



Australian Government
Department of Industry,
Innovation and Science

National Radioactive Waste Management Facility

Newsletter

WALLERBERDINA STATION

AUGUST / SEPTEMBER 2018

Extension of submissions deadline

The Department of Industry, Innovation and Science has confirmed that it is extending the deadline for submissions on the proposed National Radioactive Waste Management Facility.

The submission period remains open while the Council ballots are on hold during current legal proceedings. The department will provide further advice on the closing date for submissions in due course.

"The Government continues to work to hear the views of all community members, including local residents, neighbours, business owners and Traditional Owners," said a department spokesperson.

"As other parts of the consultation process are ongoing, the submissions period will also be extended so that people have more opportunities to make their views known.

"Public and private submissions will be considered, alongside direct feedback from a range of key stakeholders, including neighbouring landowners and Traditional Owners.

"These inputs are one set of factors the Minister will take into account in understanding community sentiment for the Facility, ahead of a decision this year.

"The Minister has also said he is committed to hearing the views of locals living around the three sites, and the department will undertake a process to do so as soon as the current matters are resolved."

Making a submission

When sending your submission, please note:

- To include your contact details in the submission and whether you wish to have it made public.
- All submissions to the department will be logged, assigned a reference number and made public on our website where permission is provided.
- Content may be redacted where publication is defamatory or abusive in nature or where release of information may breach privacy obligations.
- Quantitative, non-identifiable data will be collected and may be published.
- If a submission has been made prior to 1 August 2018 you can write to us and let us know that you wish that to be taken as your view, rather than providing a further submission.

Submissions can be made by:

Email: radioactivewaste@industry.gov.au

Post: The Department of Industry, Innovation and
Science – National Radioactive Waste Section
GPO Box 2013, Canberra, ACT, 2601

The National Radioactive Waste Management Facility will only be located at a site that has been volunteered by a landowner, on land that is technically suitable, and with a surrounding community who is broadly supportive of this new industry.

For further information on the project and submissions visit radioactivewaste.gov.au

VYAC vote indicates majority of members support the Facility

The following statement has been provided by the VYAC Chair, Diedre McKenzie in regards to a National Radioactive Waste Management Facility potentially located at Wallerberdina Station.

"The Viliwarinha Yura Aboriginal Corporation (VYAC) recently conducted an official vote/ poll with our members.

We wanted to know who supports or doesn't support the Federal Governments option of locating the Facility on Wallerberdina.

Of the 80 members that casted a vote on the 18th August 2018, 45 voted in favour, 34 against and 1 chose to put in a blank vote.

The majority of VYAC members have taken the time and put in the effort to inform themselves better, on the key issues to do with the proposed facility.

VYAC is ready and keen to work and partner with the Government and all other stakeholder's, regarding job creation and business opportunities, research and development, environmental safety, heritage and culture as well as being a real contributor and partner to the education and promotion of such an important undertaking for the region and the nation.

Diedre McKenzie

Chair

Viliwarinha Yura Aboriginal Corporation"



VYAC member Aaron Stuart completing his vote

Community Benefit Programme Update - Quorn skatepark



The Quorn skate park

As part of the National Radioactive Waste Management Facility Community Benefit Programme, The Flinders Ranges Council received \$175,000 for the construction of a regional skate park facility for multi-sport use (skateboards, rollerblades, scooters and bicycles), to increase youth participation in action sports and encourage physical education.

The funds went towards site preparation, earthworks, drainage installation, construction, and furnishing and landscaping. For further information visit the website: www.radioactivewaste.gov.au

Community Development Package

The Federal Government has confirmed an increased Community Development Package of up to \$31 million will be available to the community successfully chosen as the future site of the national Radioactive Waste Management Facility.

The package will include:

- \$8 million Community Skills and Development Program
- \$20 million to deliver long term infrastructure and development benefits to the community
- Up to \$3 million over three years to strengthen Indigenous skills training and cultural heritage protection in the successful community.

For further information visit radioactivewaste.gov.au

Flora and fauna survey



Wallerberdina Station

As part of the ongoing site characterisation studies, AECOM conducted flora and fauna surveys during September.

The fauna surveys involved observations, cameras, and catch and release survey methods for reptiles and ground-dwelling fauna. Heritage clearance of the pitfall trap locations were also undertaken.

The flora surveys involved the mapping of vegetation types and the identification of plants present across the site. Mapping of vegetation types also occurred along roads approaching the site from the highway.

Cultural heritage monitors, who are also experienced in flora and fauna surveys worked at all times with AECOM to carry out the works.

The latest factsheets



For all the latest factsheets, including:

- Aboriginal Economic and Heritage Participation Plan
- Heritage at Wallerberdina Station
- Wallerberdina Station site study
Selecting a site

Visit: www.radioactivewaste.gov.au

Webinar

A two hour webinar was held in August to give the community and panel members a chance to ask questions about the National Radioactive Waste Management Facility.

The webinar panel consisted of eight people, with different expertise and was moderated by the Mayor of Port Augusta, Sam Johnson.

The topics discussed:

- The need/rationale for a national Facility, Australia's legacy and future waste streams
- Current and possible future approaches to the management of radioactive waste in Australia and internationally
- Australia's current policy and regulatory framework - is it fit for purpose?
- The design and operation of the Facility
- Selecting sites for radioactive waste - current and alternative approaches
- How to promote an informed and progressive community discussion.

The panel members included:

- Bruce Wilson
- Dave Sweeney
- Dr Adi Paterson
- Dr Margaret Beavis
- Dr Ben Heard
- Dr Geoff Currie
- Dr Jim Green
- Scott Ludlam.

The webinar was recorded and is available on our website: radioactivewaste.gov.au/site-selection-processkey-documents-and-faqs



The webinar panel members

In response to the Conservation Council S.A and Australian Conservation Foundation letterbox drop

Two flyers were recently delivered to local residents, both of which contained a number of incorrect statements regarding the proposed National Radioactive Waste Management Facility. We provide the following factual information for the community:

Material to be stored at the Facility

The Facility will dispose of low level radioactive waste and temporarily store intermediate level waste. Low level waste includes items such as gloves, gowns and used vials from ANSTO's medicine production facilities in Sydney's Lucas Heights. Intermediate level waste includes spent fuel – a point which has been made in much of our correspondence, photos and presentations, over several years. As has been made clear, intermediate level waste will be stored at the Facility for decades, while a separate disposal path is established for a different type of facility.

Indigenous heritage

The department has been working closely with Traditional Owners to ensure that cultural heritage is protected and preserved during the consultation process and technical reports. If any of these sites are progressed, that consultation would continue.

Community benefits and investment

Significant work has been done to answer the community's question about what benefits and investment a Facility would bring to their area. You asked how many jobs would be created, and after a lot of work we provided the organisation chart for the new organisation, which includes 45 jobs in areas like waste operations, community outreach, environmental monitoring and more. You said you wanted the community package reworked, and a comprehensive \$31 million Community Development Package was therefore developed, which includes an \$8 million Community Skills and Development Program which will be paid at a rate of \$2 million a year from next year to assist with upskilling and training (before the Facility is constructed), \$20 million in a Community Fund for long-term support, and \$3 million in new money dedicated to an Aboriginal Economic Heritage Participation Plan.

Transport routes

Once a site has been selected, work will be directed towards planning on the routes and appropriate levels of consultation will occur. As we have said, depending on the type of waste that will be safely transported, a combination of road, rail and sea transport will be used, and in line with this, an independent report into the characteristics of the sites identified some potential ports.

Determining support

A site will only progress if it is broadly supported by the community. The government has worked hard to ensure the community is at the centre of this process.

A range of factors may be taken into account when making a final decision on the site, and the levels of community support will be assessed through a range of factors. This includes collecting views of important stakeholders, such as Traditional Owners and neighbouring landowners, the community ballot and submissions received. Due to the multiple range of inputs to this decision, it's not possible to reduce support to a single number. Every community is different, and this process is designed to ensure all views are taken into account.

This has been an ongoing process for the communities around Kimba and Wallerberdina Station for two to three years, and the community has communicated to us that they have all the information they need to make their decision. We look forward to receiving the communities' views.

Contact us:

Call 13 28 46

Email: radioactivewaste@industry.gov.au

Facebook [@radioactivewasteproject](#)

Hawker Project Office: 72 Cradock Road, Hawker