



MEDIA RELEASE

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Uranium Mining and Nuclear power make no economic sense in Western Australia

Members of the Anti-Nuclear Alliance of Western Australia (ANAWA) and the Conservation Council of Western Australia will take action outside a pro-nuclear gathering in Perth today.

The protesters will wear radiation suits and serve yellowcake to delegates on their way into the ‘Uranium Mining and Nuclear Power: A Brave New World?’ conference to emphasise the risks to workers, the environment and the future of Western Australia.

“We don’t want to see our West Australia turned into a yellowcake sacrifice zone ,” said ANAWA anti-nuclear campaigner Kate Vallentine.

“Western Australian citizens have long opposed all aspects of the nuclear industry including uranium mining and nuclear power. Now is the not the time to gamble with this risky nuclear business.”

A Newspoll survey from 6-7 September 2008 showed that 48% of West Australians supported the previous government’s plan to legislate to ban uranium mining versus 38% opposed.

“The Federal Governments continuing push to expand Australian uranium exports is irresponsible in today’s political climate: the international non-proliferation regime is deeply flawed,” said Ms Vallentine.

Natalie Lowrey, uranium free advocate for the Conservation Council of Western Australia said, “Australian nuclear materials are increasingly likely to end up in weapons programs. The recent Defence White paper is saying it, the International Atomic Energy Association is saying it and the Conservation Council of Western Australia is saying it – once we dig up the uranium we have no way of tracking whether that will turn into WMD and nuclear proliferation.”

“It doesn’t make any economic or environmental sense to be investing in uranium mining or nuclear power”

In the US, direct subsidies to nuclear energy totaled \$115 billion between 1947 and 1999, with a

further \$145 billion in indirect subsidies. In contrast, subsidies to wind and solar during the same period amounted to only \$5.5 billion.

“WA is at a time of choice. There is no place for this divisive and dangerous trade in WA and the Anti-Nuclear Alliance of Western Australia and the Conservation Council of Western Australia will continue to be the nuclear watchdogs and will increase our efforts against the development of any uranium industry in our state, “ said Ms Lowrey.

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