

LOWER BLUE MOUNTAINS CONSERVATION SOCIETY

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MAY NEWSLETTER

1977

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NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Society will be held at the Glenbrook Primary School at 8 pm on 10th June 1977. Philip Fimpendorfer will be showing slides on People of Seath East Asia and their Environment.

FIELD TRIP

On Saturday 14th May we will be walking to Valley of the Waters - National Pass - Wentworth Falls. The walk will commence from the Katoomba and District Wildlife Society's Hut at the end of Fletcher Street. We anticipate leaving the Hut, after a barbeque lunch, at 1 pm and returning at approx. 4.30 pm. Members and their friends are particularly welcome.

BOTANY BAY

It now appears likely the N.S.W. Government will reject the proposed Botany Bay coal loader. A decision by the Government is expected within a month. This decision will affect the Blue Mountains area as the principal proponents of the coal loader were coal mining companies on the western coalfields. The development of new mines in the Newnes-Lithgow area was contingent upon the Botany Bay Coal Loader being constructed. However, the Industrial resources sub-committee of cabinet is now considering whether an additional coal loader is required in N.S.W. and if so where it should be sited.

URANIUM

It is believed that the final Fox Report to be released later this month, will favour extensive uranium mining in the Northern Territory. The final decision will probably be left to Federal Parliament.

The release of the report will probably see the commencement of commercial uranium mining in Australia. The first Fox Report gave a very guarded acceptance of uranium mining but stated that the government should not proceed without full public discussion. Since the major commercial deposits of uranium oxide are contained in the Northern Territory it is this second Fox Report dealing specifically with uranium mining in the Northern Territory which will decide the future development of the industry.

URANIUM (Cont.)

Apart from the moral issues of developing a nuclear industry, the long term environmental problems of mineral leaching, water pollution and waste disposal, there are immediate problems should the proposed development be given the go-ahead. Both the Ranger and the Jabiluka deposits are close to the boundary of the proposed Kakadu National Park and the Koongarra deposit is within the proposed boundary!

The announcement by Mr. Fraser that Mr. Justice Fox will go overseas to study non proliferation issues is a tacit approval of the development of uranium mining in Australia.

BOUDDI NATIONAL PARK

The scenic beauty of this park which covers the coastal area from Broken Bay to McMasters Beach and the Bouddi Marine Park are threatened by a plan to discharge treated sewerage off the coast. Bouddi Marine Park is a 283 hectare area of ocean off the northern headland of Broken Bay and is the States only underwater National Park. Marine biologists contend that nutrient content even in highly treated sewerage effluent affects marine life. The proposal is part of a sewerage system to serve the rapidly developing Gosford Shire.