

Yet, as the Age reported on 8th July 1981, Mr Fraser is satisfied that despite some "noise" about uranium development and nuclear policy in Australia "the (pro-nuclear) policies have been going along in a steady way."

The community campaign for a nuclear free Victoria must now enter a new phase. We can no longer accept assurances that there is "no possibility of a nuclear power station being constructed anywhere in Victoria in the near future" (Premier Hamer, 15th July 1980). We must demand a new direction for Victoria's industrial development which clearly rejects the nuclear option.

Concerted citizen action that brings about these changes in policy is what will stop Victoria going nuclear!

Building A Nuclear Free Victoria

The Movement Against Uranium Mining, as part of this new campaign, has launched a Declaration for Nuclear Free Victoria which calls for:

- A revised S.E.C. Charter prohibiting the development of nuclear power
- Government funding for a wide ranging public debate on short and long-term transport and energy needs.
- A co-ordinated energy policy based on energy conservation, the rapid development of renewable energy sources, particularly solar power, and positive encouragement for energy industries which are job-creating and environmentally safe
- Extensive upgrading of public transport together with a vastly improved system of access to neighbourhood and local centres*

Over the next twelve months we will be challenging the Victorian Government's misguided policies. In particular we will be opposing the energy guzzling Alcoa smelter at Portland, the proposed coal to oil industry, and the general mismanagement of electricity generation in this State by the SEC.

For our part, we will be pressing for an alternative development policy which can be expected to improve the living standards of all Victorians, but without the frightening prospect of a nuclear future.

* Copies of the declaration are available on request from M.A.U.M.

Will you join us in these constructive tasks?

- ☐ I wish to become a member of M.A.U.M. ☐ I wish to join group
☐ I wish to become a memeber of M.A.U.M.

NAME _____ TEL _____

ADDRESS _____

AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$_____ (\$10 per year, \$4 for students/unemployed)

WHAT'S TO STOP VICTORIA GOING NUCLEAR?

18th July 81 Australian We'll be nuclear in 20 years, says PM

THE Prime Minister, Mr Fraser, said last night Australia would have nuclear power within 20 years.

He served notice to anti-uranium groups that the Federal Government would not tolerate opposition to its nuclear development program.

Mr Fraser chose a New York dinner with a conservative group of senior American businessmen hosted by...

From GREG HARTUNG:
NEW YORK, TUESDAY

ers, Morgan Stanley and Company Incorporated, to state his long term policies.

His statement has re-opened the politically divisive issue of nuclear energy and set Australia on a course toward nuclear power.

Mr Fraser told the businessmen: "I think before...

in a sensible and modest way and designed to suit most parts of Australia where other forms of energy are more distant and more expensive."

Mr Fraser said commercial trade in uranium was going ahead Australia had a strict non-proliferation policy and insisted on bilateral treaties with importing nations.



The Push to Nuclear Power

Well, what is to stop this State going nuclear? Unfortunately — if the present State Government has its way — not very much.

The Government's preparations for the introduction of nuclear power in Victoria are well documented.*

Let's look at some of the facts.

When?

A number of authoritative sources have made predictions as to when the first nuclear reactor is expected to be operating in Victoria. All the dates range from 1995 to 2005. Here is a selection:

Expected year of reactor operation	Authority (and year prediction made)
1995-2000	Mr Dick Urie, head of SEC research (1976)
1995	Green Paper, official Government policy discussion document (1977)
2000	Prof. Lance Endersbee, head of the influential Institution of Engineers Energy Policy Task Force (1977)
1997	Prof Stuart Butler, head of the Australian Atomic Energy Commission Lucas Heights Reactor Research Station (1979)
2000-2005	Mr Ted Stokes, Principal Planning Engineer, SEC (1980)

It takes about 15 years from the first decision to the point where a reactor is ready to operate. As the Premier of Victoria, Mr Lindsay Thompson has pointed out: "if there was a need for Victoria to go nuclear in the 1990s, there would need to be planning for such a decision now."

Where?

It has been revealed in Parliament that the SEC has investigated many areas of Victoria for suitable nuclear reactor sites. Sites in Gippsland, Westernport, Port Phillip Bay and the western lakes near Colac have been considered.

The most likely choice seems to be one of a number of sites near Portland. Recently on 24th June 1980, the *Age* newspaper revealed that the SEC had hired consultants from the United Kingdom Electricity Generating Board to do a detailed economic cost and siting study for the establishment of nuclear power in Victoria. The Portland region was one of the main areas of study.

How?

One of the recent decisions by the Federal Government Razor Gang was to transfer control of nuclear matters to the States. This will open the way for the Victorian Government to legally commit the State to nuclear power.

* See *Victoria's Nuclear Countdown* by Philip Sutton (available from M.A.U.M. \$3.00 a copy including postage).

25th June Sun Thompson OKs N-plan

THE Acting Premier, Mr Thompson, yesterday defended the SEC's decision to commission a study of costs and sites for nuclear power stations in Victoria.

Mr Thompson said that if there was a need for Victoria to go nuclear in the 1990s, there would need to be planning for such a decision now.

He said there might be economic grounds then for adding a nuclear component to the state's electricity generation system.

Mr Thompson was commenting on a study being carried out for the SEC by the British Central Electricity



● MR THOMPSON

and Giffard on the Gippsland coast. The study was commissioned early this year and a report will be made by the end of the year.

But Do We Really Need Nuclear Power?

Of course not! We need only remember the Three Mile Island disaster, the numerous other reactor accidents, the unresolved problem of radioactive wastes, the mounting hazards of nuclear proliferation, the prohibitive costs of nuclear power.

In any case we have enough coal to last for hundreds of years *provided it is not wasted*. Yet the Government and the SEC have plans to use up our best and cheapest coal, not in 500 years, but in little over 50 years! This Government is desperately trying to get on to the 'resources boom' bandwagon regardless of the costs. Its main hope is to export most of our cheap brown coal by converting it into oil or by using it to make aluminium.

ALCOA + Coal-to-Oil = Nuclear Power

The link between these energy guzzling industries and the push to nuclear power is once again documented in official sources. The Government's 1977 Green Paper made it clear that if coal to oil conversion goes ahead then, for economic reasons, the Government is likely to want to generate electricity from nuclear power. The connection between the aluminium industry and nuclear power was made by Prof Butler of the Australian Atomic Energy Commission in August 1980. He said that "the SEC are definitely looking at nuclear power" and that "it may be possible that a few thousand megawatts capacity would be installed near the South Australian border to supply South Australia and linked to the development of aluminium smelters."

Clearly, the present Liberal Government is trying to build the demand for nuclear power into the heart of Victoria's energy policy.

Opposing The Nuclear Push

The majority of Australians and Victorians are opposed to the development of a nuclear power industry here (in Australia 56% are opposed, and 34% in favour according to Australian Public Opinion Polls, 1979). Not only that, two major political parties, the Australian Labor Party and the Australian Democrats are strongly opposed to the building of nuclear reactors in Victoria.