



NewClear News

<http://www.anawa.org.au>

editorial

Number 26 December 2006

The nuclear industry has had a busy year, rolling out a media and political strategy designed to convince the world that nuclear power is our only hope in the face of catastrophic climate change. In many ways, the barrage of misinformation and lies is comparable to that witnessed in the lead up to the invasion of Iraq.

West Australians have seen scant evidence of the fabled nuclear resurgence, but those of us who don't believe in the fairy tale being promoted by the nuclear

industry and compliant politicians can not rest in complacency.

Within this newsletter you will find information that you are unlikely to gain from Western Australian newspapers.

Which is just one of the reasons why the Anti-Nuclear Alliance of Western Australia needs your support.

Donations of money are needed to help finance the work of ANAWA but our greatest asset is people like you, who share a greater vision than one dominated

by greed. When the mainstream media is controlled by corporations with vested interests and our politicians are complicit and blinded by greed, it is up to each and every one of us to become active, empowered and emboldened. We need to arm ourselves with solid, simple facts and be prepared to stand up and be counted as proudly Anti-Nuclear.

Special thanks go out with this edition to the Poola Foundation and the Tom Kantor Trust, which have been providing generous support to anti-nuclear activists, campaigners and organisations across Australia during 2006.

Within NewClear News you will find plenty of advice on the actions you can take to help create a just, equitable, sustainable and peaceful future.

If you take just one action make it this. Send a letter to Alan Carpenter and Kevin Rudd. Tell them that your respect for the Labor party will be lost forever if any moves are taken that weaken its policy banning uranium mining in Western Australia, and that increased support must be given to indigenous communities so that they are not forced to sell their land to global industrial giants to ensure the future of their people.

James Courtney



Nuclear Reactors – Coming to a port near you
special report on **Page 5**

African Anti-Nuclear Group Joins ANAWA

The latest organisation to join ANAWA is Citizens for Justice Malawi. It may seem odd that an environment group from Africa has joined a Western Australian alliance, but Citizens for Justice are campaigning against the development of a uranium mine owned by Perth Company Paladin Resources. Concerns have been expressed about the lack of information available to people living in proximity of the proposed mine

and inadequate environmental impact assessments.

It is predicted that the mine's life will be only 10-12 years, but the radioactive tailings left will pose health and environmental risks for many years longer than that.

Reinford Mwangonde, Executive Director Citizens for Justice Malawi was in Perth recently and met with FANG and ANAWA.

A fact sheet on the issue can be downloaded from:

<http://www.nirs.org/mononline/nm638.pdf>

The Anti-Nuclear Alliance of Western Australia

- The Conservation Council WA
- The Environment Centre of WA
- Parliamentarians for a Nuclear Free Future
- Fremantle Anti-Nuclear Group
- The Community Anti-Nuclear Network
- Medical Assn. for the Prevention of War
- People for Nuclear Disarmament
- Australian Conservation Foundation
- Environment House
- Citizens for Justice Malawi



2006 KEY EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

FANG Update Fremantle Anti-Nuclear Group

In our best Fremantle Festival float ever, we had over 40 people from little kids to grandparents joining us to hand out about 1000 atomic workplace agreements and 3000 radioactive dollar flyers which were well received by the huge crowd. Our giant puppets, the Atomic Mafia Man and Blinky the Three-eyed Fish went down particularly well. Amazing work by all the FANGER's involved - we must surely be in the running for a "best float in festival" prize again this year!

The Great Debate

We had a very successful event at Clancy's Fish Pub in November with Jo Vallentine and Paul Wilkes on the sensible anti-nuclear side of things doing a fabulous job of demolishing the pro-nuclear arguments of Dennis Jensen and mining rep Tim Sugden. Aply facilitated by Irina Catallini, it was a great night. Thanks must go to our speakers, members of FANG for organising the event, the band "Wooly Wombs" for the music and especially to the owners and staff of Clancy's who hosted the event for free.

We have our last meeting for the year on the 13th December, 7pm at the Sail and Anchor... why not come down and buy the hard working FANGER's Christmas beer, or just say hi - its been a big year!

Nicola Paris

Beyond Nuclear Initiative Conference, Melbourne

There was strong contingency of WA folk at this meeting in Melbourne. Activists from around the country heard from scientists and academics the latest information on climate change and the sustainable alternatives that are available to meet our energy needs. The second day was an activist skill share which saw the development of strategies and tactics for forwarding the no-nukes campaign.

Uranium Mining Conference, Fremantle

Fremantle once again played host to the "Australian Uranium Mining Conference" which seems to be becoming an annual event. A vibrant, colourful and entertaining welcome to the conference was organised by FANG who along with other Fremantle locals set up a sustainability fair in the Esplanade Park opposite the conference venue. FANG kept up a presence throughout the two days of the conference and also educated and entertained the people of Fremantle, taking the anti-nuclear message to the cappuccino strip.

Once again the event organisers provided ANAWA with a free stall space. Reminiscent of Daniel in the lions' den our excellent volunteers stood toe to toe with mining industry heavyweights handing out information and ensuring that there was a voice of reason heard amidst the cries of greed.

James Courtney representing ANAWA opened the second day of the conference with a presentation titled "Safeguards and Security, the Failure of International Safeguards." With a strong focus on China, the presentation created some tension within the audience which contained a large Chinese delegation.

The organisers plan to hold the event next year, though one local was heard to vow that no such event would be held again in Fremantle, which is a declared "Nuclear Free Zone."

The ANAWA presentation can be downloaded from:

<http://www.anawa.org.au>

ANAWA South West Tour

In September Anne Marie Hindinger and James Courtney conducted a whirlwind public speaking tour of the South West. Thanks to all the great volunteers that helped make the tour a success.



We welcome Colleen Courtney to the ANAWA crew. Huge thanks to her and Neil McDonald for doing the weekly stall in front of the Art Gallery WA. Holding stalls is one of the most valuable public outreach and education tools we have. If you would like to volunteer some time to help, call Anne Marie on 9271 4488.



Alliance Statement

ANAWA attended the Alliance Against Uranium meeting at Alice Springs in July. The following joint statement was agreed to by all participants.

The meeting was attended by members from Arrernte, Luritja, Adnymathahana, Arabunna, Warlmanpa and Larrakia/Wulna Aboriginal Nations, Engawala and Atitjere communities and environmental, public health and social justice groups including; Friends of the Earth, Medical Association for the Prevention of War, Anti Nuclear Alliance of WA, Australian Conservation Foundation, The Wilderness Society, Arid Lands Environment Centre, Environment Centre NT, Beyond Nuclear Initiative, Australian Student Environment Network, Canberra Region Anti Nuclear Campaign, Queensland Nuclear Free Alliance.

For more information:
<http://www.no-waste.org>

The meeting was held on Athenge Lhere land at Mt Everard near Alice Springs in Central Australia. This is one of the areas now being targeted by the Federal Government as a potential Commonwealth radioactive waste dump, along with sites at Harts Range, Fishers Ridge and Muckaty Station – all in the NT.

The meeting opposed plans to dump radioactive waste at any site in the Northern Territory and condemned the imposition of a nuclear dump anywhere in Australia. The meeting recognised the strong opposition from Traditional Owners and committed to actively campaign against the dump across Australia.

The meeting affirmed the right of Traditional Aboriginal Owners to enjoy clean country and clean water and practice strong culture and called on all political parties to oppose moves for more uranium mining, radioactive waste dumping and other nuclear developments.

The meeting heard the deep concerns by Indigenous people over the impacts of nuclear activities on land, water, bush tucker and culture.

Participants at the meeting undertook to build networks, share information and campaign together towards a safe, clean nuclear free Australia.

July 30, 2006

Aboriginal cancer doubles near uranium mine

CANCER cases among Aborigines near Australia's biggest uranium mine appear to be almost double the normal rate, according to a study by the Federal Government's leading indigenous research body.

The study also found there had been no monitoring in the past 20 years of the Ranger mine's impact on the health of local indigenous people. Yet since 1981 there have been more than 120 spillages and leaks of contaminated water at the mine, located in the World Heritage-listed Kakadu National Park.

The Age believes the paper by the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies will be submitted to the Government's nuclear energy taskforce, which this week released a draft report backing the expansion of uranium mining in Australia.

Prime Minister John Howard strongly supports increasing uranium mining and exports, while Labor leader Kim Beazley is pushing to overturn his party's policy of no new mines.

The study compared Aborigines diagnosed with cancer in the Kakadu region with the cancer rate among all Aboriginal people in the Northern Territory from 1994 to 2003.

It found the diagnosis rate was 90 per cent higher than expected in the Kakadu region, with 27 cases reported. If the diagnosis rate had been proportional to the territory's overall Aboriginal population, there would have been 14 cases.

The authors of the study said the higher cancer rate was "a cause for serious concern, and further investigation is clearly warranted". They called for ongoing health monitoring of all indigenous communities living near current and proposed uranium mines, at \$450,000 a year.

Energy Resources of Australia, which operates Ranger, yesterday denied that people living in Jabiru and other communities near the mine were being exposed to abnormal levels of radiation.

"Research and monitoring by ERA and the Commonwealth Supervising Scientist demonstrate that doses to residents of Jabiru and surrounding communities have always been a very small fraction of recommended limits," ERA said in a statement.

Last month ERA, which is majority-owned by mining giant Rio Tinto, announced it would extend the life of Ranger by six years to 2020.

In 2003, after almost two years of hearing submissions, a Senate committee concluded that regulation of the Ranger mine was "flawed, confusing and inadequate". Three years later, the Howard Government has not responded to the committee's recommendations.

Last night the traditional owners of the land on which Ranger operates backed independent monitoring of the health effects of uranium mining. A spokesman for the Mirarr people said while the Office of the Supervising Scientist monitors the mine's environmental impacts, "scant attention has been paid to the health effects of this development".

A spokeswoman for federal Health Minister Tony Abbott said the study's findings on cancer rates were questionable.

NT health department chief executive Robert Griew was also sceptical. "The excess cancers found are not typical of cancers caused by radiation but rather cover the range of cancers that reflect lifestyle issues such as smoking, diet and infection."

Liz Minchin and Lindsay Murdoch, Reprinted from The Age Newspaper

International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons

In April 2007, the Medical Association for the Prevention of War (MAPW) will be launching the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) in Australia.

ICAN is an initiative of the International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War (IPPNW) and will be a multi-faceted global campaign calling for a Nuclear Weapons Convention - and will demonstrate the feasibility of abolishing nuclear weapons and verifying their elimination.

Physicians are uniquely qualified to make a medical and moral case for the abolition of nuclear weapons. With a focus on the health effects and moral stigmatization of nuclear

Rio Tinto pushing uranium mines in WA

In June this year articles ran in the West Australian and the Australian Financial Review about the Kintyre uranium reserve on the edge of the Rudall River national park, one with the headline "Aboriginals say uranium mines answer to poverty" and the other "Aborigines in uranium talks with Rio."

The Western Desert Aboriginal Land Corporation (WDLAC) representing the Martu, have begun negotiating a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Rio Tinto. Rio, which runs a vast division aimed at influencing media appears to be pushing two key messages, that government has failed to deliver adequate services to indigenous communities and that indigenous groups are left with no options but to exploit mineral resources. In the Financial Review article Mr. Clinton Wolf, chief executive of WDLAC said "we are not getting the support of government and we are prepared to talk to Rio for our economic, social and cultural survival."

In November Jo Valentine and James Courtney visited the community of Panggurr, also known as Cotton Creek on the southern edge of the Rudall River national park to meet with traditional landowners.

Panggurr is approximately 350 kms by unsealed road from Newman, and gets few visitors. There were few people in the community at the time of the visit due to a funeral being held nearby at Jigalong, though several elders had stayed back to discuss the issue of uranium mining. These men had a clear message, that there was one place they would never welcome

weapons it is planned that ICAN will spark partnerships and collaborations with other NGOs working towards the ultimate goal of total nuclear disarmament.

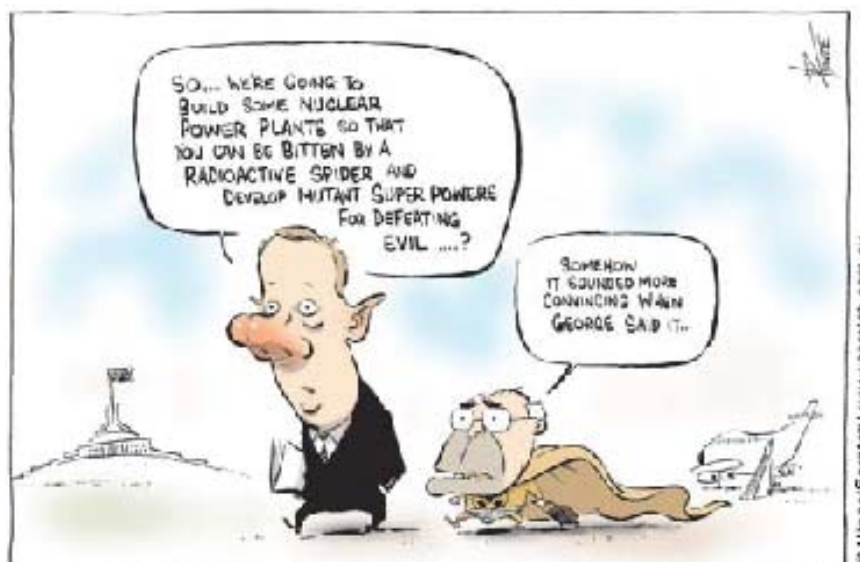
ICAN has several overriding operating assumptions. First, unless public opinion is mobilised and nuclear abolition becomes a serious political issue, nothing much will change globally. A broad citizen's movement is needed to challenge the Nuclear Weapons States' (NWS) possession of the world's most suicidal, genocidal and ecocidal weapons and to put nuclear abolition back at the top of the international agenda. The second assumption is that it is vital that the campaign is positive and solutions - focused rather than alarmist and fear-generating. While this is a gravely serious issue, getting serious about

nuclear weapons must involve laughter, horror and hope to overcome psychic numbing and motivate action.

The ICAN campaign will be designed to inspire enthusiasm amongst those agitating for nuclear disarmament. It will build on existing IPPNW campaigns such as the Nuclear Weapons Inheritance Project that involves IPPNW students travelling for dialogues with medical students in Nuclear Weapon States and Target X, a public activity involving students in white coats informing the public of what would occur if a nuclear weapon was detonated.

The campaign coordinator for the ICAN campaign in Australia is Felicity Hill, who can be contacted 03 8344 1637, felicity.hill@mapw.org.au

<http://www.ICANw.org>



mining, and that was on the Kintyre lease. This is primarily because of the sites proximity to places of cultural and spiritual significance, but also because of concerns about uranium mining impacts.

This issue is going to provide a huge test of the Carpenter governments commitment to its no uranium mining policy. Whilst the state ALP continue to state in the media that it will not allow uranium mining it has failed to pass legislation that would consolidate this position.

Meanwhile the Rio influenced media offensive rolls on. The right wing think tank Institute of Public Affairs, which is headed by Rio's ex-manager of government and corporate affairs is touring the country with a movie titled "Mine your own business-how mining pulls developing nations out of poverty and who is trying to stop it." The promotional material for the movie states that it "exposes the motivations

of those attempting to stop economic development in the name of the environment."

Rio has a terrible history when it comes to indigenous issues, but this information is getting harder to find. The Construction Forestry Mining and Energy Union, a one time opponent of Rio and critical of its dealings with indigenous people has removed all campaign materials and Rio-negative information from its websites.

This issue will be of major importance for ANAWA in 2007. The Martu people that oppose uranium mining will need as much support as we can give them.

This is more than an environmental issue, its a human rights issue. What reflection on our political and social systems is it when the the Martu's most priceless asset, their land must be sold to ensure their economic future and when the survival of an ancient culture is proudly sponsored by Rio Tinto.



Nuclear Reactors, Coming to a Port Near You

On the 8th January 2005, the USS San Francisco (SSN 771) nuclear powered submarine travelling at maximum speed collided with an undersea mountain in the Pacific Ocean. The accident resulted in one fatality and 97 of the 137 crew were injured. Attempts to evacuate seriously injured crew at sea where unsuccessful. Luckily the submarine was just two days from a US naval base on the island of Guam.

A US navy investigation found that the accident was caused by human error, and that charts on board the submarine clearly showed the sea mountain.

This accident was the most recent demonstration of the vulnerability of submarines to serious accidents.

According to information published by the Australian Department of Defence there were 101 visits to Australian ports between by naval propulsion nuclear reactors between 1997 and 2005.

That's 16 CVN Aircraft Carriers each powered by two reactors and 69 SSN Attack Class Submarines each powered by one reactor.

Nuclear powered submarines from the US, British and French navies frequently visit West Australian ports, usually with no fan fare or media coverage. Details relating to the armaments carried by submarines or their activities are amongst the most heavily guarded of military secrets.

Information recently obtained by ANAWA has revealed that Albany has been approved as an emergency port available for nuclear powered submarines of the US, British and French Navies. Details are still sketchy but it has been confirmed that emergency plans have been developed to cover radiation accidents, but have not yet been made publicly available.

“Some very preliminary consideration has been given to the feasibility of using specially designed or modified submarines (for moving high level nuclear waste) to remove any high seas threats.”



The USS San Francisco nuclear powered submarine in dry dock following the accident

US Battle Group visits Fremantle

In August a group of people held a “Prayer for Peace” in Fremantle Harbour alongside the USS Kittyhawk and two guided missile destroyers. Dr. Peter Underwood from the Medical Association for the Prevention War (MAPW) presented a letter for the officers and crew of the ships to representatives from the US navy and State Department.

Kashif Saleem from the Australian Islamic College read a peace prayer and peace flags and banners were hung from security fences.

The US navy regularly visits Fremantle.

If you would like to participate in a peaceful protest next time they visit, keep an eye on the ANAWA website:

<http://www.anawa.org.au>

or join the mailing list by emailing:

nfreewa@inet.net.au

Recent History of US Submarine Accidents

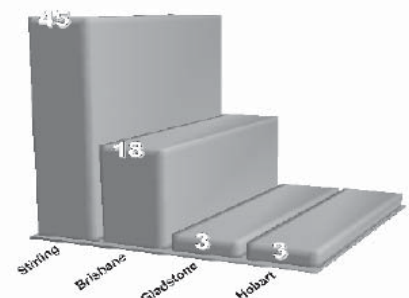
USS Greenville (SSN 772) hit a Japanese fishing boat off Hawaii in 2001, killing 9 off its crew

USS Memphis (SSN 691) struck a coral reef off Florida in 1993

USS Houston (SSN 713) snagged a tugboat cable, killing three of the tug's crew in 1989

USS Nathaniel Green (SSBN 636) ran aground in the Irish Sea in 1986

USS Jacksonville (SSN 699) collided with a Turkish freighter off Virginia in 1982



Nuclear Powered Submarine visits to Australian Ports 1997-2005

THE SWITKOWSKI REPORT MISSES THE POINT

Given its origins and the composition of its panel, the Switkowski nuclear report is in some respects surprisingly downbeat.

It supports uranium mining and nuclear power, rejects uranium conversion and enrichment, and all but ignores the original requirement to investigate the "business case" for establishing a repository accepting high-level nuclear waste from overseas. It stresses that nuclear power could be competitive only if a substantial carbon tax is imposed.

The narrow terms of reference set by the federal government have restricted the panel to a study of nuclear power, not a serious study of energy options for Australia. A panel with broader range of expertise and a less limited brief could have been asked to explore the impact

Just the Facts - All the Information You Need to Win the Nuclear Debate

A panel of independent scientists, engineers and nuclear policy experts has formed to provide factual and objective information on nuclear issues, following their concern about an unbalanced pro-nuclear focus on the Prime Minister's nuclear energy inquiry.

The panel, called the Energy Science Coalition, has launched a series of briefing papers on all aspects of the nuclear industry which will be expanded and updated as Australia's energy and climate change debate unfolds on its website:

<http://www.energyscience.org.au>

More countries could develop nuclear bombs: IAEA

As many as 30 countries may develop the capacity to produce nuclear weapons swiftly unless more is done to tackle the spread of the technology, the head of the United Nations' nuclear watchdog said on Monday.

Mohamed ElBaradei, head of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), issued the warning a week after North Korea said it had tested a nuclear bomb.

of carbon tax and other policy measures on energy demand. From that it could have tackled the most effective means by which that demand can be met, and greenhouse emissions reduced, taking into account all the energy options, costs, timeframes, waste, safety and other relevant issues.

While the Switkowski panel was prevented from asking key questions, there's no reason for the rest of us to avoid them. A body of existing research indicates that the objectives of meeting energy demand and reducing greenhouse emissions can be met with a combination of renewable energy and gas to displace coal, combined with energy efficiency measures, without recourse to nuclear power.

For example, a study by AGL, Frontier Economics and WWF Australia published in May 2006 finds that a 40% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from electricity generation in Australia can be achieved by 2030 at the modest cost of \$0.43/week per person over 24 years.

The Australian Ministerial Council on Energy published a report in 2003, Towards a National Framework for Energy Efficiency, which concludes that "consumption in the manufacturing, commercial and residential sectors could be reduced by 20-30% with the adoption of current commercially available technologies with an average payback of four years."

A detailed study, A Clean Energy Future for Australia, by Hugh Saddler, Richard Denniss and Mark Diesendorf, identifies methods by which a 50% reduction in greenhouse emissions from stationary energy can be achieved by 2040.

There is an equally impressive body of overseas research, one recent example being the RAND Corporation report released on 13 November which concludes that renewable energy could produce 25% of the electricity and motor vehicle fuels used in the US by 2025 at little or no additional cost.

Professor Jim Falk

Reprinted from www.crikey.com.au

Heard stories about how masses of leading environmentalists are now supporting nuclear energy?

Read some comments here:

<http://www.benoquist.com/2006/05/converted-environmentalists-and.html>

An interesting background report on Patrick Moore, the 'pro-nuclear' co-founder of Greenpeace' is available here:

http://www.sourcewatch.org/index.php?title=Patrick_Moore

Want some scientific facts direct from the pro-uranium lobby?

People have been talking up the possibility of the 'newer, safer fourth generation reactors'. This document from the Uranium Information Centre basically states that there are none up and running as yet, and they are not likely to come online till 2030:

<http://uic.com.au/nip16.htm>

"We are dealing with almost as I call them virtual nuclear weapons states," ElBaradei said in an opening speech to a nuclear safeguards conference in Vienna.

He added a new approach was needed "so not to end up with nine weapons states but another 20 or 30 who have the capacity to develop nuclear weapons in a very short time span."

Five countries – the U.S., Russia, China, France and the United Kingdom – have formally declared their nuclear weapons and signed the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

The four other nations known or suspected to have an atomic bomb are India, Pakistan, Israel, and now North Korea.

ElBaradei said new challenges had emerged as the nuclear technology was available for both peaceful and non-peaceful purposes.

It had become fashionable for countries over the past decade to look into the option of "shielding themselves, protecting themselves through nuclear weapons," he said.

Reuters, October 16 2006 (excerpt)

ANAWA STOCK AVAILABLE

Perfect gifts for the holiday season!

T-shirts

Available in various sizes from children's sizes to xxlarge.

Short sleeve \$12.00, long sleeve are \$16.00

Designs: Hand, Reclaim the Future, Globalize Love

Books

Nuclear Power is not the Answer

Helen Caldicott, 2006,..... \$20.00

Stepping out for Peace – History of the WA Peace Movement

CANE and PND, 2004..... \$25.00

Dangerous Dawn – The New Nuclear Age

Alan Marshall, 2006 \$6.00

The Ultimate War Crime

Robert Anderson..... \$10.00

Let the Fact Speak – An Indictment of the Nuclear Industry

3rd edition, 2006

Addicted to War – Why the U.S. can't kick Militarism

Joel Andreas, illustrated..... \$10.00

DVDS

Uranium Dreaming

ANAWA \$6.00

2005 Grace Vaughan Memorial Lecture

Helen Caldicott \$6.00

Blowing in the Wind

David Bradbury \$25.00

Booklets

Your Future with Depleted Uranium

Pauline Rigby \$10.00

Nuclear Power no Solution to Climate Change

Combined groups \$1.00

Yellowcake Country?

Combined groups \$1.00

TO ORDER

Phone or email Anne Marie

9271 4488

nfreewa@iinet.net.au



The John W Howard Atomic Workplace Agreement

My fellow Australians,
congratulations on being coerced into signing an Atomic Workplace Agreement. Please read this document carefully as you and your descendants embark on your exciting career in radioactive waste management.

I've been humbled by the spectacle of uranium mining revenues whooshing into the pockets of overseas investors while vast holes are gouged into our great nation. But not many people know that our uranium trade currently amounts to less than 1% of Australia's mineral exports, or slightly more than half the value of our cheese exports.

That's where you and your children's children come in!

I want to tell you about George Bush's Global Nuclear Energy Partnership (GNEP).

It comes in three satisfying parts.

First, I have a vision of hundreds of uranium mines all over the country, each one of them generating massive piles of radioactive tailings that need to be isolated from the environment for eternity.

Then, we're going to enrich the stuff and turn it into nuclear fuel, increasing profits for giant multinationals several fold while producing masses of depleted uranium waste at the same time!

Thirdly, after it's been heavily irradiated in unsafe power stations in China and Indonesia, we'll bring the waste back and dump it on a politically vulnerable Aboriginal community somewhere a long way from Canberra!

Prime Minister Howard

Text from flyer handed out by FANG in Fremantle Festival march.

Gorbachev warns against new nuclear power plants

Countries building new nuclear power plants to tackle global warming should think again, Mikhail Gorbachev, whose time in office as Soviet leader included the world's worst nuclear accident, said on Thursday.

"Think again, think seven times again before you leap and start construction of new nuclear power plants," Gorbachev

told a meeting of British lawmakers at London's Houses of Parliament, speaking through an interpreter.

"With my experience of Chernobyl I know what is involved. The explosion of one reactor required a superpower country to spend tens of billions of roubles. Still there was the longer pollution of the soil, the deaths of a number of people and consequences that will be far reaching," he added.

Reuters London 8th June 2006

