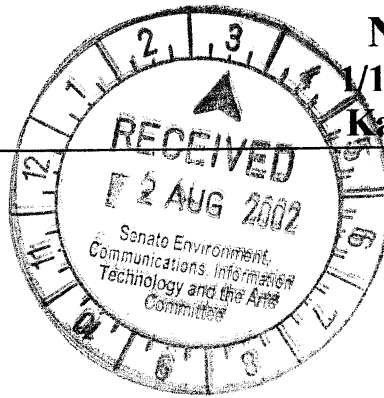


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Secretary
Senate ECITA References Committee
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

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

As a member of the public I am very concerned about the series of spills, leaks and failures to report incidents at uranium mining mine sites in both South Australia and the Northern Territory.

I am writing to the Senate Inquiry to request comprehensive, transparent and independent monitoring, regulation and reporting for all uranium mining. I do not believe that current monitoring and reporting regimes and regulations are rigorous enough to protect the environment, nor do they engender confidence that the lifestyle and wishes of Traditional Owners are being respected and maintained. For example, questions of the impact of mining on water quality have not been adequately addressed.

I demand for full public accountability by private organisations when their behaviours has a direct impact on the environment, water sources, and thus health, of humans. The Australian Government should not ask for anything less and, in fact, should reconsider its active support and promotion of the uranium mining industry.

In particular, and with reference to information advised by the Australian Conservation Foundation, I request the following:

At Beverley and at Honeymoon ISL mines

- The Federal and South Australian Governments commit to protection of groundwater. This must include disallowing any discharge of mine waste to groundwater and the prohibition of underground leaks into connected aquifers. Furthermore, these Governments must insist on rehabilitation of past, present and future mining impacts on groundwater.
- The Inquiry recommend increased monitoring of operations and public reporting of all radioactive leaks.
- The Inquiry recommend a new public environmental assessment of the management of mine wastes.

At Kakadu mines

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

I urge all Governments to act quickly in bringing credibility to this situation.

Yours faithfully,



Nicole Rowan