



Kimba Office now open

The project team returned to Kimba in August, to continue providing information about this more detailed technical assessment stage of the project and to answer questions from the community.

The new Kimba Project Office is now open, at 49 High Street Kimba.

Project team members will be at the Project Office on Wednesday's and Thursday's each week, and a schedule of upcoming visiting experts will be made available to the public. Maree, the Kimba Community Liaison Officer will be in the region full time.

We encourage you to call 13 28 46 or email radioactivewaste@industry.gov.au to book a meeting, or visit www.radioactivewaste.gov.au to find out more information about the project.

Letters should be addressed to: The National Radioactive Waste Management Facility team at GPO Box 9839 Canberra ACT 2601.



Photo: (L-R) Rod Dowler (ANSTO), Frank Harris (Rio Tinto), Kriton Glenn (Geoscience Australia), David Simon (Geoscience Australia), Mark Moore (ANSTO), Dr Stephanie McCready (ANSTO).

Kimba Consultative Committee

Applications will open soon for the Kimba Consultative Committee. This Committee is an independently run forum run by locals, and is a key way the Government works with the communities in assessing shortlisted sites.

The Committee will be made up of community members and stakeholders from Kimba, and people with a variety of views on the proposal are encouraged to apply.

The committee will meet to provide advice on key aspects of the facility, such as site design, environmental monitoring, employment and business opportunities and will assist in the evaluation of applications for the Community Benefit Programme.

Kimba Community Liaison Officer

Maree Barford from Kimba has been announced as the Kimba Community Liaison Officer.



Photo: (L-R) Mayor Dean Johnson, Maree Barford and Bruce McCleary at the Kimba Office opening

Understanding where radioactive waste comes from

Dr Geoff Currie, an expert in nuclear medicine, has gone behind the scenes at the Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation (ANSTO) to answer one of the questions we are most frequently asked: how is the production of nuclear medicine linked to Australia's radioactive waste.



NUCLEAR MEDICINE

BPHARM, MEDRADSC(NUCMED),
MAPPINGT(IHLTH), MBA, PHD

In a new video Dr Currie explains how nuclear medicine is made, how it's used, and how the radioactive waste by-products are managed.

Dr Currie went to the ANSTO OPAL reactor, and waste storage areas at ANSTO, as well as the Camperdown cyclotron.

First, Dr Currie introduces our Australian nuclear reactor and explains the different types of nuclear medicine we use, and what they do.

An important part of understanding nuclear medicines is knowing how they are made. Some are produced in nuclear reactors, and others are produced in cyclotrons.

Dr Currie introduces the cyclotron and talks about the future possibilities of nuclear medicine production.

The video explains the nuclear medicine production cycle from start to finish, and so at the end explains how all these things that are enabled by nuclear medicine, also have a by-product, which is radioactive waste.

The video can be found on our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/radioactivewasteproject and website: www.radioactivewaste.gov.au

Community Benefit Programme

Applications for the \$2 million Community Benefit Programme will open shortly.

A representative from AusIndustry – who administers the programme separate to the project team – will be available in Kimba to help locals with their applications. The Project Team is also available to assist community members.

Last year's funding round near the nominated site at Wallerberdina Station saw 11 local projects funded, including the refurbishment of the Hawker Institute and development of an undercover fish and plant facility near Quorn.

Applications will be assessed by AusIndustry, and in consultation with the Kimba Consultative Committee to ensure they deliver social and economic outcomes, against criteria including:

- the capacity and capability to carry out the project;
- the benefit to the community the project will achieve; and
- the value for money offered by the project.

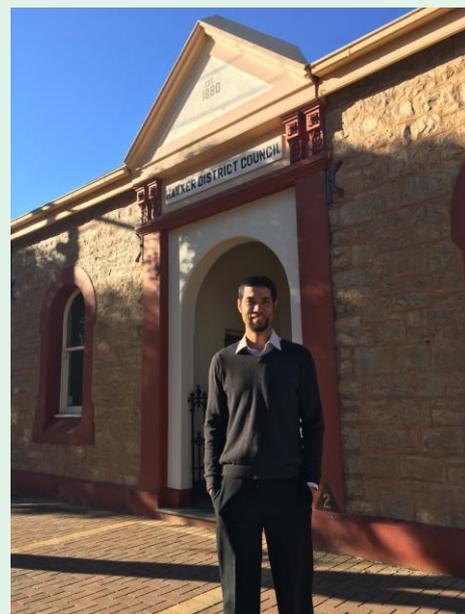


Photo: AusIndustry's Damien Halliday

Setting the Record Straight

On 1 September, a letter appeared in the Adelaide Advertiser and Bruce Wilson from the Department wrote a Letter to the Editor to set the record straight.

I write to correct the record on several points raised in “Nuke Medicine”.

Firstly, the Federal Government is not pushing for a state-of-the-art National Radioactive Waste Management Facility to be hosted in South Australia.

Three potential sites, two in Kimba and one at Barndioota, were volunteered by landowners and have entered into an assessment process after the communities around them said they wanted that.

That said, the Government has repeatedly said we hold no view on if those sites should proceed, and it remains open to receiving and assessing applications from across Australia.

Secondly, around 85 per cent of our current and future radioactive waste streams are directly linked to production of nuclear medicine that one in two Australians will, on average, need at some point in their lifetime.

Some 10,000 doses are shipped around Australia every week to enable diagnoses and treatments, including in relation to heart, lung, and muscular skeletal conditions and specific types of cancers.

Waste from medicine production for over 50 years, historical uses including radiotherapy up until the 1990s and ground-breaking research that is happening today, which is currently stored at more than 100 locations around Australia including hospital basements, the CSIRO and the Department of Defence, will be consolidated at the facility, wherever it is located.

Thirdly, there are only about six reactors in the world that can make nuclear medicine and Australia has one of them at the Australian

Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation (ANSTO).

The OPAL reactor at Lucas Heights is one of the newest, safest and most reliable research reactors in the world, meaning we have secure supplies for domestic use and can export to others.

The plans for a new medicine production plant that would enable us to increase production and help more people across the world were first announced in 2011, and have been the subject of a number of public consultation processes since.

That will come alongside a new type of waste treatment facility that allows us to condense the by-products, meaning we can hugely increase production without a corresponding increase in waste volumes.

Over some 40 years, Australia has had multiple inquiries into storage of the radioactive waste generated as a result of processes that have greatly benefited our community and industries.

Taking those into account, we are now in a process to site and build a safe, job-creating, state-of-the-art, National Radioactive Waste Management Facility for storage of Australia’s waste.

Bruce Wilson – Head of Resources Division

Like, follow and sign up

As the project moves through Phase 2, there will continue to be many developments, as studies and assessments are underway.

To stay up to date with what’s happening, follow us on Facebook @radioactivewaste, or you can sign-up for our online Newsletters by subscribing at our website

www.radioactivewaste.gov.au/ to have information delivered directly to your inbox.

Kimba Landowners Tour ANSTO

Brett and Michelle Rayner, who volunteered part of their property Napandee, for consultation on the national facility, visited ANSTO in early August.

They visited the OPAL reactor, which enables 10,000 doses of nuclear medicine a week, for use in diagnoses and treatments for heart, lung, muscular, skeletal conditions and cancer.

Photo: ANSTO's Hef Griffith with Michelle & Brett Rayner, with the Intermediate Level Waste that returned from France.

The Rayners also saw the way radioactive waste is processed and stored at ANSTO. Brett said the experience showed him the waste was even more safely managed than he thought.

"I was originally against the proposal, but after attending the community meetings I could see that there are no safety risks and there is opportunity for our community," he said

"Based on that we volunteered our land, but coming to ANSTO and seeing this operation in person has really confirmed for me that this waste can and is being safely managed.

"Being able to walk up to the intermediate level waste and touch the container it's stored in, and to hear and see the ways that the waste is treated to make it safe, was amazing.

"There is so much more done with this one reactor than I even imagined, so it was great to be able to come, see the way things are done here, and ask all your questions."

Michelle said that she really enjoyed the opportunity to come and see the reality of what waste storage looks like.

"It's been extremely informative and really opened our eyes to how safe the waste is," she said.

"If it's stored the right way, you can not only be standing right next to it, but you can be working with it in nothing more than normal clothes.

"What's done at ANSTO is just mind-blowing, and what stood out is the wide variety of research that goes on here, that people maybe don't realise the huge contribution nuclear science makes."

Photo: Bruce McCleary with Michelle & Brett at OPAL *Photo: (L-R) Bruce McCleary, Sutherland Shire Mayor Carmelo Pesce, Michelle & Brett Rayner at ANSTO*

