

## MEDIA RELEASE

11 May 2009

Protest action: 4:30pm – 5:30pm at UWA Banquet Hall,  
The University Club, Hackett Drive, Crawley



### **Nuclear Power: the radioactive white elephant in the room**

A large inflatable white elephant known as “Ziggy” will debunk the nuclear myths peddled by Dr Ziggy Switkowski, the chair of the Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation, outside the Energy Options in a Warming World presentation at the University of Western Australia today.

The Anti-Nuclear Alliance of Western Australia (ANAWA) and the Conservation Council of Western Australia will argue that there is no place for the controversial and contaminating nuclear industry in WA.

“It is ridiculous that Dr. Switkowski is still pushing for nuclear power under the guise of a climate change solution,” said ANAWA anti-nuclear campaigner Kate Vallentine. “He fails to mention the amount of fossil fuels needed to mine and process the uranium, to transport and enrich the fuel, build nuclear power stations and manage long term wastes.”

Doubling nuclear power output by 2050 would reduce greenhouse gas emissions only by just 5 per cent - less than a tenth of the reduction required.

“Nuclear power is no solution to the challenge of climate change. It means more nuclear weapons proliferation and more radioactive waste,” said Ms Vallentine.

Natalie Lowrey, uranium free advocate for the Conservation Council of Western Australia said, “Besides the obvious environmental and health risk concerns of nuclear power the economics just don’t stack up. There is no economic case for Western Australia to even enter in the nuclear power debate. WA would be far more better off developing renewable energy alternatives and improving energy efficiency.”

“Despite Dr Switkowski’s one-man show spruiking for the nuclear industry it simply is not the

answer to climate change. One Ziggy has the right message at todays forum – the inflatable one out the front that says nuclear power is a radioactive white elephant.”

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