



## **MEETING STATEMENT**

### **ANFA 20 Year Anniversary meeting**

**17 September, 2017**

Over one hundred members of the Australian Nuclear Free Alliance (ANFA) met on Kurna country to celebrate the twentieth year of this powerful gathering. People travelled from near and far to represent dozens of Aboriginal Nations<sup>1</sup> and civil society organisations<sup>2</sup> and to share stories, strategy and solidarity.

Aboriginal communities have been impacted by and resisting nuclear poison since the industry began. Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people have been working together as ANFA to stop the uranium industry across Australia for the past twenty years. ANFA started in 1997 when Mirarr Traditional Owners joined with environmentalists to bring people together to successfully campaign against the Jabiluka uranium mine on their country in Kakadu National Park.

Nuclear developments destroy old country and sacred places. ANFA members have been standing strong for so long. A lot of battles have been won, some lost and there is more work to do.

Over the last twenty years, nuclear dump proposals in South Australia, Western Australia and the Northern Territory have been met with fierce community resistance, despite the divide and conquer tactics employed by governments.

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<sup>1</sup>Nations: Adnayamathana, Adnayamathana/Alumtja, Adnayamathana/Kuyari, Aranda, Aranda/Lurtja, Arrabunna, Bibbulmun, Camp Law Mob, Gamilaraay, Gumbaynggir, Kurna Arabunna, Koara, Kokatha, Kokatha Mula, Larrakia/Wulna, Luritdja, Manjiljarra, Martu, Mirarr, Nyikana, Pitjantjatjara, Tangane Kald/Meintangk/Boandik, Thudgarri/Yinngarrda, Warumungu, Warlmanpa, Wiradjuri/Gomeroi, Wongatha, Yamatji, Yulparija, Yulparija/Warnman

<sup>2</sup> Organisations: Aboriginal Tent Embassy Canberra, Anti Nuclear Alliance Western Australia, Australian Conservation Foundation, Australian Student Environment Network, Ban Uranium Mining Permanently, Beyond Nuclear Initiative, Beyond Uranium Canberra, Conservation Council of South Australia, Conservation Council of Western Australia, Friends of the Earth, Gundjeihmi Aboriginal Corporation, International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons, Jumbunna Institute UTS, Maritime Union of Australia, Nagapala Arts, No Dump Alliance, Uranium Free New South Wales, Walkatjurra Walkabout, West Australian Nuclear Free Alliance, Yes to Life No to Mining, 3CR Community Radio

Right now communities near Wallerberdina in the Flinders Ranges and Kimba on the Eyre Peninsula continue to resist plans for a federal radioactive waste dump. What part of no doesn't the government understand?

There is no reason why Australia's waste needs to move from the Lucas Heights facility south of Sydney. There is sufficient space, nuclear expertise and high security there to allow time for an independent review of the best future management options – communities and country do not need to be threatened or pressured.

The Olympic Dam and Beverley uranium mines in South Australia continue to export uranium against the wishes of Traditional Owners. Uranium mining on Mirarr land in Kakadu National Park has finished, and the site must now be rehabilitated properly so it can be included in the surrounding World Heritage area.

Despite WA Labor's ban on new uranium mines, four existing proposals are ongoing. These represent serious threats to land, culture and the environment across WA. We will continue to actively challenge these mine proposals at Mulga Rock, Kintyre, Yeelirrie and Wiluna.

Since the last ANFA meeting, ANFA members have defeated the South Australian government's push to build an international high-level radioactive waste dump on Aboriginal land. ANFA has been part of the international campaign supporting a UN Treaty to completely ban nuclear weapons. Members know first hand what nuclear weapons do to country and to people because of the past nuclear bomb tests and continuing impacts. This is why they must be abolished.

We have lost important people along the way and there has been a lot of sadness and pain but they are still with us in our struggles and efforts. We will continue to network with like minded groups across Australia and around the world who share our vision of a nuclear free future.

*Statement passed on 17<sup>th</sup> September 2017.*