



## NO RADIOACTIVE WASTE ON AGRICULTURAL LAND IN KIMBA OR SA

*"To campaign against any nuclear radioactive waste management facility in South Australia's agricultural land and in particular the District Council of Kimba"*

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Public Submission: Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works

### **Inquiry on ANSTO Intermediate Level Solid Waste Storage Facility Lucas Heights, NSW**

I write to the committee as a person who has a lifelong commitment to Kimba and is involved in a family farming business over four generations, but formally as President of the No Radioactive Waste on Agricultural Land in Kimba or SA group. I have clear insight into the National Radioactive Waste Management Facility (NRWMF) process, the division, stress and the deep concerns relating to the Intermediate Level Waste (ILW) held within our community over the past six years.

Our group welcomes the expenditure and need for the \$60 million the Federal Government has recently announced to extend the storage capacity of the Intermediate Level Waste at ANSTO's Lucas Heights Facility. This also reaffirms our groups view that the ILW can be stored responsibly at ANSTO safely and securely and most importantly left there until a permanent deep geological disposal site has been approved and developed for this waste.

As a group we have continually asked why would you move the ILW from ANSTO, who produces the waste, to another temporary storage site in an above ground shed proposed on agricultural land in the Kimba District unnecessarily for several decades? This decision does not seem logical to double handle Australia's most toxic nuclear waste and expose people to the potential risk through its transport, reputational risk and further temporary storage at another site.

We have heard the ARPANSA CEO in June 2020 to a senate enquiry on the NRWMF Amendment Bill 2020 say that "Waste can be safely stored at Lucas Heights for decades to come."

By keeping the ILW at ANSTO it puts the responsibility clearly back on the Federal Government to look at the options available for the deep geological disposal site to comply with international best practice. It also shows a commitment to financial responsibility and public value to the Australian tax payer with one site one cost.

Our recommendations to put forward to the committee are:

- That the Public Works Committee requires ANSTO through its public works retain ILW on site at ANSTO until such time as the permanent deep geological disposal site for radioactive waste is found.
- Assumptions made by ANSTO to transfer radioactive waste to another interim above ground NRWMF indefinitely in regional South Australia are unfounded and contrary to World's best practice.
- Recognise that ANSTO's purpose built Interim Waste Store (IWS) has the proven capacity and capability to maintain extended storage at Lucas Heights.

In closing we note the NRWMF process in Kimba for the past six years we have found to be unjustified, divisive within community and exclusive of people who live outside the Kimba District Council area, whilst the treatment of our local first nations people; the Barngarla people has been shameful and quite frankly staggering. As a country on a national issue, clearly, we need to do better.

We ask your committee to learn from the mistakes of the past and examine and explore the final destination of all radioactive waste for responsible governance. As evidenced, there is time to get this right.

In appreciation of having a say to the Public Works Committee,



Peter Woonford

President

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