



WANFA
WESTERN AUSTRALIAN
NUCLEAR FREE ALLIANCE

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Yeelirrie opposition strengthened: a message from the bush to the boardroom

Representatives from the West Australia Nuclear Free Alliance will attend BHP Billiton's Annual General Meeting in Melbourne today to raise questions about BHP Billiton's investment in uranium mining, particularly at the Yeelirrie uranium project in the central goldfields north of Kalgoorlie.

"The Traditional Custodians are strongly opposed to the development of a uranium mine at Yeelirrie," said Kado Muir, WANFA Chairperson and a Traditional Custodian of Yeelirrie. "For the last two years we have conveyed this opposition via our representative body the Central Desert Native Title Service. Now we are in Melbourne to make sure that the BHP Billiton board gets this clear community message".

BHP Billiton has scaled back activity at Yeelirrie following the Fukushima nuclear emergency but community opinion against the mine plan remains high.

"We have strong concerns about the safety and management of radiation and the effects that mining Yeelirrie would have on the well-being of our country and our people," said Koara elder and Yeelirrie Custodian Richard Evans.

"In our language Yeelirrie means the 'place of death'. We are custodians of that place; it is our responsibility to keep that poison, the uranium, where it is. If that uranium leaves our country and does damage to someone, that's our responsibility and we take that very seriously."

"I have been to the BHP Billiton Annual General Meeting two years in a row, in Brisbane and in Perth. I am here again this year in Melbourne to tell the company and their shareholders that we don't want uranium mining on our country," said Mr Evans.