



**Ban Uranium
Mining Permanently**

MEDIA STATEMENT 1st July 2010 Uranium Mining and Water

Water mining is already occurring in the Goldfields area, where most uranium deposits are found, claims Jo Vallentine, spokesperson for the Anti-Nuclear Alliance of Western Australia.

“It should be of great concern to West Australians that the Government is considering allowing uranium mining to occur in areas where water resources are already scarce.

“There seems to be a haphazard approach to requests for access to water, rather than incremental assessment of the overall effects of water being siphoned off from the aquifers for use by proposed water guzzling uranium mines.

“Cumulative effects of massive increases in water usage need to be taken into account. Scoping documents for three companies eager to get uranium mines up and running which are currently before the EPA, reveal that they intend to use over 6 gegalitres of water per annum: the equivalent of 60 times Wiluna’s annual water supply.

“Uranium mines are notoriously thirsty. Uranium deposits generally occur in very dry terrain, with only spasmodic rainfall to restore depleted aquifers.

“The West Australian Government should consider the sobering experience at BHP Billiton’s Roxby Downs uranium mine, which uses 35 million litres of water per day, taken free of charge from the Great Artesian Basin.

ANAWA considers that squandering 6.3 GLs of water per annum on three mines (BHP Billiton at Yeelirrie; Mega at Leinster; Toro at Wiluna) is a shocking waste of what is arguably our most precious resource. Other projects and ecological requirements may be disadvantaged by this wanton relinquishment of water to uranium mining, which will leave behind massive contaminated tailings dams, radioactive for thousands of years into the future.

“People of Western Australia must be asked whether they approve this irresponsible allocation of this shared and precious resource.

“ANAWA re-iterates its call for a full, open public enquiry into the question of uranium mining in this state,” Jo Vallentine concluded.

**Jo Vallentine
Chairperson**

Contact #s: 9272 4252; 04277 08180



ANAWA
ANTI-NUCLEAR ALLIANCE
OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

5 King William Street, Bayswater WA 6053
Office Ph/Fax: (08) 9271 8786 Home Ph/Fax: (08)9272 4252
Website: www.anawa.org.au