



# Treat us like any other miner, says Angwin

**JULIAN SWALLOW**

POLITICAL fear of the Australian uranium industry can no longer be justified, and policy changes must be made to ensure it can operate unimpeded, the head of the industry's peak body says.

Australian Uranium Association chief executive Michael Angwin yesterday said the public was increasingly embracing uranium as a viable industry, with long-standing fears offset by the "best practice" regulatory environment in which it

operates.

He told the Paydirt 2013 Uranium Conference in Adelaide that the Australian industry had proven it was safe and could pass stringent environmental checks, with four local uranium projects approved in the past six years despite adverse publicity from the Fukushima disaster in Japan.

However, Mr Angwin told the conference the industry remained encumbered by "extraordinary measures" required by

government to assess uranium projects.

In particular, the Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act should be changed so it didn't discriminate against the industry, Mr Angwin said.

"We have a track record now in the Australian uranium industry which justifies uranium being treated the same as other mining projects," he said.

With large regional neighbours such as China and India increasingly looking to Australia for

uranium supplies, Mr Angwin said it was also important uranium production policies supported the country's trade and diplomatic interests.

"There is no point signing international treaties if domestic uranium policies hamper fulfilling (their) obligations," Mr Angwin said. "And while we need to align these policies, we should use that impetus to reform the overweight regulation and approvals process for new uranium mines in Australia."



**DETERMINED:** Uranium Association chief executive Michael Angwin.