

Question 1

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW: With respect to some of the points in your submission and the jobs figures in the nuclear fuel cycle. I think you estimate it at 10,000 jobs over the next decade in uranium mining.

That is the first time I have come across that figure. Do you have any support for that? Do you know where that comes from?

Mr ZELINSKY: Do you have that reference? I think the majority of our figures are referenced.

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW: Unfortunately I could not find it in there. It is probably about 10 pages in. You can take it on notice.

Mr ZELINSKY: I will take it on notice, and I can provide that figure to you.

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW: It is the first time I have seen that figure and I am interested to see what sort of projections you had to support it.

Mr ZELINSKY: It is an IBISWorld figure, I think, from memory. With your leave, I will take it on notice.

AWU response

The forecast provided in the AWU's submission was estimated internally based on projections for known and highly prospective sites in the industry. Some of the reasoning follows.

The Uranium Mining industry in Australia was projected to employ 2250 people in 2020.¹ The majority of those employed are attributable to those workers at the Olympic Dam mining project in South Australia.

The four uranium mines in Western Australia which recently received environmental approval are expected to be operational within the next 5 years. These mines are expected to generate approximately 700-1000 jobs each project.²

The Northern Australian Ranger Mine – which stopped extraction a couple years ago and since then has operationally focused on processing stockpiled ore – is now under control by Rio Tinto. Since the decision to stop ore extraction the price of uranium has increased 38 per cent to an average of \$25. The

¹ <https://www.ibisworld.com.au/industry-trends/market-research-reports/mining/uranium-mining.html>

² <https://www.ausimmbulletin.com/feature/western-australias-emerging-uranium-industry/>

movement in price is expected to make an operational decision to reinvest in ore extraction more viable, with further potential jobs expected.

With the onset of a Queensland Government election, and the several uranium and nuclear fuel cycle inquiries currently undergoing across Australia, there is a chance some of the many substantial reserves discovered in Queensland may see a change in legislation and subsequent approval. This would see a further increase in jobs in the industry in the latter half of the next decade.

Question 2

The CHAIR: In your opening statement you mentioned that the AWU has longstanding support for this sort of policy change. Would you be able to give us an idea of how longstanding that longstanding support is?

Mr ZELINSKY: It was our policy under Scott McDine. It was our policy under Paul Howes. It was our policy under Bill Shorten. So that goes back a fair way. I would have to take it on notice as to how long we have been in support of it but I would say we have been in support of it for as long as it has been a industry in our coverage rules. That would be my guess.

Insofar as the fact that the Australian Workers' Union is an entity evolved out of numerous amalgamations of different trade unions over the course of the last 150 years, the AWU has publicly and definitively supported uranium mining and the nuclear fuel cycle for over 70 years.