



Australian Government

Department of Industry, Innovation and Science

Media Release: Kimba Community Liaison Office Appointed

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The proposal for a National Radioactive Waste Management Facility in Kimba has resulted in the creation of the first direct job.

Maree Barford from Kimba has been announced as the successful nominee for the position of Kimba Community Liaison Officer.

Maree will work with the Department of Industry, Innovation and Science and the Kimba community as a local point of contact throughout the consultation process.

The announcement was made at a Community BBQ in Kimba today by Bruce McCleary, the General Manager of the National Radioactive Waste Management Facility Taskforce.

“This consultation process is focused on the community, and ensuring continued meaningful engagement with people with all views is central to this project,” said McCleary.

“Maree will help us understand even more deeply what the community’s priorities, concerns and areas of interest are, which will make the process more effective and genuine.

“This is the first of more than 15 direct jobs that would be created if this facility was to proceed at one of the two sites currently being considered at Kimba.

“There would also be a range of other indirect jobs that would come as a result of the significant construction and maintenance contracts.

“There is a lot going on in Phase 2 – there will be technical assessments into areas including groundwater, geology and seismicity.

“In addition, a \$2 million Community Benefit Programme will be progressed, and a Kimba Consultative Committee established.

“Maree will provide a permanent, local presence to help keep the community informed and involved in all activities, alongside the Project Team and other experts who will continue to visit Kimba.

”Based out of Kimba, Maree will be tasked with meeting with members of the community, attending and organising information sessions, and assisting with presentations.

“I am really looking forward to engaging with people in the community and people who have multiple perspectives, throughout this process,” said Mrs Barford.

“I have always had the opinion that everyone is entitled to one, and my role will be to help convey information to the community, and the variety of views that exist back to the Government.”

At the end of this Phase Two consultation, the community will have another chance to decide whether or not a National Radioactive Waste Management Facility is the right type of industry for Kimba.

“The Community Liaison Officer is a key conduit between the community and the Government, and Maree’s appointment reflects the successful model in place at Wallerberdina Station,” said McCleary.

Wallerberdina Station, near Hawker and Quorn, has been in a Phase Two Consultation process since last year, when surrounding communities also volunteered to move a site forward in the process.

More information on the project can be found at www.radioactivewaste.gov.au.

Media contact: 0438 619 987