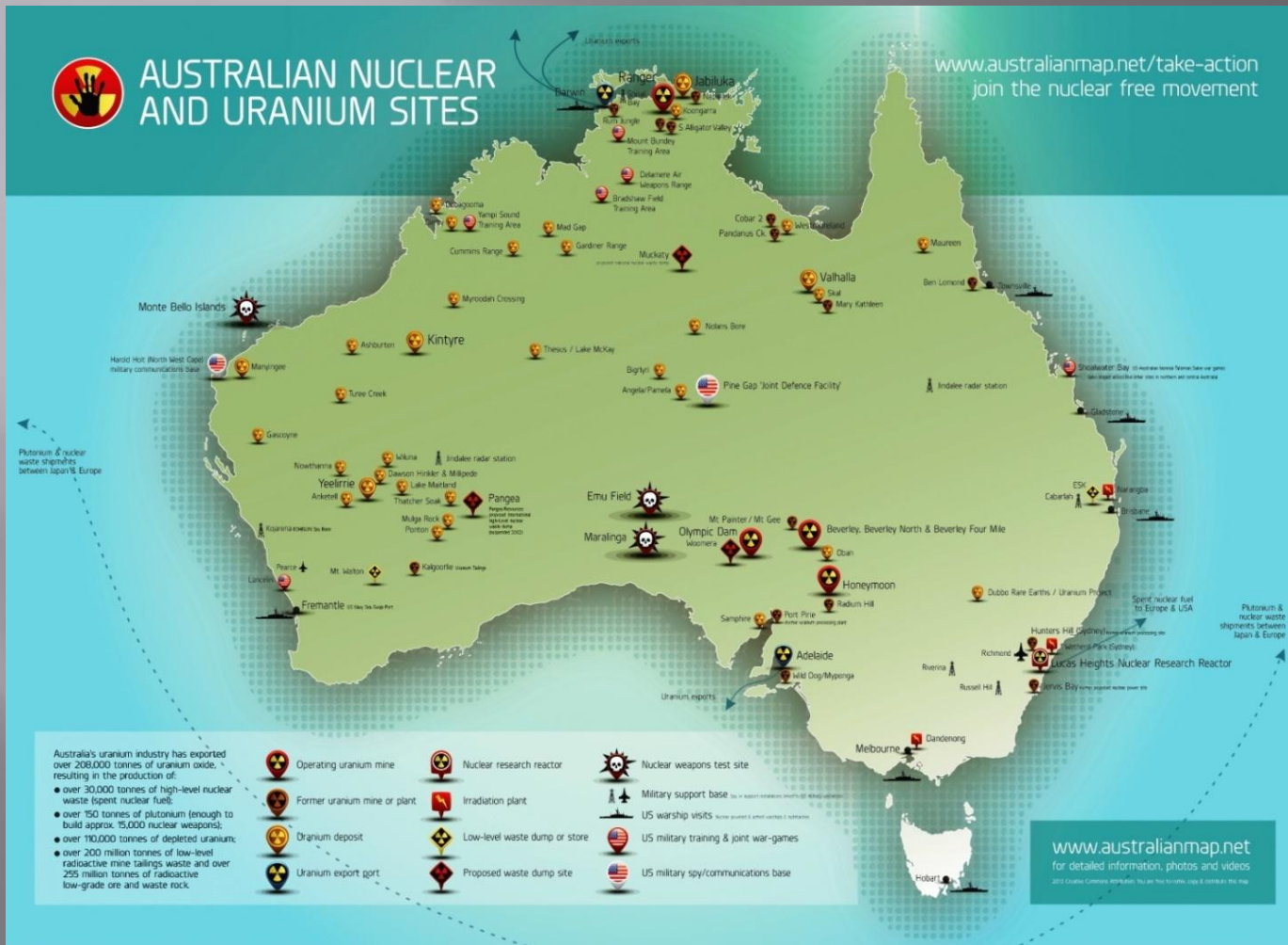


Uranium mining in Australia: a long story



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Australian Uranium Mining: 3 phases



1. 1906-32
 - for radium
2. 1950's-60's
 - for nuclear weapons
3. 1970's > now
 - for reactors



PHASE 1 - 1906-32

Table 8. Results of simple Poisson regression with outcome as lung cancer mortality^a

Exposure category	Estimate	SE	Rate ratio	95% CI
0 WLM ^b	—	—	1	—
≤ 10	-0.062	0.321	0.9	0.5- 1.8
11-40	0.793	0.385	2.2	1.0- 4.7
> 40	1.64	0.546	5.2	1.8-15.1



“... double risk of lung cancer mortality in underground workers with radon daughter exposures 10-40 WLM,
... five-fold increase > 40 WLM”

PHASE-2 - 1950's-60's

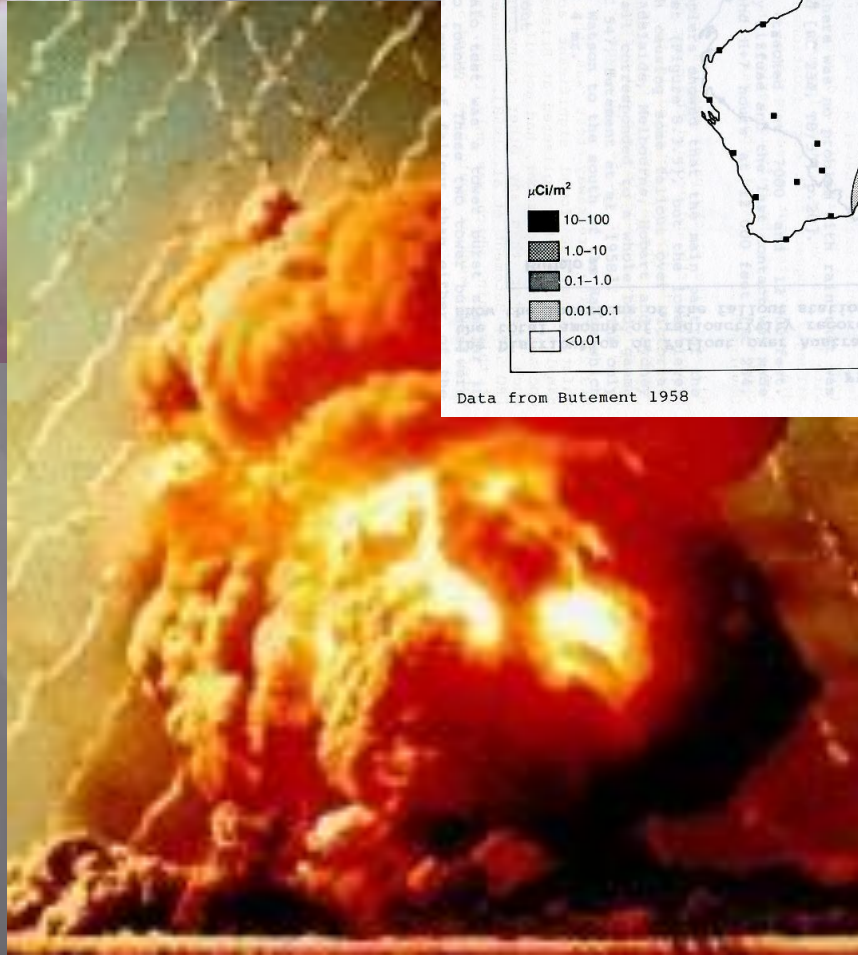
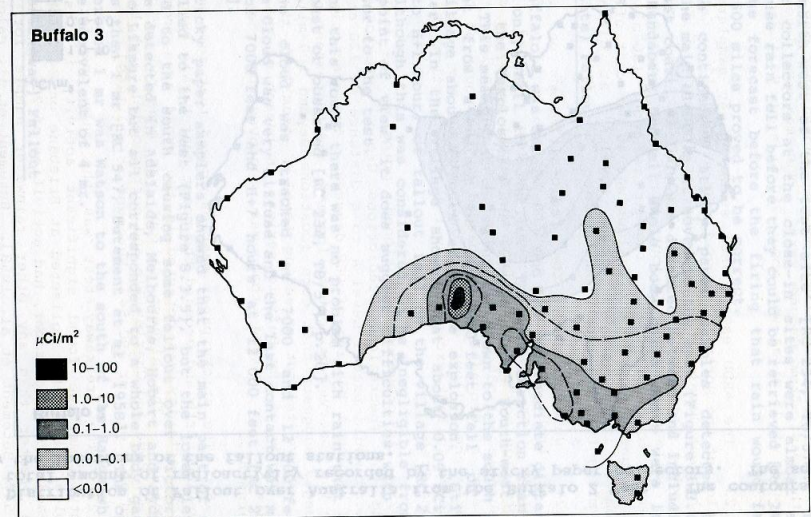


FIGURE 8.3.5

The Distribution of Fallout over Australia from the Buffalo 3 Test. The contours show the total amount of radioactivity recorded by the sticky paper collectors. The squares show the locations of the fallout stations.

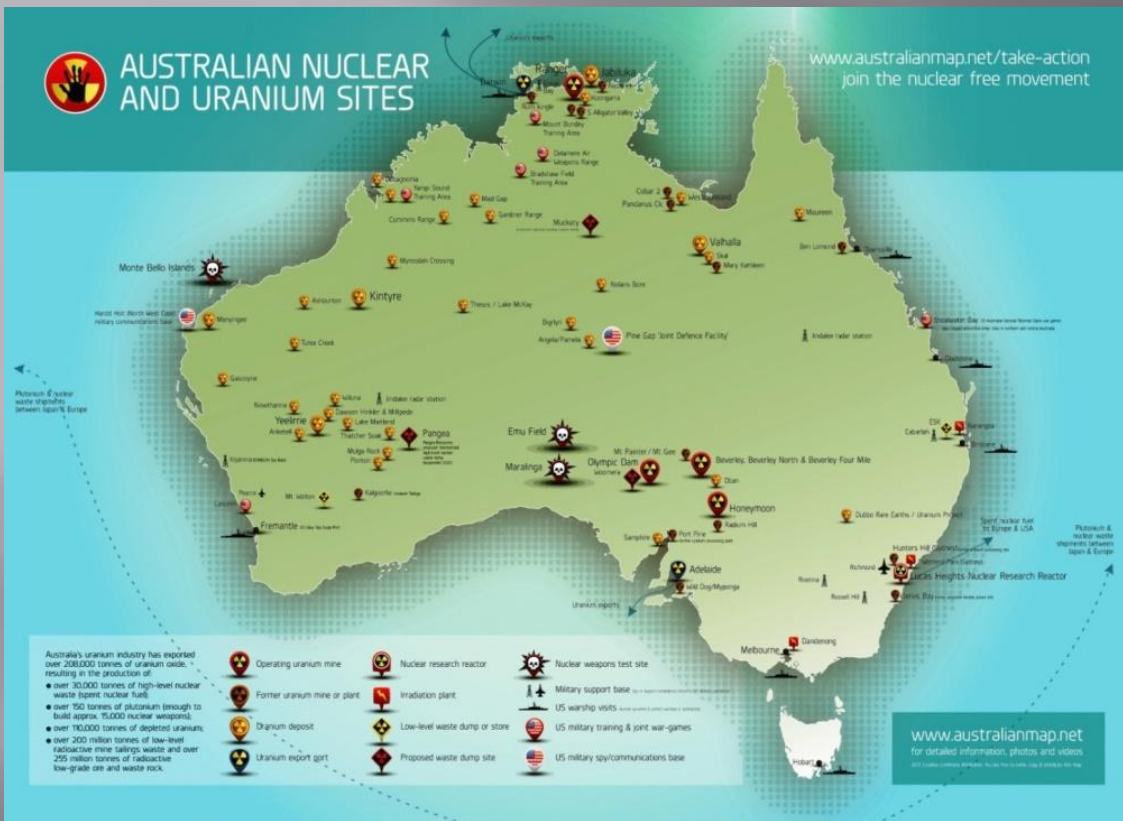


Data from Butement 1958

PHASE-3 - 1970's > now

MOVEABLE FEAST

- Conservatives v. Labour >>>
- No mines >>>
- 3 mines >>>
- Lots of mines >>>
- Export: India, China, Russia >>>?



CONTESTED: Uranium politics

Ranger Uranium Environment Inquiry, 1977: “...the traditional owners are opposed to the mining (and) do not have confidence that their own view will prevail... They feel that having got so far, the white man is not likely to stop ...

We have given careful attention to all that has been put before us by them or on their behalf. In the end, we form the conclusion that their opposition should not be allowed to prevail.”

Ranger uranium Mine, NT



SAFETY CONCERNS AT RANGER URANIUM MINE

2004 A plumbing accident resulted in workers using water contaminated with uranium for showers and drinking.

2011 Work at Ranger halted for almost six months because toxic waste dams were close to overflowing.

November 2013 A vehicle exposed to uranium dust was taken outside its permitted zone and onto public roads.

December 2013
Radioactive uranium and acids spilled after a steel tank (pictured) failed on Saturday.



Olympic dam, radioactive tailings dam



*Radium Hill
2001 ...*



*Rum Jungle
2004 ...*



*Yeelirrie 2003
...*



Ranger 2001 ...



Uranium Industry safety Performance

“Senate ECITA References Committee, October 2003) into uranium mining found;

an industry characterised by operational underperformance and regulatory non-compliance.

It further found an absence of reliable data on which to measure the extent of contamination or uranium mining’s impact on the environment.”

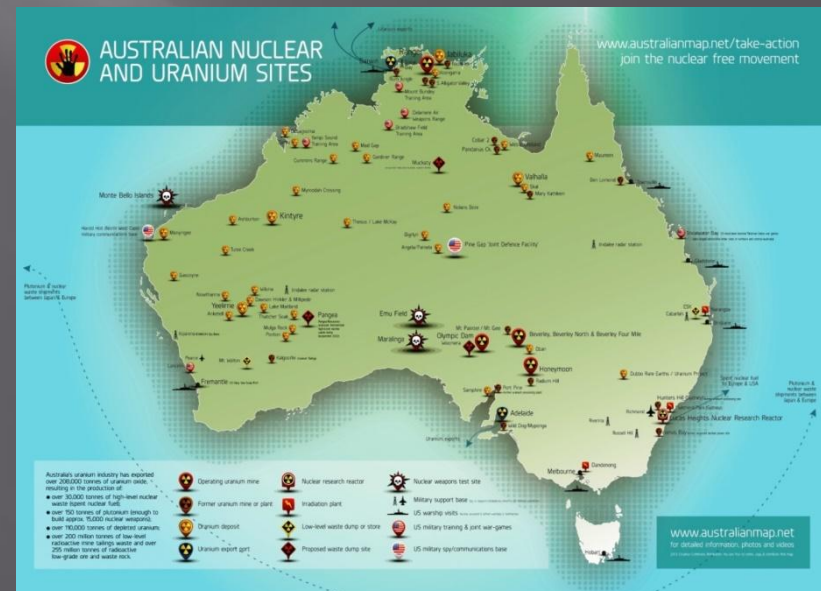
TRANSPORTATION OF URANIUM CURRENT NATIONAL STANDARDS



“Uranium miner ERA says moving radioactive material in barrels in the back of a ute is in accordance with national guidelines, after a photograph emerged showing that was happening in the Northern Territory.” 20 February 2014

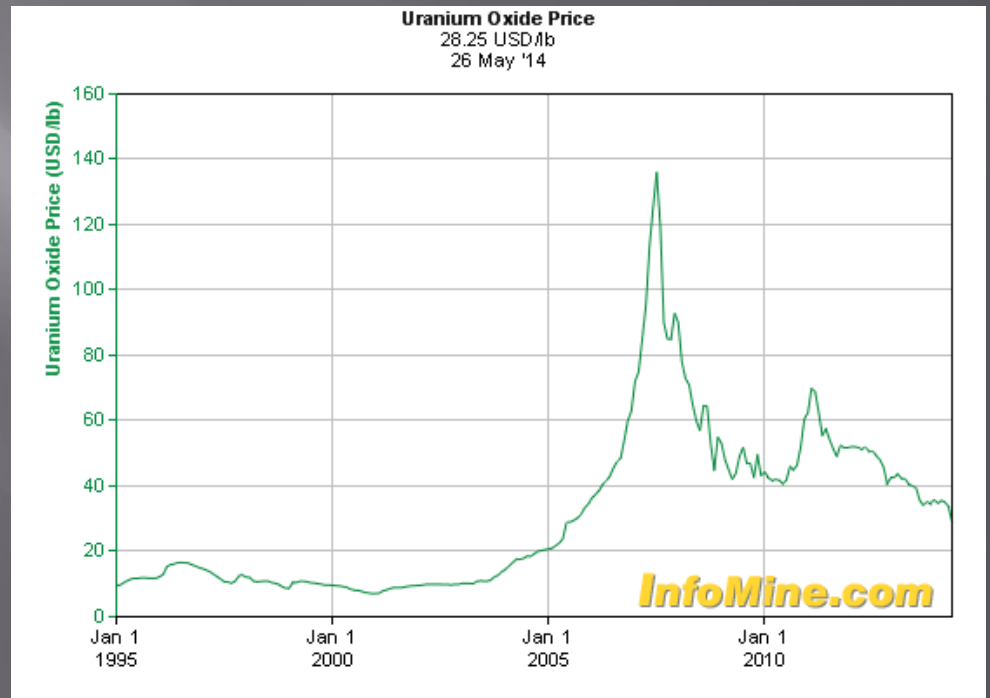
RIGHT NOW?

- 3 operating mines
- 1 only processing
- 2 recently shut down
- Prospects in WA and Qld?
- Lots of deposits...
- Lots of plans!



JOBS? DOLLARS?

- Roxby expansion
- BHP uranium Department
- Employs 560
- 0.015 of jobs
- 0.29 % of revenue
- ...earns less than cheese exports



REALITY CHECK

- Australian-based Paladin Energy operated two mines in Africa but production at one of those mines has been suspended and the company is at risk of going bankrupt.
- Chief Executive John Borshoff – 2011
 - *It's an industry that sits far ahead of any other industry in terms of safety*
- July 2013,
 - *"the uranium industry is definitely in crisis".*



Jabiluka - *None of the promises last*

"Everyone seems to be only concerned with what is happening today or next year, yet no scientist can tell us properly what will happen at the mine site in a hundred years' time when they are all gone and no-one cares ... None of the promises last, but the problems always do." Yvonne Margarula, Senior Traditional Owner, Mirrar, 2003



Koongarra... Money comes and goes

I have said no to uranium mining at Koongarra because I believe that the land and my cultural beliefs are more important than mining and money. Money comes and goes, but the land is always here, it always stays if we look after it and it will look after us... Jeffrey Lee, Senior Traditional Owner, 2013



- Further reading
 - 1. www.anfa.org.au
 - 2. An Illusion of protection - www.mapw.org.au
 - 3. Yellowcake fever - www.acfonline.org.au

