



November, 2011

Dear National Conference delegate ,

## Re: URANIUM SALES TO INDIA:

### TESTING AUSTRALIA'S COMMITMENT TO NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION

We are writing to you about the Government of Australia's policies in relation to uranium exports, particularly the proposed sale of uranium to India. The Australian Labor Party has long described the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) as the cornerstone of the non-proliferation regime. Uranium sales to India or any other non-NPT state would be a retrograde step that is incompatible with Australia's professed commitment to being a leader in the non-proliferation field.

The events set in train by the opening up of nuclear trade between India and the United States have been a major setback for the global nuclear non-proliferation regime. India continues to produce fissile material for weapons and still refuses to sign the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty. The nuclear arms race between India and Pakistan is escalating and Pakistan is now blocking progress on negotiations towards a Fissile Material Cut-Off Treaty as a direct result of the US-India deal.

In the shadow of the continuing Fukushima nuclear crisis this issue has gained renewed gravity and importance, as seen in the September 2011 high level UN report *United Nations system-wide study on the implications of the accident at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant*.

This report identified that the potential consequences from nuclear proliferation are a matter of major concern in the international community and urged that in order to properly address nuclear security, the international community should promote universal adherence to and implementation of relevant international legal instruments.

Of particular note in the current context the UN report states:

*"Nuclear science and technology can also be used to develop nuclear weapons. Compliance with international legal instruments, such as the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, other bilateral and multilateral non-proliferation agreements and safeguards agreements with the IAEA, is therefore an essential element of the responsible use of nuclear power."*

The Government of India refused to make any meaningful non-proliferation commitments during the US-India negotiations and there can be no confidence that any meaningful concessions would be forthcoming in any negotiations between Australia and India on uranium exports.

Australia should maintain the existing policy restriction on uranium sales to India and would certainly not be alone in seeking to preserve the principle that non-NPT states are excluded from civil nuclear trade. During the

2010 NPT Review Conference, the 118 nations of the Non-Aligned Movement complained that the US-India agreement had given a non-NPT state more benefits than NPT parties.

Please see the attached briefing paper providing facts that address the false claims being made about safeguards and benefits with proposals to export uranium to non-NPT states. A detailed and comprehensively referenced version of the paper is posted at [www.choosenuclearfree.net/india](http://www.choosenuclearfree.net/india)

The choice for Australia is clear: we can stand with the vast majority of nations in upholding and attempting to strengthen the fragile nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament regime, or we can join with those whose actions actively undermine it.

We urge you to use your voice to provide the facts on the dangers in selling uranium to India, and if there is a vote at December's ALP National Conference on this issue, to use your vote to maintain Labor's long tradition of support for the NPT by rejecting any move to sell uranium to India.

Please contact us via Dr Jim Green on 0417 318 368 or [jim.green@foe.org.au](mailto:jim.green@foe.org.au) if you would like to discuss these issues.

Yours sincerely,



Jim Green  
Nuclear campaigner  
Friends of the Earth



Dr Jenny Grounds  
President  
Medical Association for Prevention of War



Tim Wright  
Executive Director  
International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons



Denise Boyd  
Campaigns Director  
Australian Conservation Foundation



Stuart Blanch  
Director  
Environment Centre NT



Natalie Wasley  
Coordinator  
Beyond Nuclear Initiative



Michael Moore  
CEO  
Public Health Association of Australia



Lyndon Schneiders  
National Campaign Director  
The Wilderness Society



Piers Verstegen  
Director  
Conservation Council of WA



Tim Kelly  
Chief Executive  
Conservation Council SA



Jeremy Tager  
Political Unit Head  
Greenpeace Australia Pacific