

30 June 2006

Mr Keith Baldry
Director
Radiation Protection Division
Environment Protection Authority

by email to radiationprotection@epa.sa.gov.au



**Conservation Council
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Dear Mr Baldry

HONEYMOON MINE LICENSE APPLICATION

The Conservation Council of South Australia Inc (CCSA) commends the South Australian Government for conducting a consultation process for the assessment of the Honeymoon uranium mine application.

CCSA is opposed to the Honeymoon mine due to the negative direct and indirect impacts we understand it may have.

Direct impacts relate principally to the mining methodology to be used. Acid in-situ leach mining involves unacceptable discharge of radioactive waste to the groundwater system.

Given the groundwater system cannot be sealed, and the proximity of the aquifer to be mined to other aquifers (used by livestock), the proposed practice is likely to be too dangerous and may leave a long-term toxic legacy for South Australia. Even spokespeople from the mine have acknowledged that leaks are likely to happen. Furthermore there is no guarantee that the mine site would be rehabilitated at the end of its life.

In our view, this does not accord with best practice environmental management, and is not consistent with the State Government's leadership in the area of environmental sustainability.

With similar concerns to those detailed here, the 2003 Senate Inquiry Committee advised that the mine should not proceed. Granting approval for it would be in direct conflict with this recommendation.

Furthermore, the issue of nuclear proliferation and security issues cannot be ignored in approving a uranium mine's operation.

CCSA firmly believes that South Australia should not increase its stake in this industry. Additional uranium mines in South Australia should not be approved.

Yours sincerely

Michelle Grady
CEO