

# Joint Australian Non-Government Organisations Statement on Nuclear Power and Climate Change

December 2010

We the undersigned Australian non-government organisations are united in our opposition to the nuclear power industry including uranium mining, uranium enrichment, nuclear power reactors and nuclear reprocessing. We call on all political parties to:

## 1. Stop this dirty and dangerous industry

The nuclear power industry is dirty, dangerous and costly – costly to workers and communities, to health, the environment and future generations, as well as financially. Nuclear 'safeguards' are manifestly inadequate to prevent nuclear weapons proliferation.

## 2. Address climate change

We reaffirm our considered conclusion that nuclear power reactors offer no solution to the unfolding global warming crisis (see for example the 2005 report, 'Nuclear Power: No Solution to Climate Change', produced by Australian NGOs, <[www.foe.org.au/anti-nuclear/issues/nfc/nuclear-climate](http://www.foe.org.au/anti-nuclear/issues/nfc/nuclear-climate)>.) By continuing to hold up nuclear power as an effective response to global warming, proponents distract attention and resources away from existing effective, safe and affordable solutions to climate change.

## 3. Boost renewables

We call on all political parties to seriously combat global warming by adopting policies in support of the rapid expansion of the renewable energy sector and a concerted Australia-wide program of energy efficiency and conservation. These programs and technologies should also be exported widely around the world to help other countries, especially developing nations. We call on the federal government and state/territory governments to take responsible and timely action to prevent both catastrophic climate change *and* contamination of the planet by radioactive waste and nuclear weapons.

## 4. Seek responsible solutions to nuclear waste:

The ethical, democratic and effective way to manage radioactive waste involves application of the principles of waste minimisation; thorough assessment of all waste management options; and site selection processes based on voluntary consent, transparency and scientific criteria. None of these criteria are met with the federal government's current plan to impose a nuclear waste dump in the Northern Territory and we therefore reject that plan. The National Radioactive Waste Management Bill 2010 suspends the application of key Indigenous and environmental protections, overrides all state/territory laws, curtails procedural fairness and appeal rights, and upholds the strongly contested nomination of a dump site at Muckaty in the Northern Territory.

### Signatories:

#### National NGOs:

Medical Association for Prevention of War  
Public Health Association of Australia  
Women's International League for Peace & Freedom  
National Toxics Network  
The Wilderness Society  
WWF-Australia  
Climate Action Network Australia  
Australian Solar Energy Society  
Mineral Policy Institute  
Australian Conservation Foundation  
Friends of the Earth, Australia  
Greenpeace Australia Pacific

#### Conservation Councils:

Environment Victoria  
Nature Conservation Council of NSW

Queensland Conservation Council  
Environment Tasmania  
Conservation Council of South Australia  
Conservation Council of Western Australia  
Arid Lands Environment Centre (Alice Springs)  
Environment Centre Northern Territory  
Environs Kimberley

#### Other NGOs

Australian Peace Committee (SA)  
Greenleap Strategic Institute  
Beyond Nuclear Initiative  
Japanese for Peace  
Total Environment Centre  
Climate Emergency Network  
Rising Tide Newcastle  
EnergyScience Coalition