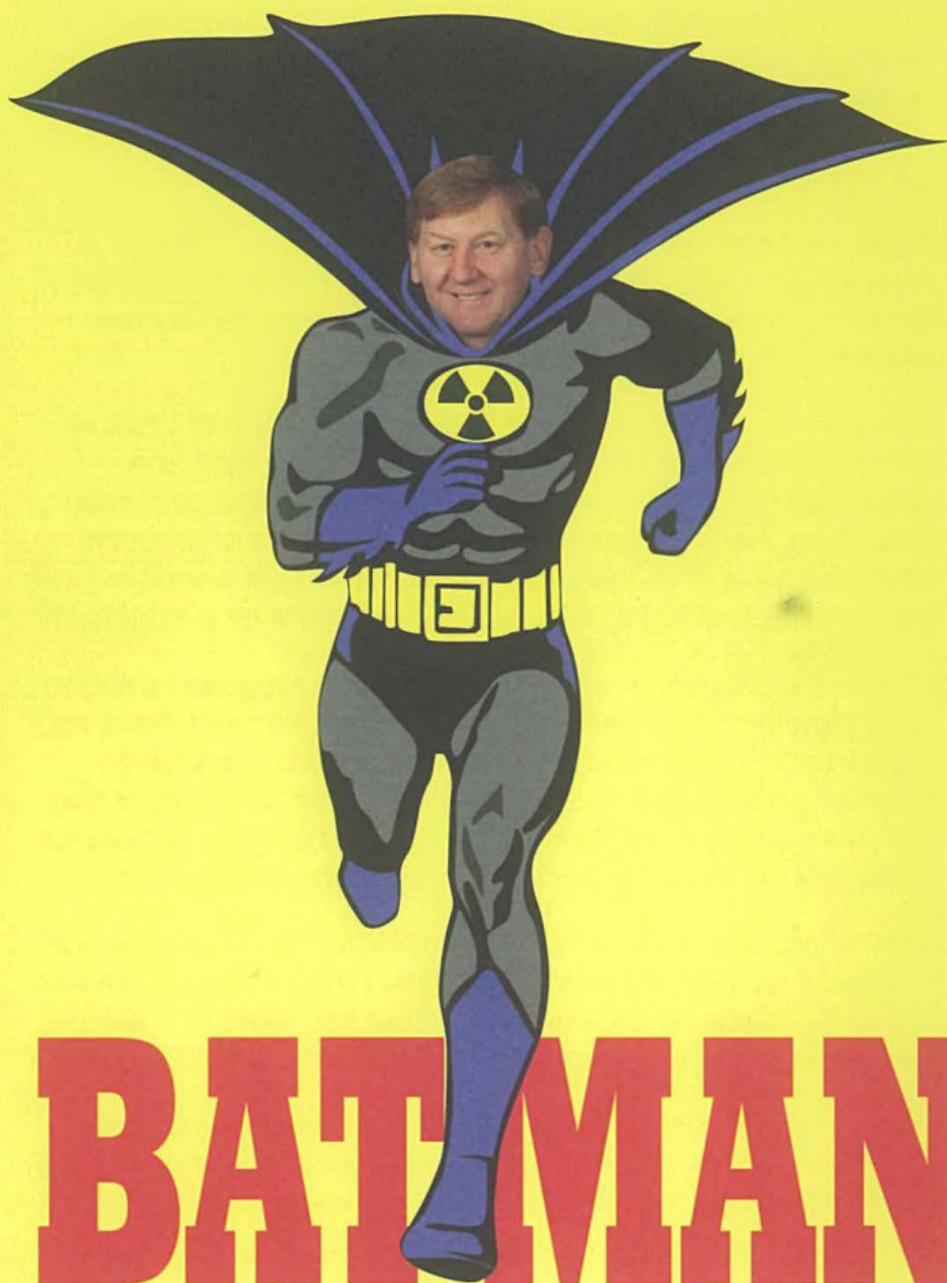


HE MIGHT BE FROM
BATMAN BUT HE'S
NO SUPERHERO



BATMAN

MARTIN FERGUSON IS THE FEDERAL MEMBER FOR OUR ELECTORATE OF BATMAN. HE ALSO SUPPORTS MORE URANIUM MINING. HE IS LEADING A PUSH TO CHANGE THE LABOR PARTY'S "NO NEW URANIUM MINES" POLICY. IF HE IS SUCCESSFUL THIS WOULD MEAN MORE RADIOACTIVE WASTE, MORE POLLUTING MINES AND MORE NUCLEAR THREATS.



Australia has significant reserves of uranium – the mineral that fuels nuclear power and nuclear weapons. Uranium mining is a risky and highly contaminating industry that has been a focus of much debate in Australia since the 1970's.

In the 1980's people mobilised against nuclear power and weapons and in the 1990's people across Australia and around the world successfully prevented the planned Jabiluka mine in Kakadu. Recent polls show that most Australians oppose more uranium mining.

There are three uranium mines in Australia – two in South Australia (Olympic Dam and Beverley) and one in the Northern Territory (Ranger). Each of these mines has caused serious environment and health problems.

Labor party policy "recognises that the production of uranium and its use in the nuclear fuel cycle presents unique and unprecedented hazards and risks including: threats to human health and the local environment, the generation of products which are useable as the raw materials for nuclear weapons [and] the generation of highly toxic radioactive waste by-products."*

Despite the dangers of uranium mining Martin Ferguson is seeking to change the Labor party policy on this controversial issue and is leading the push for an expanded industry. He is applying pressure on states like Western Australia and Queensland that have bans on uranium mining and is strongly supporting pro-uranium moves by the mining industry and the federal government.

Martin Ferguson is Labor's shadow minister for Resources and fully backs the federal governments current move to export uranium to China – a nuclear weapons state that has failed to meet international nuclear safeguard obligations.

When it comes to nuclear issues Martin Ferguson's comments do not reflect the concerns of his constituents. We are residents of Batman who don't want more nuclear waste or weapons in the world.

Instead of being a salesman for the toxic nuclear industry Martin Ferguson should be promoting clean and green energy options. We don't want a nuclear future – this is his vision, not ours.

It is important to remind our local member that he is elected to represent us – not the uranium mining industry – a dirty and dangerous industry that threatens the public, workers, indigenous rights and our environment.

*ALP National Platform and Constitution, Chapter 12, No.66.

NUCLEAR POWER WON'T SAVE THE WORLD FROM CLIMATE CHANGE.

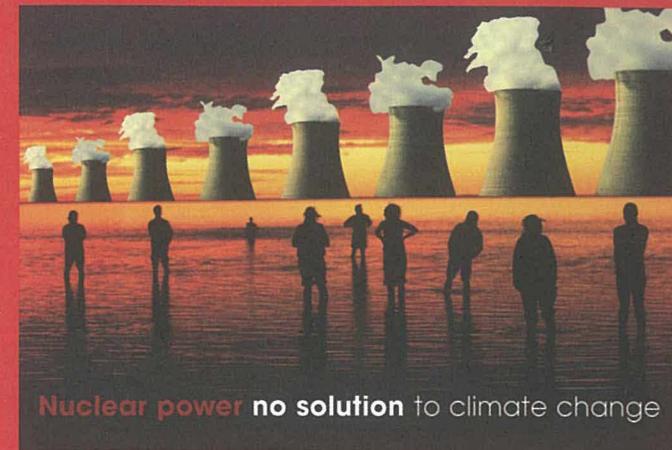
The nuclear industry is trying to turn genuine community concern about climate change into support for the discredited nuclear power industry. It is widely accepted that global greenhouse gas emissions need to be reduced by at least 60% by the middle of the century to avoid dangerous climate change. This is a real and urgent challenge - but nuclear power is not the answer.

Nuclear is ineffective:

- Nuclear power will not provide the cuts needed to reduce greenhouse emissions. Even doubling nuclear power globally by 2050 would only provide a 5% reduction in greenhouse gases.
- Greenhouse gas emissions are produced at nearly every step of the nuclear cycle. Mining and milling uranium, building and decommissioning reactors and transporting nuclear fuel and waste all generate large amounts of greenhouse pollution. The uranium and nuclear industries are not greenhouse neutral.
- Uranium is not a renewable resource. Current estimates show that reserves will be depleted in around 50 years and any expansion would speed this up. The uranium ore would be quickly consumed but the waste lasts forever.

Nuclear is too expensive:

- Nuclear power is one of the most expensive ways to produce electricity and it only continues to exist because it receives huge tax-payer subsidies. It is neither cheap nor clean.
- The management of radioactive waste for hundreds of thousands of years will have massive costs that extend far beyond the life of a nuclear power plant.
- The high capital cost of nuclear diverts the money, technology and political will needed for the real solutions to climate change and energy security - renewable energy and energy efficiency.



Nuclear is too dangerous:

- Nuclear power plants routinely release radiation and accidents can be catastrophic. Chernobyl showed that nuclear contamination can travel long distances. Radioactive pollution doesn't need a passport to cross borders and nuclear power is simply not worth the risk.
- Nuclear poses unacceptable security and proliferation risks. Civil nuclear programs support nuclear weapons programs in many countries and international safeguards have failed to stop either the use of nuclear materials in weapons or the illegal trafficking of nuclear materials.
- More nuclear material in circulation means more nuclear risks for our planet.

Nuclear is too dirty:

- Nuclear reactors create toxic waste that needs to be isolated from people and the environment for many thousands of years. After more than 60 years of promises and research the nuclear industry has failed to provide a solution to the problem of radioactive waste. All over the world communities are at risk of having a waste dump imposed on them - including here in Australia.

The real answer to climate change:

- The proven and sustainable climate friendly solutions to our world's energy and greenhouse problems lie in renewable energy, energy efficiency and conservation. Australia should not be promoting the nuclear path - instead we need to promote the efficient use and renewable production of energy - options that won't cost the Earth.

