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Committee Secretariat
Senate Standing Committees on Economics
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Canberra ACT 2600

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

The South Australian Chamber of Mines and Energy (SACOME) welcomes the opportunity to make this submission in relation to the *National Radioactive Waste Management Amendment (Site Specification, Community Fund and Other Measures) Bill 2020* (the Bill).

SACOME is the peak industry body representing companies with interests in the South Australian minerals, energy, extractive, oil and gas sectors and associated service providers.

SACOME notes the Bill establishes a National Radioactive Waste Management Facility (NRWMF) at Napandee, South Australia, to permanently dispose of low-level radioactive waste and temporarily store intermediate level radioactive waste by amending the *National Radioactive Waste Management Act 2012* to:

- Specify the site and enable acquisition of additional land for the facility;
- Abolish the National Repository Capital Contribution Fund and establish a Community Fund to provide economic and social sustainability for the community in which the facility will be located; and
- Provide clear and objective links between the operation of the Act and the relevant Constitutional heads of power.

SACOME is supportive of the Bill as it delivers on the Federal Government's commitment to specify the NRWMF at Napandee, South Australia and to establish a \$20 million Community Fund.

SACOME's support is also predicated on the following considerations:

- The Federal Government's comprehensive consultation and technical assessment process that has spanned over four years to identify a suitable host site for the NRWMF;
- The three broad requirements in assessing potential facility sites have been met (i.e. land for the facility has been volunteered by a landowner; the site is technically suitable; and the proposal has broad community support from nearby residents);
- The technical studies, examining seismology, hydrology and geology, amongst other factors, concluded that all sites could safely and securely store radioactive waste with appropriate mitigations.
- 61.6 per cent of voters in Kimba support the proposal. The broad support of the Kimba community is reflected by:
 - 59.3 per cent support from surveyed local businesses;
 - 59.8 per cent support from local submissions;
 - 60 per cent support from neighbours within five kilometres of Napandee; and
 - 100 per cent of direct neighbours that share a boundary with the site at Napandee support the facility.

SACOME remains committed to ongoing dialogue with the Federal Government in relation to the establishment of a NRWMF.

Yours sincerely



Rebecca Knol
Chief Executive Officer