



Australian Government

**Department of Industry,
Innovation and Science**

Media Release: Successful First Meeting of the Barndioota Economic Working Group

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The working group charged with exploring the economics of hosting a local radioactive waste industry has had its first meeting, resulting in new plans already being drawn up.

On 19 September members of the new Economic Working Group discussed the National Radioactive Waste Management Facility, and the benefits it could bring to areas around Wallerberdina Station.

Members of the Department of Industry, Innovation and Science project team were also present, to provide advice and document the decisions.

Bruce McCleary, General Manager of the National Radioactive Waste Management Taskforce, said this was an excellent start.

“It is clear from the outset that all members of this group are keenly interested in understanding and exploring the economic opportunities associated with hosting this facility,” Mr McCleary said.

“The group is already discussing actions they can take to develop knowledge about the waste, the potential industry, and how the capabilities of the local area could be harnessed to support it.

“The findings will be reported to the Barndioota Consultative Committee, which is charged with, amongst other things, advising government on issues, opportunities and community sentiment.”

Some of the first actions the Economic Working Group have decided to take include:

- To visit some of the more than 100 locations around the country where waste is already stored, to explore the activities undertaken and the kind of people, training and employment levels involved.
- To investigate best practice when it comes to integrating Aboriginal cultural businesses and other economic opportunities with industries in regional centres.

- To consider hosting a Business Expo and Cultural Experience that would attract visitors and industry leaders to the area, and showcase local businesses and indigenous culture.

The Economic Working Group will meet every 6-8 weeks to further their discussions, and meeting minutes will be published online on the project website.

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

For more information on the project: www.radioactivewaste.gov.au.

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