

Source: "Go for clean and green, not nuclear greed", Senator Bob Brown, Opinion, The Australian 29/5/06

"A recent report from five CSIRO scientists indicates that solar thermal energy could provide for all of Australia's energy needs and will be cost-competitive with coal within seven years."

According to an article in the Canberra times (13/6/06) the report was drafted by five CSIRO scientists and was still confidential and unpublished. The report was submitted to the CRC in sustainable development in August of last year. The article says, "Solar thermal technology involves concentrating sunlight to produce heat to generate electricity, or the increase the chemical energy of natural gas. The CRC report claims a 35 sqkm area with high levels of sunlight "could produce Australia's entire power demand" using solar thermal technology.

However, it must be pointed out that there is often a significant difference between promising research and actual commercial application. The ANF does not believe it would be prudent to gamble Australia's future energy security on such a concept at this stage rather, if the concept is as promising as stated, then further research and development is certainly in order to prove the technology is a commercial proposition.

Further reference: "Solar-Thermal Power Touted as Energy Solution, ABC On-Line 31/3/06

"Once the world's high-grade uranium deposits are mined (in another three or four decades) nuclear energy will become vastly more inefficient and polluting."

This is a statement that warrants quantitative proof, but in its absence see Standard Anti-Nuke Assertions Nos. 3 and 4.

"While nuclear may deliver low-emission energy for a few decades, the waste has to be stored securely for another 150,000 years."

It is surprising to see the admission that nuclear is low-emission, but the 150,000 year figure for nuclear waste is a gross exaggeration. See Standard Anti-Nuke Assertion No. 14.