



Temple of the Dark Moon

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Secretary
Senate ECITA References Committee
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600



29 July 2002

Dear Sir or Madam

SUBMISSION TO THE SENATE INQUIRY INTO THE ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATION OF URANIUM MINING

With respect to the apparent problems surrounding the various uranium mines, and the damaging consequences this has on the fragile Australian environment, the Temple of the Dark Moon urges the Senate Inquiry Committee to consider the following points.

With respect to the Beverley and Honeymoon ISL mines:

- The Federal and South Australian Governments commit to the protection of ground water. This should include that no discharge of mine water be released into ground water, prohibit underground leaks into connected aquifers, and to require rehabilitation of mining impacts on ground water;
- The Inquiry to recommend increased monitoring of operations and public reporting of all radioactive leaks, whatever level; and
- The Inquiry to recommend a new public environmental assessment of the management of mine wastes.

With respect to the Kakadu mines:

- The Federal and Northern Territory Governments to facilitate the rehabilitation, lease relinquishment and incorporation of the Jabiluka and Koongarra mineral leases into Kakadu National Park;

- Rio Tinto and relevant government agencies to support a phase out, exit and rehabilitation strategy for Ranger including the establishment of a viable Aboriginal economy independent of mining;
- The Inquiry to articulate a credible action plan to prevent the development, rehabilitate the impacts and incorporate the mineral lease of the Jabiluka site, in order to protect the region's World Heritage property and values; and
- The Federal and Northern Territory Governments to act to reduce environmental impacts of operations at Ranger, and for monitoring, report and regulatory regimes be strengthened to include more event based monitoring, increased monitoring scope and trigger points, and enhanced reporting.

The Temple of the Dark Moon also would like the *Senate Environment, Communications Information Technology and the Arts References Committee* to inquire into and report on the regulatory, monitoring and reporting regimes that govern environmental performance at the Ranger and Jabiluka uranium operations in the Northern Territory, and the Beverley and Honeymoon ISL operations in South Australia, with particular reference to:

- The adequacy, effectiveness and performance of existing monitoring and reporting regimes and regulations;
- The adequacy and effectiveness of those Commonwealth agencies responsible for the oversight and implementation of these regimes; and
- A review of Commonwealth responsibilities and mechanisms to realise improved environmental performance and transparency of reporting.

Yours faithfully



Course Coordinator
Temple of the Dark Moon