Food of Aboriginal people on their land as well as their health and to other nearby communities.
14. There are no solutions to the problems of waste disposal from mining to decommissioning.

Renewable energies for all the world is the way to go. Australia Govt instead of cutting back on renewables should be leading the world with renewable promotion. Uranium sales to China would be disastrous.