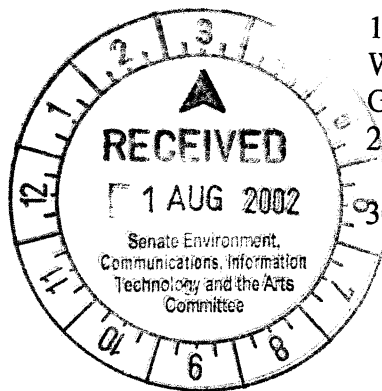


The Secretary,  
Senate ECITA References Committee,  
Parliament House,  
Canberra ACT  
2600



100 Glebe Gardens,  
Wigram Lane  
Glebe  
2037

30<sup>th</sup> July 2002

Dear Sir/Madam,

Submission to the Senate Inquiry into the Environmental Regulation of Uranium Mining

I have recently been sent a stirring circular letter from The Australian Conservation Foundation outlining a need for considerable environmental action to be taken, using the foothold of a senate inquiry into uranium mining. I wish to endorse this Ecopoli Information Kit and along with many other people, I would like to put forward the following recommendations.

Given the situation in South Australia, I recommend that the Federal and South Australian Governments commit to protection of groundwater including no discharge of mine waste to groundwater, to prohibit underground leaks into connected aquifers and to require rehabilitation of mining impacts on groundwater. Also it is desirable that the Inquiry recommend increased monitoring of operations and public reporting of all radioactive leaks. The inquiry should also recommend a new public environmental assessment of the management of mine wastes.

Given the situation in the Northern Territory, I recommend that the Federal and Northern Territory Governments facilitate the rehabilitation, lease relinquishment and incorporation of the Jabiluka and Koongarra mineral leases to Kakadu National Park. I recommend the enquiry push for Rio Tinto and relevant government agencies to support a phase out, exit and rehabilitation strategy for Ranger, including aiding the establishment of a viable Aboriginal economy independent of mining. It is desirable that the Inquiry articulate a credible plan preventing the development of, ensuring the rehabilitation of the geographic site of and the inquiry's incorporation of the mineral lease of the Jabiluka site. This is in order to protect the region's World Heritage geograpahic property and values. Findings of the Inquiry could also well recommend that the Federal and Northern Territory Governments should act to reduce environmental impacts of operations at Ranger, and for monitoring, reporting and regulatory regimes to be strengthened to include more event based monitoring, increased monitoring scope and trigger points, and enhanced reporting.

I understand the terms of reference outlined in the letter from ACF which point towards the inquiry being of great importance. With this, good luck and I look forward to following the inquiry through ACF and the media.

Yours Sincerely

Albert Hempel (Muktananda)