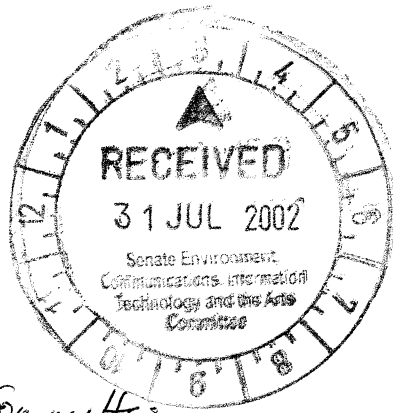


27-7-02

P.O. Box 35
Brighton SA.



The Secretary
Senate ECITA References Committee
Parliament House
CANBERRA, ACT 2600

SUBMISSION TO THE SENATE INQUIRY INTO THE ENVIRONMENTAL
REGULATION OF URANIUM MINING

I respectfully ask this Inquiry to consider, before
anything else

- that we have only one environment in which to live
- no amount of money can mend it, once destroyed
- there are no safe methods for recycling or disposing
of nuclear waste - which can remain active for
many thousands of years
- the availability of safe water supplies is going to be
the major problem of the 21st century, therefore
taking the risk of contamination of underground
aquifers in Australia (or anywhere else) by using
ISL mining methods is untenable

I therefore ask in regard to Beverley & Honeybrook
uranium mines for

- The Federal and South Australian Governments to commit to 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.
- The inquiry to recommend increased monitoring of operations and public reporting of all radioactive leaks.
- The Inquiry to recommend a new public environmental assessment of the management of mine wastes

In regard to Jabiluka, Koonjarru & Ranges
I ask that

- The Federal and NT governments facilitate the rehabilitation, lease relinquishment and incorporation of the Jabiluka & Koonjarru mineral leases into Kakadu National Park.
- Rio Tinto and relevant government agencies support a phase-out, exit and rehabilitation strategy for Ranges, including aiding the establishment of a viable Aboriginal economy, independent of mining.
- The Inquiry articulate a credible action plan 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.
- The Federal & NT governments act to reduce

environmental impacts of operations at Ranger, and for monitoring, reporting + regulatory regimes to be strengthened to include more event based monitoring, increased monitoring scope and trigger points and more informative reporting.

I ask also that the Senate Environment, Communications, Information Technology and the Arts References Committee

inquire into and report on the regulatory, monitoring and reporting regimes that govern environmental performance at the Ranger & Jabiluka uranium operations in the Northern Territory and the Beverley and Honeymoon ISL operations in South Australia with particular reference to

- 1) the adequacy, effectiveness and performance of existing monitoring and reporting regimes and regulations
- 2) the adequacy and effectiveness of those Commonwealth agencies responsible for the oversight and implementation of these regimes
- 3) Reviewing Commonwealth responsibilities and mechanisms to realise improved environmental performance and transparency of reporting.

Yours faithfully

M Shearstone

MERELYN THEARSTONE