

It also includes information about the 15 permanent jobs, upgrades to local infrastructure to support a Federal facility, many local contracts and community funding, all of which will follow this facility, no matter where it is eventually located.

We are also being very up front about how risk factors are acknowledged and managed, and safety is assured, based on not only Australia's experience in managing this type of material, but internationally in places such as the Champagne region of France. The local community, through the newly established Consultative Committee and other consultative mechanisms, will be able to access and contribute to the development of the risk and safety case for the facility.

These discussions are happening in meetings, at community events, in the media, at our community drop-in centres, and various other places, and will continue well into next year, particularly as we get more information from the technical and heritage assessments, and as the recently appointed Barndioota Consultative Committee is activated, and the locally engaged officer is announced.

No acknowledgement that current state legislation bans nuclear dumps in SA.

The Department has always acknowledged that where we assess sufficient community support for moving the project forward, we also would work with the relevant State or Territory Government, including on any legislative issues.

A process that divides the community.

The facility would not be considered at Wallerberdina Station, if the community had not told us they did not want it considered there.

Our focus is now on providing the community with the information that it needs to make a decision about whether or not this is the right type of industry for their area. This will continue to involve conversations with people from the entire cross-section of community, including those strongly for, strongly against, and undecided on the proposal.

Please call to book a meeting

The Department will maintain its presence at Foresters Hall, 72 Cradock Road, Hawker on Tuesdays and Wednesdays and at the Quorn Council Chambers on Thursdays.

As the team often meets with stakeholders in the area, we encourage you to call **13 28 46** or email radioactivewaste@industry.gov.au to book a meeting.

Visit www.radioactivewaste.gov.au to find out more information about the project.



Australian Government
Department of Industry,
Innovation and Science

National Radioactive Waste Management Facility

Issue No. 5 • January 2017

Welcome to the New Year

The department will re-open its offices at Foresters Hall, 72 Cradock Road, Hawker, and at the Quorn Council Chambers from the week starting Monday 30 January.

We encourage you to call **13 28 46** or email radioactivewaste@industry.gov.au to book a meeting.

Of course you can visit www.radioactivewaste.gov.au to find out more information about the project.

Address any letters to the National Radioactive Waste Management Facility team at GPO Box 9839 Canberra ACT 2601.

Watch our webinar on 23 February

The project team will be hosting a webinar which will consider the suitability of Australia's use of nuclear medicine production facilities and cyclotrons and the case around importing and exporting nuclear medicine products. Some topics for discussion may include:

- Productive capacity of cyclotrons and nuclear reactors
- Importing and exporting nuclear medicine
- Waste generation from Australian production

The webinar will be live online from our Sydney office and accessible from any computer. You will be able to send questions to the panel members at any point throughout the discussions. The webinar will run from 9am to 1pm on February 23.

Please signal your interest in attending this event in person in your area to radioactivewaste@industry.gov.au as this will assist us in our planning. If there is enough interest, we may look at hiring a hall.

Zaaheer McKenzie appointed locally engaged officer position

The department has appointed Zaaheer McKenzie to fill the position of locally engaged officer.

Zaaheer will be based out of Hawker and Quorn. His main responsibility will be to act as an intermediary between the communities around the potential site at Wallerberdina Station and the Department in Canberra.

He will be another point of contact for community members wanting to know more about the project.

Email radioactivewaste@industry.gov.au or call **13 28 46** to book in a meeting with Zaaheer.



Meet the team – Michelle

Michelle joined the Department of Industry, Innovation and Science in September 2016.

As a community consultation officer Michelle undertakes regular trips to Hawker, South Australia, to engage with local community

members about the National Radioactive Waste Management Facility.

Michelle was born in Perth and moved to Canberra seven years ago to study at the Australian National University.

She enjoys travelling and experiencing new cultures and traditions.

ANSTO visit

The Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation (ANSTO) and Geoscience Australia (GA) will visit Hawker and Quorn in the week starting 6 February.

ANSTO has a strong record of science education and hosts 15,000 domestic and international visitors a year at its Lucas Heights nuclear research reactor facility.

Geoscience Australia is Australia's pre-eminent public sector geoscience organisation.

As the nation's trusted advisor on the geology and geography of Australia, GA applies science and technology to describe and understand the Earth for the benefit of Australia.

ANSTO and GA will be available in Hawker to meet locals and community groups, more information and a detailed schedule will be available online and on our facebook page.

Barndioota Consultative Committee



Barndioota Consultative Committee meeting

In December the Barndioota Consultative Committee met for the first time and discussed the merits of applications for funding under the \$2 million Community Benefit Programme.

There was a balance of views among the 19 committee members who were asked to score applications on their expected benefit to the community.

The Australian Government committed to the funding to acknowledge the community's contribution to this important task and any short-term disruptions the site assessment for the project might have.

This funding is available to communities where a nominated site for the facility has progressed to the technical assessment stage.

The committee will meet again on 14 February.



Learn about the French experience

Community members are often concerned how a radioactive waste management facility will affect the reputation of their town.

In the week starting 6 February the project team will host a delegation from the Champagne region in France which hosts a low to intermediate-level radioactive waste management facility.

The delegation will include representatives from the French national radioactive waste management agency ANDRA. The international visitors can talk about the interaction of its facility in Champagne with the tourism and agricultural industries in their local areas.

The representatives will meet locals and community groups, more information and a detailed schedule will be available online and on our facebook page.

ANSWERS TO SOME RECENT QUESTIONS FROM THE FLINDERS LOCAL ACTION GROUP

Recently the Flinders Local Action Group raised some questions about the proposed establishment of a National Radioactive Waste Management Facility at Wallerberdina Station.

The Department of Industry, Innovation and Science is taking this opportunity to provide factual information against each of the six points raised, for consideration by the communities in Hawker, Quorn and surrounds, as they continue to discuss whether this is the type of industry for their area.

Site nominated without reference to community attitudes or acceptance

The process to find an appropriate site began with an open call for nominations, to which 28 landowners across the country volunteered. Some 25 met basic criteria and six were chosen for initial consultation, giving communities in four states and territories the chance to understand the proposal and consider if they wanted to be involved.

At the end of 120 days of consultation, 65 per cent of the community around the nominated site at Wallerberdina Station said they wanted to move forward to this current stage of the process, including 90 per cent of business owners in Hawker and Quorn. We are here because that is the community gave strong support to the nomination proceeding to the next stage.

However, we acknowledge that not all members of the community support the nomination and will continue to engage with all interests to address any concerns that may be held.

Site selected before cultural and geo-surveys to test site suitability

The site at Wallerberdina Station has not been selected, it is being considered.

Early in this process, we undertook a desktop assessment to determine which of the 28 volunteered sites were most likely to meet core criteria (i.e. geological stability, and access to a population that could provide an ongoing workforce).

In this next Phase 2 we are undertaking technical assessments at the site, which go to matters such as geology, geography, flora and fauna, ground and surface water flows, and seismic activity. We are also working with the traditional owners of the land on cultural and heritage assessments.

If the site fails on technical, heritage or community support criteria, it will not proceed at that location.

Lack of information from ANSTO regarding the amount of intermediate level waste to be stored and for how long.

The Department of Industry, Innovation and Science, which is managing this process, has consistently stated publicly on all of its information material the volumes of waste and forecast waste streams.

Australia's current stores of 4250m³ of low level radioactive waste will be permanently stored at the facility, and its 656 m³ of intermediate level waste may be temporarily stored at the facility until a permanent location at a different site is developed.

The facility will also be used to store the future approximately 40m³ of low level and 5m³ of intermediate level waste that Australia produces each year.

The intermediate level waste will be safely held in the national facility that is currently being considered for many decades, until the creation of a different type of facility.

ANSTO presenting issues as positive with no consideration of any possible negative side effects. No public forum.

The Australian Government has a legislated responsibility to safely manage the by-products of its nuclear medicines and research programs, including radioactive waste. This is a point that our Department, the Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation (ANSTO) and the independent nuclear regulator, the Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency (ARPANSA), have all made frequently over many years.

The Department and ANSTO have provided the community with information on the facility, in line with the established science, and international and domestic experience. This includes the benefits Australia gets from its nuclear program, such as the aforementioned security of nuclear medicine supplies, leading research that assists industry, irradiated silicon used in renewable energy sources, and archaeological techniques that help us understand ancient Aboriginal culture.