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WA communities will not be fooled by appointment of Uranium industry spin doctor

Western Australia's Peak Environment group and the WA Nuclear Free Alliance said they were concerned but not surprised by yesterday's announcement that the Australian Uranium Association had appointed a public relations professional to talk up the industry in Aboriginal communities.

Piers Verstegen, Director of the Conservation Council of Western Australia said "The Australian Uranium Association is a front group established purely to promote the interests of an unsafe, unnecessary and unwanted uranium mining industry in Western Australia. No amount of spin and PR will make this dangerous industry acceptable to Western Australians."

Representatives from the newly formed Western Australia Nuclear Free Alliance have a strong and clear message for the newly appointed representative of the Australian Uranium Association. Pastor Geoffrey Stokes from the Wongutha Birni Aboriginal Corporation said "Forty thousand years of dreamtime says no to uranium mining – it is no good because it causes sickness and death. The people of old said no and we still say no!"

Koara Leader and Traditional Owner of Yeelirrie, Richard Evans said that "history shows the damage that can be done to people if this uranium mining goes ahead. My people have kept out of that area because we have always known that it is a place of taboo and very dangerous."

"The Australian Uranium Association has said this appointment was about distributing clear and factual information about the uranium industry. If that was their genuine objective then they would have supported our call for a full open public inquiry into uranium mining which was supported by Aboriginal leaders, doctors, unions, youth leaders and Labor and Greens politicians," stated Mr. Verstegen.

For further comment:

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