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25th July, 2002

The Secretary
Senate ECITA References Committee
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Submission to the Senate Enquiry into Environmental Regulation of Uranium Mining.

Re BEVERLEY and HONEYMOON ISL MINES

It is requested that the Federal and South Australian Governments be made to commit themselves to the protection of groundwater, including no discharge of mine waste to groundwater; to prohibit underground leaks into connected aquifers and to require rehabilitation of mining impacts on groundwater.

It is requested that the Enquiry recommend there be increased monitoring of operations and public reporting of all radioactive leaks.

It is requested that the Enquiry recommend a new public environmental assessment of mine wastes.

Re KAKADU MINES

It is requested that the Federal and Northern Territory Governments facilitate the rehabilitation, lease relinquishment and incorporation of the Jabiluka and Koongarra mineral leases into Kakadu National Park.

It is requested that Rio Tinto and relevant government agencies support a phase out, exit and rehabilitation strategy for Ranger, including aiding the establishment of a viable Aboriginal economy independent of mining.

It is requested that the Enquiry articulate a credible plan of action to prevent the development, rehabilitate the impacts and incorporate the mineral lease of the Jabiluka site, in order to protect the region's World Heritage property and values.

It is requested that the Federal and Northern Territory Governments act to reduce environmental impacts of operations at Ranger, and for monitoring and regulatory regimes be strengthened to include more event based monitoring, increased monitoring scope and trigger points, and enhanced reporting.

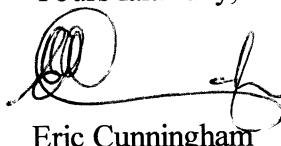
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TERMS OF REFERENCE.

It is requested that the Senate Environment, Communications, Information Technology and the Arts References Committee enquire into and report on the regulatory, monitoring and reporting regimes that govern environmental performance at the Ranger and Jabiluka uranium operations in the Northern Territory and the Beverley and Honeymoon ISL operations in South Australia, with particular reference to:

- The adequacy, effectiveness and performance of existing monitoring and reporting regimes and regulations;
- The adequacy and effectiveness of those Commonwealth agencies responsible for the oversight and implementation of these regimes and
- A review of Commonwealth responsibilities and mechanisms to realise improved environmental performance and transparency of reporting.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Eric Cunningham', with a large circular flourish at the start.

Eric Cunningham