



Australian Government

**Department of Industry,
Innovation and Science**

Media Release: Economic Working Group established in Barndioota

5 September 2017

“Pride comes from having a job, and this facility is the best chance Hawker and Quorn have got for new, safe, long-term jobs.”

That is the blunt assessment from Malcolm “Tiger” McKenzie on why he wants a National Radioactive Waste Management Facility to be located at Wallerberdina Station near his home town.

McKenzie of the Adnyamathanha has become one of the strongest advocates for the facility to be built at the site, near the towns of Hawker and Quorn in the South Australian Flinders Ranges.

It is one of three volunteered locations that the Federal Government is currently considering as the site for Australia’s radioactive waste storage facility. The other two are in Kimba, about 260 km away.

Today the Department of Industry, Innovation and Science confirmed that both Tiger and Ian Carpenter will co-Chair a new eight-person Economic Working Group in relation to the project.

Ian has a similarly strong and forthright perspective when it comes to the economic opportunities that could potentially come from the facility.

“When I was young you worked or you had nothing, and I think that creating more jobs in our area will benefit people from both of our cultures,” said Carpenter.

“If this was bad or dangerous we would fight it, both of us would, but we know for a fact that’s not the case, so we want this project to move to the next stage.

“In the meantime we want to have a conversation about all of the opportunities that could come from this facility, including a museum, café, tourism facility featuring both pastoral and Aboriginal history.”

The Economic Working Group is being established as part of the Phase Two consultation process around Wallerberdina Station, which will meet every 6-8 weeks.

The group comprises eight business-minded community members from the area, who will work to maximise economic benefits to the region should the site be selected for the national facility.

This would include benefits associated with training and accreditation, with contracting work in the construction of the facility, and with its ongoing operation and employment.

Bruce Wilson, Head of the Resources Division in the Department of Industry, Innovation and Science, said the Group is a new way for the local community to get directly involved in the conversation.

“A key question the community has to answer is whether they see this as an opportunity they wish to pursue, and this group will help identify what those opportunities actually look like,” said Wilson.

“We are currently in a detailed consultation phase which is all about understanding whether the site is suitable from a technical and community perspective.

“The Government is determined that whichever community eventually hosts the national facility will have the opportunity to fully harness the economic benefits, within procurement guidelines.

“This group will explore what the local capabilities and opportunities are, and how they could be enhanced and deployed, should the facility go ahead at Wallerberdina Station.”

In Kimba, where Phase Two consultation has recently commenced, an Economic Working Group will also be established in the coming months.

For more information, go to www.radioactivewaste.gov.au Media contact: 0438 619 987

Details of the Economic Working Group

Co-Chairs:

- Malcolm (Tiger) McKenzie - has held a number of positions on different groups and committees with Regional Development Australia Far North.

- Ian Carpenter – long term Hawker resident, previous owner of a number of tourist businesses in the Flinders Ranges, and member of the Hawker Community Development Board.

Members:

- Rachel Vella

- Ashley Haywood

- Ronald Daniel

- John Coulthard

- Diedre McKenzie

- Kevin Wedding