

Hello,

Please accept this letter into the Inquiry into proposed uranium sales to China.

9th of September 2006

Dear JSCT members,

Re: Inquiry into Proposed Uranium Sales to China

I am writing to express my opposition to uranium sales to China. My reasons to this include an opposition to uranium mining per se due to its contribution to environmental degradation, its causing of offence and distress to Indigenous peoples and its detrimental social and health outcomes for Indigenous and non-Indigenous people. I oppose the turning of uranium into nuclear power as this process, its by-products and the waste it produces compromises life on this planet, including fauna, flora and humans.

I oppose sales of uranium to China because China manufactures nuclear weapons and there is no foolproof way of ensuring that Australian uranium does not go towards nuclear weapons production. This is all the more pertinent since the export of Australian uranium frees up the use of Chinese uranium for weapons production.

The Chinese government is responsible for serious human rights abuses, including towards individuals and groups who speak out peacefully against government policies. A repressive regime is more likely to cover up accidents and misuses of nuclear power and to punish or worse those who try to let the public know about such incidences.

I have read information from Friends of the Earth from which I have formed some of my arguments. The issues covered in the FOE information should be addressed by a responsible government. It is particularly concerning to learn about the inadequacies of the IAEA 'safeguards' and the weak bilateral agreements between Australia and countries we export uranium to.

I do not believe this government should export uranium to China for the reasons I have given above.

Yours Sincerely,

Simone Siracusa