



Uranium industry on centre stage

Focus turns to sector's international appeal

AUSTRALIA'S surging uranium industry – propelled by rapidly advancing new exploration projects in its three westernmost States – will return to the national stage in Adelaide today with the opening of the fourth annual Paydirt 2010 Uranium Conference.

The two-day Conference at the Hilton Adelaide will bring together some of Australia's leading advocates of uranium mining – both as a growing component of the country's economic prosperity and as a key ally in the battle to secure a clean energy future.

Delegates will be briefed on some of Australia's most promising new uranium destinations including Toro Energy's 25-million-pound Wiluna project in the Goldfields, Alliance Resources' 32-million-pound Four Mile deposit in north-east SA and UraniumSA's promising Mullaquana discovery on the Eyre Peninsula. Presenters will include some of Australia's most prominent uranium and energy experts, including Professor Tony Owen of the UCL School of Energy and Resources and the University of Adelaide's Professor of Mining Geology Dr Ian Plimer, whose controversial

book *Heaven and Earth* ignited spirited debate on the presence of human-induced climate change last year.

A highlight of today's schedule will be a presentation by world-renowned radiation biologist Professor Doug Boreham whose work on the health benefits of low-dose ionising radiation has won him plaudits and awards around the world.

Other presenters will include the uranium industry's two most influential advocacy groups – the Australian Uranium Association and the Uranium Council – lawyers and industry analysts who will discuss the impact of State regulations on uranium mining and geologists committed to further discoveries in the country that currently accounts for a quarter of all known uranium reserves.

“With hundreds of nuclear reactors currently planned or proposed around the world and billions of dollars of new uranium demands from India, China and South Korea, the demand for Australian uranium is destined to keep rising,” conference convenor Bill Repard said.

“Whatever happens in our national politics, demand for this key Australian minerals commodity is emerging

as a potential critical component of our long-term national resources portfolio and how we play a part in servicing world energy demand.

“The latest forecasts from the Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics estimate Australian uranium exports will rise to 14,000 tonnes by 2014 – earning export credits in the region of \$1.7 billion. This is reinforced by Australian Uranium Association findings that uranium exports have the capacity to add between \$14.2b and \$17.4b in net present value terms to Australia's GDP between now and 2030.

“Add to that the pollution savings – as increased Australian uranium exports could slash greenhouse gas emissions by between 11 and 15 billion tonnes by 2030 – and the industry is seeing a compelling case for enhanced domestic uranium exploration and the transition to commercial mining operations beyond our current three mines.”

● *Kalgoorlie Miner* mining reporter Frances Pratt is attending the conference: see tomorrow's edition and Thursday's Mine Talk lift-out.