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Time to debate the merits of nuclear power

Many areas of the Territory coast could be flooded by sea water before the end of this century if global warming was not addressed now, the Opposition spokesman on Business and Economic Development Terry Mills said today.

It was time for the Territory Parliament to initiate and host a proper “no-holds-barred” debate on the use of nuclear power, he said.

“Massive areas of Kakadu and even some Darwin metropolitan areas could be reclaimed by the sea unless global warming is brought under control,” Mr. Mills said.

“As the Territory is one of the largest producers of uranium in the world – and seems set to expand that role substantially in the future – we have an obligation to promote such a debate.

“Let me make something quite clear. I am not promoting the use of nuclear power, although that could ultimately be my stance on the issue. I am promoting a call for a healthy democratic debate on this issue.

“The Territory Government should plan to invite the world’s foremost experts on global warming; uranium waste product disposal; military security experts; nuclear power plant operators – and also those strongly opposed to the concept of nuclear power.”

Mr. Mills said such a debate could position the Territory at the forefront of the world’s nuclear scientific industry.

“Indonesia, just a drop kick away from Territorians, plans to have many nuclear power plants operating in the relatively near future,” he said.

“So too will China.

“The businesses of the future will need clean and sustainable supplies of energy and at present there seems to be little focused and reasoned discussion on the alternatives.”