

The Democrats position on nuclear industries has been virtually unchanged for 30 years: we want a clean Australia free from uranium mining, nuclear reactors and radioactive waste.

We do so to protect human health and our environment from the hazards of the uranium fuel cycle and from contributing to nuclear weapons proliferation.

The Howard Government tried pushed for more uranium mines and 25 nuclear power reactors and was prepared to override state legislation that prevented this.

The nuclear industry claims its its reactors deliver power at zero greenhouse emissions but this is not true. Mining, processing and transporting uranium ore generates CO2 and huge emissions are embedded in thick concrete reactors. It's not true either to say nuclear power is overtaking renewables. In 2004, small scale renewable and cogeneration technology generated almost three times as much power as nuclear and at lower cost. Energy efficiency is five or six times cheaper than nuclear power and has none of the intractable waste problems.

Labor's pointless two-mine policy has been quietly dropped and it welcomed the massive expansion of uranium extraction in South Australia and elsewhere. Shamefully, it also adopted the Coalition's out-of-sight-out-of-mind nuclear waste dump at Muckarty Station on in the NT, against the wishes of the Indigenous people there.

..... still opposed to **Nuclear Energy and Waste**

Our Plan

- Cut greenhouse emissions through energy efficiency and renewable energy, and reject **nuclear power** as too costly and too slow and because it generates radioactive waste for which there is no known long term safe storage solution
- Reject emphatically the **enrichment** of uranium in Australia
- Prohibit the sale of Australian **uranium** to any country that has not ratified both the Nuclear Non Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (i.e. US, China, Israel, India, Pakistan & North Korea)
- Close and rehabilitate all of Australia's **uranium mines**
- Oppose the national radioactive **waste dump** proposed in outback NT and instead provide highest standard, above ground facilities in the states where warranted, located as close as possible to the site of generation
- Reject any plan for Australia to accept **overseas nuclear waste** or spent Australian uranium
- Protect the integrity of the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act's prohibition of **nuclear reactors or enrichment**.