

Radioactive waste seeping in to the Pacific Ocean, the ongoing contamination of groundwater and land, and air, radiation-related health problems for people and ecosystems, uncertainty over the future health, never returning to your home...

MARCH 11, 2011 Fukushima melt down...

From Australia, with love.

On March 11, 2011, a tsunami and earthquake in north-eastern Japan triggered one of the world's worst ever man-made disasters: the ongoing radioactive contamination of our planet from the meltdown of TEPCO nuclear reactors in Fukushima.

Around 100,000 people were evacuated because of the nuclear disaster. Many are still unable to return to their homes and some never will. The toll the health and mental well-being of residents has been horrendous...the impact on the environment and the lives of people in the immediate zone and as around the globe is incalculable.



Officials in protective gear check for signs of radiation on children from the evacuation area after the 2011 disaster Photo: REUTERS

Australian uranium fuelled Fukushima.

Australia is the world's 3rd largest exporter of uranium. Uranium from Australia was present in all of the stricken Fukushima reactors. Two of the world's largest mining companies Rio Tinto and BHP have offices in Brisbane and have numerous mining projects around Queensland and Australia. They are responsible for Australia's two major uranium exporting mines: Ranger and Olympic Dam.

We can't stop earthquakes or tsunamis but we can stop the nuclear industry!

Rio Tinto is the parent company of Energy Resources of Australia Ltd (ERA), uranium miners at Ranger. They are still hoping to mine Jabiluka someday. BHP is not only owns Olympic Dam (Roxby Downs) but is also is part of the BHP-Mitsubishi Alliance - which is involved in nuclear reactor design and construction. Olympic Dam uses up to 42,000,000L of water a day from the Great Artesian Basin – for FREE! – rendering it radioactive.

REMEMBER FUKUSHIMA

**Brisbane Commemoration
Stop the nuclear industry at its
source. No uranium mines. No
exports. No waste.**

JOIN US IN A PEACEFUL PROTEST

**Monday 11th March @4pm
Meet outside BHP office
480 Queens Street, Brisbane CBD**

STOP FUELLING THE NUCLEAR CHAIN

The Fukushima nuclear reactors continue to spread radiation in to their local environment, poisoning people, the seas, the land, the seas nearby and the air we all breathe... In some cases, the technology to “deal with” the crisis has not yet even been invented.

2017: “In September, the prime minister’s office set a target date of 2021 — the 10th anniversary of the disaster — for the next significant stage, when workers begin extracting the melted fuel from at least one of the three destroyed reactors, though they have yet to choose which one.

The government admits that cleaning up the plant will take at least another three to four decades and tens of billions of dollars. A \$100 million research center has been built nearby to help scientists and engineers develop a new generation of robots to enter the reactor buildings and scoop up the melted fuel.”<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/11/19/science/japan-fukushima-nuclear-meltdown-fuel.html>

It will be decades before the ruined reactors are decommissioned. Decades before the legal battles have concluded. Contamination with long-lived radionuclides will persist for many generations: caesium-137 will be a concern for around 300 years.

Queensland has a long, proud history of opposing uranium mining and Queensland Labor has remained committed to its no mines policy. Nationally, however, despite the ongoing emergency at Fukushima and the undisputed fact that Australian uranium fuelled those reactors, most Australian governments at state and federal levels are pushing ahead with this toxic industry.



1977 Anti-Nuclear Protestors sit down in Adelaide Street, Brisbane

More reasons to oppose uranium mining in Australia:

- Traditional Owners have long opposed uranium mining and have consistently had their voices ignored.
- Whether it is earmarked for the so-called “peaceful” nuclear power industry or explicitly for weapons, uranium mining contaminates its environment leaving tailings that are radioactive for thousands of years.
- The Australian uranium industry does not provide many jobs, nor does it contribute much to the economy. In 2016-17, Australian uranium exports were a mere A\$596 million. Less than dairy exports.. <https://dfat.gov.au/about-us/publications/corporate/annual-reports/asno-annual-report-2016-17/html/section-2/australias-uranium-production-and-exports.html>
- Nuclear power is not the solution to climate change: Systems change and renewable energy are.
- We do not need new mines or the existing reactors to provide radio-isotopes for medicine. There is enough existing material to supply the world’s isotopes
- The civilian and military nuclear industries are inextricably linked. It is impossible to ensure that Australia uranium does not fuel nuclear weapons. Even if it was possible, the countries buying Australian uranium such as the USA have their own uranium reserves. Selling them Australian uranium for power frees up their reserves for weapons.

On a good day, uranium from Australia becomes radioactive waste.

On a bad day, it becomes nuclear fallout.

It’s time to close Australia’s uranium mines.

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