



Institute for Sustainable Systems and Technologies Initiative (ISST)

Institute for Sustainable Systems and Technologies (ISST) of the University of South Australia is pleased to invite you to our public seminar

“Nuclear Energy - An Option for Sustainability?” **Presenter: Mr Martin Thomas**

Date: Friday February 16 2007
Time: 12:00pm – 1:00 pm (with light refreshment provided)
Venue: Mutual Community Lecture Theatre,
H2-02, Basil Hetzel Building,
City East campus
RSVP: Tuesday 13 February to alanna.wang@unisa.edu.au

<http://www.unisa.edu.au/isst/whatisnew/workshopsandseminars/>



Martin Thomas was founding Managing Director of the Australian Cooperative Research Centre for Renewable Energy (ACRE Ltd). He is a past President of the Institution of Engineers, Australia, a Fellow and past Vice-President of the Australian Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering and past President of the Australian Institute of Energy. He has been Chairman of the Australian National Team for the International Energy Agency's Centre for Analysis and Dissemination of Demonstrated Energy Technologies (CADDET).

His engineering experience has been in power generation including renewable and sustainable technologies. He has been a Principal of Sinclair Knight Merz, a director of the Tyree Group, Chairman of the Olympic Energy Advisory Panel, Chairman of the New South Wales Electricity Council, Deputy Chairman of Australian Inland Energy and Water (the utility serving Broken Hill), and EnviroMission Limited, a company established to build the world's first commercial solar tower. He is retained as a technology consultant to the Tyree Group and to the ZBB Energy Corporation. He recently served on the Prime Minister's Uranium Mining, Processing and Nuclear Energy Taskforce (UMPNER).

He is currently Chairman of Dulhunty Power Ltd, an electrotechnology company specialising in transmission and distribution system products, and is Acting Chancellor of the Asia Pacific International College, established to provide high level education in project management.

He was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia in 1993 for services to engineering and energy management and was awarded an Australian Centenary Medal in 2003.

Martin is Chairman of the Advisory Board of the University of South Australia's Institute for Sustainable Systems and Technologies (ISST).



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SYNOPSIS

Nuclear Energy – An Option for Sustainability?

On 6 June 2006 the Prime Minister announced the appointment of a taskforce to undertake an objective, scientific, balanced and comprehensive review of uranium mining, value-adding processing and the contribution of nuclear energy in Australia.

The Uranium Mining, Processing and Nuclear Energy Review soon gained the acronym UMPNER, complete with its own website. The taskforce of six, with powerful secretariat support from a number of commonwealth departments and agencies, was established and set to work quickly. Inputs were sought and received from a wide range of interested organisations and members of the public. A substantial spread of practical information and knowledge was gained through visits to uranium mines in Australia and various plants, processing facilities and power stations in a number of overseas countries.

A draft report was released for public comment on 21 November 2006. Further comments were received, including from the Chief Scientist of Australia, and the final report was submitted to the Prime Minister by the end of 2006.

The report recognised that nuclear energy can be a difficult issue for some Australians, but noted that Australia's demand for electricity will more than double by 2050 and that greenhouse gas emissions and projected climate change are a worldwide concern. The presentation will draw out the key findings of the Review and present them, to the extent possible, in a layman friendly manner. It will specifically address the issues of cost, sustainability, the alternatives, safety and of course spent fuel disposal. The intent is to provide a factual, well researched albeit brief basis to support further intelligent and informed debate on the issues posed by the possible introduction of nuclear energy as a sustainable energy option for Australia.