

Response to Question on notice:

**Do you know of places where civilian and military waste is dealt with “in concert”?**

*The Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management* (to which Australia is a contracting party) provides that it applies “to the safety of management of spent fuel and radioactive waste from military or defence programmes if and when such materials are transferred permanently to and managed within exclusively civilian programmes.” Therefore, under the Joint Convention, while spent fuel and radioactive waste from a military or defence program is otherwise excluded, a Government may elect to transfer military or defence program waste to be managed as civilian waste.

There is limited public information available regarding the management of military spent fuel and nuclear waste, including from naval propulsion programmes, most likely due to the sensitive nuclear technology used within such programmes as well as the classified nature of the information. However, from public information, it appears that the UK has considered commingling military and civilian waste once it builds a long-term geologic repository. Similarly, in the U.S., Yucca Mountain has been identified as a long-term geologic repository for both military and civilian nuclear waste. Russia stores civilian and defense nuclear waste in facilities such as Sayda Bay, where waste from nuclear submarines and civilian ice breakers is stored.