



AUSTRALIAN NUCLEAR ASSOCIATION INC.

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Submission to Senate Standing Committees on Economics

Inquiry into

National Radioactive Waste Management Amendment (Site Specification, Community Fund and Other Measures) Bill 2020

26 March 2020

The Australian Nuclear Association is an independent incorporated scientific institution with members from the professions, business, government and universities with an interest in nuclear science and technology. Many of our members are professional scientists and engineers with considerable experience and expertise in nuclear issues.

The Australian Nuclear Association strongly supports the National Radioactive Waste Management Amendment (Site Specification, Community Fund and Other Measures) Bill 2020 (the Bill).

Australia has a well-developed economy with a strong engineering and technology base but until now has not had a national facility to manage its radioactive waste. The process to site and establish a national facility has taken many years and finally a site has been selected after consideration of many potential sites and comprehensive community consultations.

This Bill provides the legislative framework for building the National Radioactive Waste Management Facility at Napandee near Kimba in South Australia and the community fund in connection with operation of the Facility.

The Facility will support Australian nuclear science and technology by providing for the permanent disposal of low level waste and temporary storage of intermediate level waste. The radioactive waste is a by-product of the beneficial uses of radiation and radioactivity that has improved the health and welfare of Australian, contributed to world class research and improved efficiency of Australian industry.

Having a centralised, national nuclear waste repository will reduce the current risk of having nuclear waste dispersed across many sites, in hospitals and clinics across Australia. Centralising all radioactive waste and containing it in a controlled & engineered setting will elevate our safeguards and accounting of radioactive material inline with international best practice.

The proposed design of the facility will be highly engineered, meet international standards and be regulated by Australian nuclear regulator ARPANSA which will issue the licenses for site preparation, construction and operation.

ANA strongly supports establishment of the National Radioactive Waste Management Facility for the management of radioactive waste and the disposal of low level radioactive waste from all Commonwealth agencies, States and Territories.