

Donna Johnson
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Senate Inquiry (2) Submission

As a Kimba local resident, I have been well informed throughout the past 4 to 5 years, with heavy consultation delivered to me and my local community. We have heard from many experts and I believe have been openly and honestly told of possible risks as well as potential benefits that could be delivered to our community. The staggering misinformation that permeates through advocacy groups and anti-nuclear campaigners often posing as qualified experts, should be the subject of a senate inquiry of its own, and in my opinion would be a far more valuable use of this committee's time and expertise. Our community has invested heavily in this long and intensive process and has voted on multiple occasions, clearly demonstrating a substantial majority in favour of hosting this facility. There is no question that Australia needs this facility and Kimba has now shown, on multiple occasions, its willingness to host, on land that was voluntarily nominated by its freehold owner. I see no value or valid reasoning to hold up this legislation further. Both those supportive as well as those still opposed have formed their opinions because of, or despite, the information delivered and no matter that opinion they are entitled to it. I will say though that those from outside of our community continue to raise issues not based in fact and often misnomers surrounding Nuclear power plant accidents or Nuclear bombs or very often relating to the South Australian investigation into hosting an International waste repository. The national RWMF will host Australian waste safely and responsibly.

Kimba locals have heard from many experts as well as advocates for those opposed. A small section of these are listed below:

Associate Professor Geoff Currie, BPharm, MMedRadSc(NucMed), MAppMngt(Hlth), MBA, PhD, AM.

Frank Harris, QUT Master of Applied Science (medical Physics, Radiation Protection. Chief Advisor Radiation Protection Rio Tinto.

Carmelo Pesce, Mayor Sutherland Shire, Sydney, the district that host the ANSTO facility in Sydney.

Pierre Jobard, Mayor of Fresney, (France); Champagne producer and farmer

Phillipe Dallemagne, Mayor of Soulaines, (France); and local tourism board member. These two mayors spoke around a similar but much larger facility hosted in their districts.

Patrice Torres, Director of the Aube Disposal Facility, (France)

Jelena Bolia, ANDRA International Business Manager, (France)

Hefin Griffiths, Chief Nuclear Officer, Ansto

Dr Adrian Patterson, CEO Ansto

Carl-Magnus Larsson, CEO Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency.

Dave Sweeney, Nuclear Free activist, member National Nuclear Waste Independent Advisory Panel, (The panel that set up and approved this process to select a national site).

Margaret Beavis, Melbourne GP, Anti-nuclear campaigner

Peter Karamoskos, Radiologist, Nuclear Medicine Physician

Cat Beaton, Conservation SA

Jim Green, Friends of the Earth

As you can see, we have been very well informed. Some from outside our community question why non residents of Kimba did not qualify to vote in our ballot, well, this why. They have often pre-conceived and factually incorrect assumptions, with no investment in this long and intensive consultation process. It is absolutely right and fair that Kimba residents and ratepayers had its opportunity to vote to approve hosting this facility in our district and the multiple times we have said yes is testament to this consultation and the knowledge we have gained.

The site selection process has also been long and thorough as well. As you can see, we have had many and varied presentations from both sides of this debate. As a result, even those bitterly opposed concede, "there are no safety concerns". The contention is that there is still an emotional argument and that perception could be harmful, but in what way is unclear at best. Napandee has been proven to be technically suitable as well as being the site with the least technical needs, therefore representing the highest value to taxpayers. Kimba's location, halfway across Australia is also viable and highly valuable. Situated along National Highway 1, it is ideally placed for Road Train and Over Dimensional vehicle access. It was also the only site with one hundred percent direct neighbor support, indicating that those closest and most directly effected by the facility were highly supportive of its location. The Cadence Economic Report states a very conservative \$8M will be generated into the local community from this facility, making it easily the most productive land in our community.

Transport is often raised as an issue. It is not. Radioactive materials are transport throughout the country daily. This is under strict regulation and is completely safe. If we think about some of the more volatile materials transported daily past our front doors, for example, fuel, acid, fertiliser or explosives, its incomparable and a ridiculous concern. All materials accepted at the NRWMF will be highly regulated and must meet strict waste acceptance criteria. There will be NO liquids or gas. The truck drivers will not need to wear protective equipment other than

those required by the transport industry, (Hi-viz vest, safety shoes etc.). It is crazy to argue against safe transport of these products when we allow and largely ignore far more dangerous products on our roads, every single day. We need to be sensible and realistic and transporting this material holds very little increased risk than that of general freight.

The \$20M Community fund is appropriate and completely reasonable when you consider how the community of Kimba has engaged in this lengthy and controversial consultation. We argued strongly for a fund to deliver benefits to the community throughout the period that the facility would remain active in Kimba, 100-300 years, providing an ongoing and sustainable benefit. I believe it is now apparent that there could be significant delays with approvals, licensing and construction before this fund is provided and therefore it would be appropriate to amend the bill to include indexation, so that the fund is not worth less when provided than when the legislation is passed. With current levels of inflation very low, this will not be a great cost to government, but would be appropriate recognition to the Kimba community that has already been actively engaged in this process approaching five years.

We have already been through one senate inquiry, that correctly found this process has been sound and reasonable. It is time to stop the constant questioning and accept the will of the people and approve the construction of a National Radioactive Waste Management Facility at Napandee. Thank you, senators, for your time and consideration.

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