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TO THE SENATE ECONOMICS COMMITTEE  
REFERENCE COMMITTEE  
SUBMISSION TO SENATE ENQUIRY ON THE  
SELECTION PROCESS FOR A NATIONAL  
RADIOACTIVE WASTE MANAGEMENT FACILITY IN  
SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

Senate Committee submission by Barry Hugh Wakelin Section  
10 Hundred of Barna, County of Buxton from the District  
Council of Kimba, South Australia.

My name is Barry Wakelin, I was born at Kimba in 1946.  
Raised on a wheat/sheep farm at Kimba, Schooled to Year 10  
at Kimba, first job as a bank clerk at Kimba, labourer, shearer,  
share-farmer, farmer and Federal MHR for 15 years in Kimba,  
W.A. and Australia. Have a farm with my wife a few  
kilometres from a nuclear dump site at Kimba. I am  
committed to Kimba and farming from a love of the place;  
local government backed us to have a reliable electricity  
supply when we had nothing other than their trust in us as  
collateral - and we turned our lives around from going not far  
to anywhere.

The only comment I can make about the payment for the 100  
Hectares of land ""volunteered "" is that it is worth noting that it  
is most likely that the cash paid is supporting the purchase of  
more land which is in turn ensuring less people in our  
community with the modern farming culture, while these same  
citizens lament the decline in our population as they ensure it  
occurs.

I oppose the case and process of placing a nuclear dump at

Kimba and Hawker based on an abuse of government power, a cruel imposition on small communities and waste of taxpayer's money.

## PREAMBLE.

- The current legislative approach needs to be examined by looking for impartial evidence of the factual reality for the need of a Dump away from Lucas Heights when the 60 year accumulation of Waste at Lucas Heights is evidence based.
- In my 25 years of working with the issue in the Parliament, my electorate and subsequently until this day, I am not aware of any overwhelming evidence to justify moving this relatively small amount of waste from Lucas Heights.
- The Parliament has told us that they have just 70 Hectares at the Lucas Heights site when the ANSTO 16/17 Annual Report on page 128 shows there is at least 450 Hectares available and the area needed for about 4000 cubic metres of Low Level nuclear waste is less than one hectare (0.2 ha to be accurate) shown easily by a mathematical calculation of 50 metres multiplied by 40 metres multiplied by 2 metres which equals 4000 cubic metres which supports my suggestion that less than one hectare for sixty years of nuclear waste is all that is needed.
- I believe ANSTO have an expectation of further reducing the amount of waste created by the OPAL Reactor in the foreseeable future, based on current production levels. We are lead to believe that the described 4000 cubic metres of Low Level Waste or most likely less, is 92% of the total waste created by ANSTO at Lucas Heights and has a relatively finite active life which should allow the community to understand the point at which most of the waste can be considered as "normal" background level radiation material and therefore reducing significantly

further the volume over time.

- Is it reasonable to ask for these matters to be discussed and explained in a transparent and open way for community acceptance.?
- I support the concept explained by the Member for Grey (the local MHR) when he put his view before the Parliament that the Nuclear Waste should be placed at the "best site" in Australia and without "local politics".
- And yet we have ended up with Kimba and Hawker as the "best sites".
- It is difficult to understand and impossible to accept that in a large land mass with our national population, that an export food producing area like Kimba or a iconic tourist destination like Hawker are the best sites for nuclear waste in Australia.
- Government and the Corporate sector own and control large tracts of land in Australia and yet we as a nation, choose a divisive and unfair proposal which has certainly torn Kimba apart and no doubt Hawker can speak for itself.

MY PREFERENCE in this long and torturous path of nuclear waste in Australia over at least the last 75 years and certainly the last 25 years is to -

- examine transparently the Lucas Heights storage where one hectare is the area needed for 92% of the Waste and for its real and reducing radioactive life.
- the future management of the Intermediate Level Waste of no more than 5 cubic metres per year and WHY the existing new shed with the one container (taking up perhaps 5% of the space) recently returned from France is not suitable for the long term storage at Lucas Heights, where the best people in Australia ( or the world) are employed to work with and monitor the Nuclear Waste, which they do on every day of the OPAL Reactor's

working life.

- If the case for Lucas Heights to manage their own waste cannot pass muster, then we as a community should request BHP, as a strong and responsible and competent corporate citizen to offer a suitable parcel of land, from its many hundreds of thousands of hectares of pastoral land, in an isolated and much more neutral and calmer situation, away from food production and a natural unique visitor destination. It is a great humane project for the Big Australian to support.
- request the Australian National Audit Office to examine the use of taxpayers' money at Kimba and Hawker for the purpose of "encouraging" the locals to see things the government's way on nuclear waste. And at least use a small part of the Treasury allocation to have an independent professional assessment of the economic impact on the hundred year old agricultural industry(negative and positive and export buyers views included). This assessment should include the real number of long term jobs needed to process and store two to three truckloads of nuclear waste per year, and any duplication of current agricultural research, already paid for by farmers and or government.
- I hope the Committee will consider the tactics of the government, the Minister's Office, the local MHR, the Departments and ANSTO in "persuading " the people of Kimba and Hawker to accept nuclear waste, as explained in a pamphlet prepared by Tina and Barry Wakelin, for distribution to Kimba citizens, to try and balance in a very small way,the oppressive bullying over the last three years by the Federal Government, with endless public servants, manipulation of sites on and off again for political purposes, and simply untrue statements to ensure the government's ambition was adhered to. It has put any hard fought marginal seat campaign to shame - and not just for a few weeks but has persisted for three years.

- Any one who treated the government view with other than a YES was treated abysmally - and certainly with not one cent of taxpayer largesse to make the alternative case. It has been a disgrace to our democracy.
- Is it reasonable for the government to claim as has been made within the process, that Kimba can become a 300 year government supported town based on nuclear waste? With stable doctors, para-medics, significant population increase, strong growth in employment, improved agricultural research, improving real estate prices, stronger tourism to admire the Nuclear Dump - the sky is the limit according to the government spokespersons - similar to the Sutherland Shire it has been claimed where ANSTO employ 1200 people at Lucas Heights. Hence my suggestion for an independent, professional economic assessment of the potential of a "Nuclear Dump" at Kimba or Hawker to offer a reality check for three truckloads of waste a year after the initial 80 truckloads which may take a week. (quicker for the 2000 cubic metres from Woomera nearby, dumped there 20 years ago with Intermediate Waste mixed in as well)
- A significant issue for me is the mental health impact, and we will be fortunate to get through without a tragedy. Consider, when the Federal MP, the Local Government, the Minister, the Department, ANSTO and even the police force at every meeting for three years are lined up against anyone who dared to say NO and even dared to question. And barely a question answered straight down the line, other than a dump at any cost to save the town we are told, as the process was surely and steadily damaging the town. Young people putting the property on the market and having to be persuaded to wait at least until the torture chamber is closed down or bureaucratically and politically known as various stages of whether" broad community support "was available. It soon became the .. majority of a waste site's neighbours ... down from a few hundred local

citizens to two or three neighbours.

- And to top it all off - the town's first job from nuclear Waste blares out at us in the local newspaper, as the government moves their Campaign Office in to the Main Street, to promote the propaganda of the benefits of a dump, which no one else in Australia wants.
- A vote is held coincidentally at a similar time to go to "stage 2", to collect \$2 million for community projects.
- The government telling us that a nuclear dump would be a "corporate disaster" for BHP, but terrific for Kimba. ANSTO and the Department telling locals being treated by nuclear medicine that it will not be available, if Kimba doesn't accept the Dump, or telling Kimba .."everybody wants the waste"... etc,etc. What a disgrace!!
- My concern with the indigenous voice is it is too often used by others to block legitimate options for a whole range of issues. Government Departments included.
- The use of the French example to sell the Nuclear issue, while innovative, ignores that Australia is not France. We are a much larger land mass, smaller population and without dependence on nuclear power. The French visit to Kimba was quite an event.

Why would anyone be surprised when we of the NO case raise any concerns, we are called by the government ..."the small vocal minority" and we are provoked to the observation, that the government only comes to Kimba to over-sell their nuclear waste, which remains a totally unproven economic winner, and never acceptable for the community damage it has already caused with too many questions remaining unanswered. Yes, I am one of the proud 43% who voted NO despite the "bribe" as locals call the \$2million plus \$2million for Kimba & Hawker plus another \$10 million.

Why not simply address the issues, answer directly and honestly, and respect that there are legitimate concerns and far better options for a nuclear waste site. I simply request a more

honest and open approach, without the money, the deception and a strong reassurance about the only industry which will ultimately guarantee Kimba's future - EXPORT FOOD PRODUCTION.

Yours Sincerely,  
Barry Wakelin .

PS. I enclose copies of a pamphlet posted to the Kimba community recently to offer balance to the government's bulletins of recent years for Senators consideration.

Sent from my iPad

## **NO TO A COMMUNITY NUCLEAR DUMP**

**THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AND ITS REPRESENTATIVES WILL  
DUMP NUCLEAR WASTE ON THE S.A. COMMUNITY WITHOUT  
REASONABLE REGARD FOR OTHER OPTIONS.**



We trust that those responsible for our situation will listen to our total community.

We must take care of **all** our people, respectfully.

**Thank you** for reading our views: Barry Wakelin OAM (Older And Madder) or Order of Australia Medal (your choice) and Tina Wakelin.

***Please feel free to contact us and discuss any points raised in this pamphlet.***

***We can be contacted on:***



***We will be happy to listen to your views and explain the reasons for ours.***

*A non-taxpayer funded publication by Tina & Barry Wakelin only.*

## **TINA'S REASONS FOR SAYING *NO* TO RADIOACTIVE WASTE AT KIMBA**



- Kimba is not the best possible site for the **National** Radioactive Waste Management Facility. Why would a vibrant cropping area be chosen as a site for a Nuclear Waste Dump?
- Do we have the right to give our descendants the legacy of products which will be with them for hundreds of years for Low Level Waste or thousands of years for Intermediate Level Waste?
- Would we prefer Kimba to be recognised for the spectacular Silo Art, Gateway to the Gawler Ranges, Halfway Across Australia, the Big Galah or the site of Australia's Nuclear Waste Dump?
- There are too many unknowns about the negative effect on the marketing and sale of our proven agricultural products. "Should not" is very different from "will not"! **Why risk it for a small, short term gain?** What Kimba accepts affects all of Eyre Peninsula and SA.
- Kimba residents should not be made to feel that **we alone have the responsibility** to take the waste on behalf of the almost 25 million Australians. It is misleading to suggest that the production of Nuclear products will cease if **Kimba does not** accept the waste?
- I believe we need to focus on the positives that Kimba has **now**. **It is a vibrant, progressive and proud place**, as shown by its recent recognition as **SA's most sustainable town!**
- ARPANSA, the body which issues licenses for the Commonwealth Waste sites, assure us that they are not forcing waste removal from Lucas Heights. **Why the push now?**
- **Why won't the owners of the waste: the Government, ANSTO and the uranium miners, volunteer a site for the NRWMF?** Surely, they have a far greater responsibility for waste than Kimba?

Please feel free to contact us on





## AUSTRALIANS HAVE SAID NO TO NUCLEAR DUMPS BEFORE

The Government wants the Waste out of Lucas Heights soon, because they say it 'diverts' the staff from their work; as if the waste is not part of their work. The 'experts' say that it would be a 'corporate disaster' for BHP and all fine at Kimba. This double standard supports Kimba anger & mistrust. Government pressure has been extreme on the NO voters.

The Minister now says no "arbitrary figure" needed to say YES or NO. It is wrong to say that nuclear medicine will not be available if Kimba says no and the myth promoted by the government that 'most people want the waste' shows no honesty or respect, when only the truth will do. The "dump and forget" approach at Woomera, with the 2000 cubic metres of Intermediate and Low-Level Waste dumped over 20 years ago and still there, unsorted. It remains there in stark contrast to ANSTO's safety propaganda.

The government have been promoting their Dump at Kimba as their great hope after 25 years of failures, when obvious alternatives exist.

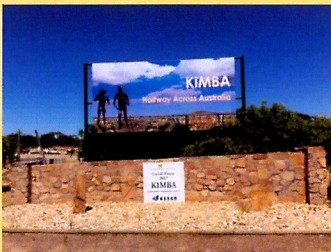
A group has forced their ambitions and a Dump site on our community which has caused unhealthy anxiety. **Our community has been damaged and some pretend there is no harm.**

The Government and their conflict of interest ownership of ANSTO, has no interest in us, while they get rid of something that no one else wants. Long term economic benefits are unlikely and there is a social cost. ANSTO, as the waste creator has no independent capacity to find a site for its waste.

There is no evidence based reasons for shifting the Dump from Lucas Heights, other than theories about 'no room' for waste of Olympic swimming pool size in a 450ha site.

### We are the "mugs" sucked in by a "bribe."

Thank you to those who are opposed to the government on nuclear waste at Kimba. It not only "goes against the grain". It is not a "fair-go"! - B.W.



## Barry Wakelin's Summary

### AUSTRALIA HAS NEVER SUPPORTED A COMMUNITY NUCLEAR DUMP

- This project should have 90% Community support to be accepted
- Constitution change must have 66% & is reversible - The Dump is irreversible.
- ANSTO is here to do a job on us – never to do a job for us.
- Government, as the owners of ANSTO, have a conflict of interest.
- **Kimba must feel no compulsion to accept the Dump.**

**Who is ANSTO?** They are the body which runs a nuclear reactor at Lucas Heights owned by the Australian Government. It is a part export business including nuclear medicine of similar value to Kimba's food exports. It is a billion-dollar asset, with 1200 jobs & \$200m. per annum, from taxpayers.

#### Outcomes

- **Lucas Heights has 60yrs of proven waste storage of Olympic swimming pool size on 450ha within the 1.6km radius buffer zone.**
- **Kimba - the only real Dump site option proposed by the government**
- **ANSTO, the waste creator, cannot find solutions from the remaining 96% of Australia's land. Lucas Heights has "over 450ha centred on the existing HIFAR reactor" and "a number of legacy waste disposal sites...within the 1.6km buffer zone"(16/17 Annual Report).Page 128.**
- **More jobs by running more sheep, than from Nuclear Waste!**

#### Decisions

- **MP's "conflict of interest" saw first Kimba site cancelled**
- **Two Kimba sites cancelled pre-election to save the seat for the Libs.**
- **Two new Kimba sites to replace cancelled sites after election**
- **Construction, operation of the facility & transport of waste in SA is illegal – SA Act**
- **40years of I L Waste at Lucas Heights in a corner of a big new shed.**
- **Government & Mining Sectors have never accepted any responsibility to provide land, however geologically or seismologically suitable.**
- **Is the Working for Kimba's Future group fully reliant on what ANSTO say? If so, is their advice biased? Have they sought other advice?**