



## **Make Australia Nuclear Free** **Greens Policy Announcement**

The Australian Greens oppose the expansion of uranium mining in Australia, the processing of uranium into nuclear fuel for sale, lease or domestic use, and the development of a nuclear power industry for Australia.

Climate change is the greatest threat we face and nuclear power is not the solution. We will close down Australia's only nuclear reactor at Lucas Heights in Sydney.

Nuclear power is:

- Too dangerous. Accidents can cause deaths, life-threatening disease and contaminate vast regions;
- Linked to regional insecurity and nuclear weapons proliferation;
- Very expensive, especially when the cost of cleaning up old nuclear facilities and storing radioactive waste, including depleted uranium, is taken into account;
- Relies on uranium, the mining and processing of which generates significant greenhouse gas emissions.

A government serious about climate change would not support investing large sums of money in the nuclear industry; it would invest instead in renewable energy, energy efficiency and public transport.

After half a century of operation, the industry still hasn't found a way to safely store long-lived, radioactive nuclear waste. Nuclear power is not 'greenhouse friendly'. It generates greenhouse pollution from uranium mining, transport, processing into fuel and the construction of nuclear power plants.

More nuclear fuel increases the risk of more nuclear weapons, generating regional instability and undermining international safeguards against weapons.

Kevin Rudd and Labor have backed the Howard government's expansion of uranium mining. The Greens would end uranium mining in Australia.

The Greens plan to make Australia nuclear free includes:

- Closing Sydney's nuclear reactor at Lucas Heights;
- Use the \$140 million a year in savings to be used for nuclear medicine, to clean up radioactive sites and support diplomatic initiatives on nuclear weapons;
- End all uranium mining and plans for uranium enrichment;
- Oppose the government's plan for nuclear power;
- Support international moves for a new treaty to outlaw nuclear weapons.