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North Queensland Conservation Council Media Release

Ben Lomond uranium mine 22 October 2012

Local environment groups are very concerned about the risks to our local environment, water supply and food security that reinvigorating the Ben Lomond uranium mine lease could bring. The Ben Lomond deposit lies 50km west of Townsville, and already has an existing mining lease.

President of North Queensland Conservation Council Gerald Soworka said that “while many of us are familiar with the large scale risks of nuclear power, we may not have considered the more immediate and local affects of uranium mining. Any overflow from the tailings dam of Ben Lomond mine will go straight into the Burdekin River, the water supply for a large community, including Townsville, as well as food growing areas. As well, the mine dust could spread for miles. Uranium is highly carcinogenic and its just not a risk we should be taking with our community”

Mr Soworka said that “We at NQCC recognise the urgency of developing carbon friendly power, but uranium is not the answer. Fortunately NQ is blessed with having some of the best solar resources in the world. Solar power is proven technology, safe, reliable, achievable and carbon free. Our government should be more focussed on developing a baseload solar power station in our region, than dabbling in the dangerous nuclear industry.”

The communities of Townsville and Charters Towers posed a very successful campaign against the mine in the 1980’s, and we will do it again.

Gail Hamilton
North Queensland Conservation Council Spokesperson on Uranium
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