

“Paydirt” uranium conference in Adelaide – more like a funeral

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Uranium industry more likely to bite the dust than hit Paydirt.

Today’s Paydirt Uranium Conference is a pre-emptive wake for the declining nuclear sector, Australian Greens Senator Scott Ludlam said.

“With nuclear power in a terminal condition it is no wonder this year’s Paydirt conference has been downgraded to a one-day event. The world uranium price has dived from almost \$US140 a pound in 2007 to just over \$US40 a pound today. 150 nuclear stations in Europe are scheduled for closure. All the spin in the world can’t polish the nuclear industry.

“Despite the mineral commodities boom uranium remains a dud, accounting for a mere 0.29 per cent of the nation’s export revenue between 2002 and 2011 and for only 0.015 per cent of jobs. It’s a high risk, no reward racket; Australia – and the world – would be better off without it.

“There was Australian uranium in all four reactors at Fukushima, and more than two years on 160,000 people remain evacuated as a result, but the nuclear mafia and their supporters in Parliament have learnt nothing.

“Nuclear power is in retreat in Europe, Japan and the United States, so the industry is pursuing India - a country that has nuclear weapons, refuses to sign the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, and has an appalling track record on nuclear safety – as a customer.

“Another potential customer, China, is following the path of the former Soviet Union in building multiple reactor types in a huge hurry, with a poor safety culture and zero tolerance approach to whistleblowers and investigative journalists. The 27th anniversary of Chernobyl was last Friday, yet the lessons of history are lost on the nuclear cheer squad.

“It’s time to put an end to this deadly, moribund industry and focus on the future of power generation – renewable energy.”