



Australian Government

**Department of Industry,
Innovation and Science**

Media Release: Community committee next step in radioactive waste management consultation

16 September 2016

Nominations are open for local community members to join the Barndioota Consultative Committee, the next step in the consideration of a site for a National Radioactive Waste Management Facility.

Minister for Resources and Northern Australia Matt Canavan said the committee would be an important source of local involvement as the Federal Government continues to make progress on a site selection for the facility.

“The Government is engaging with local communities every step of the way during this process, and this committee will be another way for residents to be directly involved,” Minister Canavan said.

“The appointment of the Barndioota Consultative Committee is the next important step in this consultation process, which will help the local community decide whether this project is right for this region.

“The Government is determined to find a suitable location for a facility to manage Australia’s radioactive waste, which is mainly generated as a direct result of the production of nuclear medicine, needed by an average of one in two Australians at some point during their lifetime.

“Over the past 50 years, Australia’s waste has been managed using ad-hoc, temporary solutions in more than 100 locations around the country. While it is stored safely and securely, Australia needs a permanent purpose-built facility.

“The committee will be made up of members who will represent sectors of the community around the nominated site such as business owners, direct neighbours, Traditional Owners, local government and other stakeholders.”

The committee will meet regularly during the consultation process and provide advice on aspects of the proposal including:

- proposals for the \$2 million Community Benefit Scheme;

- the design of the site, and maximising local employment and business opportunities; and
- the development of the safety case, and environmental monitoring and safeguards.

“There are a number of jobs, business opportunities and community benefits that would come alongside the facility for Australia’s waste. But we understand there are also important questions local residents want to ask,” Minister Canavan said.

“Over the coming months Indigenous Heritage studies, followed by technical studies, will assess whether this site is appropriate from a cultural heritage and technical perspective, and consultation will determine if communities want to go ahead.

“We are continuing to have very open communication with a range of local residents, business stakeholders and Traditional Owners in the area and have established an on-going presence in the community to support these discussions.”

Media contact: Senator Canavan's Office 02 6277 7180