

NUCLEAR POWER STATIONS - PREMIER'S COMMENTS

98. Mr P.D. OMODEI to the Premier:

I ask a supplementary question. Does the Premier resile from his position of last week when he said there would be a future nuclear industry in Western Australia?

Mr A.J. CARPENTER replied:

Mr Speaker, this is probably a question that I have addressed adequately. Do you think I need to go on? Do you want me to?

Mr E.S. Ripper: Please.

Mr A.J. CARPENTER: Okay, I will. After all, we have a very urgent debate where the man responsible for the chainsaw massacre of the Shannon Valley wants to talk about his environmental credentials - this is the man who wanted to totally destroy the Shannon River basin. He wanted to chop everything down to the roots, chip it and send it to Japan. He is now in here expounding his environmental credentials on the Yarragadee. What does he think would have happened if he had cleared the entire south west of old-growth forests? Does he think it might have affected the water table? Maybe it would have. I doubt very much that I will ever see the day because I do not think I will live beyond the century mark. The question that the Leader of the Opposition put to me is a real question before members of Parliament in the state Parliament of Western Australia. I think that the ordinary men and women of Western Australia are a lot smarter than the opposition gives them credit for. When they hear me say that there will be no uranium mining as long as I am the Premier of this state, they understand what that means. When they hear me say, "We don't need to mine uranium," I think they understand that. I think they also understand that if perchance members of the opposition were sitting on this side of the chamber, we would be mining uranium right now and shovelling it out one door while the other door would be open and have a sign on it saying "Place waste this way." The Leader of the Opposition knows that it is true. There is a very simple question that sits in front of the people of Western Australia: do they want Western Australia to mine and export uranium, and do they want Western Australia to be the recipient of the world's nuclear waste? If so, they should vote for the Liberal Party and for the National Party. If they do not, they should vote for the Labor Party at the next state election.