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The Editor
The Sunday Mail

Dear Editor

No Mine in Arkaroola

Brad Crouch wrote (*Sunday Mail* 12 June 2011) 'Exploration results indicate Arkaroola has the nation's fifth largest undeveloped uranium deposit'

Sadly, if one cries 'Wolf' loudly enough and often enough, most people will believe that there really is a wolf! With stories of 'the fifth largest undeveloped uranium deposit' we enter that similar curious realm where a 'good story' often overshadows the facts.

It has **not** been demonstrated that the Arkaroola Wilderness Sanctuary hosts a uranium resource of this claimed size. Rather, explorer Marathon Resources can claim only that it has an **inferred** uranium resource which might be that large.

'**Inferred**' is a highly significant word.

It is clearly defined in the rules of the Australian Securities Exchange for the reporting of exploration results by public companies.

That definition states -

"An 'Inferred Mineral Resource' is that part of a Mineral Resource for which tonnage, grade and mineral content can be **estimated with a low level of confidence**. It is inferred from geological evidence and assumed but not verified geological and/or grade continuity. It is based on information gathered through appropriate techniques from locations such as outcrops, trenches, pits, workings and drill holes which may be limited or **of uncertain quality and reliability**." (My emphasis)

Even if Marathon proves its claimed size of this uranium resource it is far from certain that it can be mined. The reported average uranium ore grades are very low. There is also competent geological opinion that the uranium occurs only patchily in often highly friable and cavernous host rock. Extraction may prove to be a mining engineering nightmare, with only limited recovery possible.

It is time to face facts. It is unlikely that a viably mineable uranium deposit lies within Arkaroola. Even should that be proved, does Australia need it? With vast uranium deposits and much richer deposits elsewhere in South Australia there is no state or national benefit in destroying the mountain fastness which is Arkaroola.



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Save Arkaroola

BRAD Crouch wrote (*Sunday Mail*, June 12) exploration results indicate Arkaroola has the nation's fifth-largest undeveloped uranium deposit.

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Even if Marathon proves its claimed size of this uranium resource, it is far from certain that it can be mined. The reported average uranium ore grades are very low. There is also competent geological opinion that the uranium occurs only patchily in often highly friable and cavernous host rock.

It is unlikely that a viably mineable uranium deposit lies within Arkaroola. Even should that be proved, does Australia need it? With vast uranium deposits and much richer deposits elsewhere in South Australia, there is no state or national benefit in destroying Arkaroola.

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