

Professor Peter Newman  
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To Professor Peter Newman,

The Community Anti-Nuclear Network of Western Australia (CANNWA) would

Like to congratulate the Gallop government on the initiation of its State Sustainability Strategy. We hope that the State Sustainability Strategy will become an important starting point for environmentally friendly initiatives in this state.

We would also like to congratulate the Gallop government on its anti-nuclear policy. The anti-nuclear stance of the Gallop government stands in stark contrast to that of the previous government, and sends a strong message to the rest of Australia and the world.

We encourage the Gallop Government to consider nuclear issues as issues of sustainability. The nuclear industry, which produces radioactive waste which will have to be managed by future generations for hundreds of thousands of years, contravenes the principle of intergenerational equity as outlined in the consultation paper "Focus on the Future: Opportunities for Sustainability in Western Australia":

“...our decisions today should not compromise the choices of those generations still to come...”-p.6

As is recognised in this consultation paper, Western Australia cannot focus solely on achieving sustainability within its own borders in developing its sustainability strategy, because Western Australia is connected with the wider world. If Western Australia were to begin mining and exporting uranium we would be contributing to the nuclear cycle in other parts of the world. A Western Australian uranium mining industry would threaten efforts towards sustainability in other parts of the world.

Despite the legislation passed in the 1999 Nuclear Waste Storage (Prohibition) Bill, the nuclear industry still poses a threat to sustainability in Western Australia. The 1999 bill still allows for the storage of radioactive material generated in Australia which may have a future use. There is nothing in the bill to prohibit uranium mining or the transport of radioactive material. In order to achieve sustainability in Western Australia we must legislate against the transport and mining of radioactive materials, and close the loopholes in legislation against radioactive waste dumping.

Yours sincerely,

Community Anti-Nuclear Network of Western Australia