

List of Recommendations

RECOMMENDATION 1: The current Federal Government proposals for the Repository and the Store cannot be justified and should be abandoned. (p100)

RECOMMENDATION 2: The current transport proposals to the Repository (and the Store) should, therefore, also be abandoned. (p100)

RECOMMENDATION 3: In the interim, Lucas Heights should continue to act as a waste facility, subject to a public inquiry into the storage facilities on site to identify operating conditions which will ensure world's best practice. (p100)

RECOMMENDATION 4: Consequently, during the interim period of storage at Lucas Heights (100-1):

- a. a new site selection process based on contemporary overseas models should be undertaken as a priority, incorporating community acceptance criteria.
- b. a public inquiry should be instigated by the Federal Government to consider the viability and practicality of alternative technologies and sources for radioisotope provision in Australia. Issues for consideration would include:
 - i. whether or not medical and industrial isotopes can be produced from alternative sources and whether this can be achieved before the current facility has expired;
 - ii. the economic and industry impact of importing medical isotopes; and
 - iii. whether or not it is necessary for research funding to be allocated to the development of alternative sources for radiopharmaceutical production.
- c. the operating licence for the Replacement Research Reactor (RRR) should be deferred. An inquiry should be undertaken by the Federal Government into the need for and possible uses of the RRR. Issues for consideration would include:
 - i. a review of the licensing processes and conditions applied to the reactor;
 - ii. security issues relating to the reactor site;
 - iii. the impact on jobs and Australian nuclear research of not proceeding with the replacement reactor;
 - iv. whether an effective solution to the problem of the final management of nuclear waste has been identified;
 - v. emergency management and response implications of the new facility; and
 - vi. whether there has been adequate consultation with the community, local government and the NSW Government.

RECOMMENDATION 5: The Federal Government should accept liability for radioactive waste and indemnify state and local government, and the public against the impacts of any radioactive waste incidents. (p141)

RECOMMENDATION 6: The NSW Department of Environment and Conservation should complete the inventory of non-ANSTO storage sites as a matter of urgency identifying, in particular, those sites where upgrading of facilities is required. (p101)

RECOMMENDATION 7: The NSW Department of Environment and Conservation should liaise with the Sydney Water Corporation to ensure a proper risk assessment be carried out at the Cronulla Sewerage Outfall. In addition to emission levels in the ocean, reporting

should cover environmental, human health and biophysical impacts, similar to that carried out at other Sydney Water facilities. (p78)

RECOMMENDATION 8: The Minister for Utilities should direct the Sydney Water Corporation to provide a copy of the ANSTO Trade Waste Agreement to Sutherland Shire Council. (p77)

RECOMMENDATION 9: ANSTO should acknowledge that spent fuel is waste, and in dealing with the Australian public, should identify it as waste. (p34)

RECOMMENDATION 10: ARPANSA should supplement the current Australian (NHMRC Code) waste classifications, Categories A, B, and C, with an equivalent range of effective dose rates (sieverts/hr) for each classification. (p111)

RECOMMENDATION 11: ARPANSA should develop a quantitative definition for Category S waste (NHMRC Code), to include effective dose rates thus doing away with the current “definition by exclusion”. (p111)

RECOMMENDATION 12: ARPANSA should liaise with ANSTO and DEC to identify and properly secure any intermediate level waste considered suitable for use in “dirty bombs”. (p132)

RECOMMENDATION 13: The New South Wales Government should formally forward a copy of this report to ARPANSA. (p141)

RECOMMENDATION 14: That the federal government identify any proposed road transport routes through Sydney. (p105)

RECOMMENDATION 15: ARPANSA should set waste acceptance criteria for any near-surface burial repository to exclude all long-lived intermediate level waste. (p70)

RECOMMENDATION 16: ARPANSA should require ANSTO to provide effective dose rate (sievert/hour) information for all waste containers. The dose rate will be provided for waste before conditioning as well as being measured on the outside of the container. (p111)

RECOMMENDATION 17: Risk assessments should be carried by New South Wales Agencies (including Police, NSW Fire Brigades, NSW Health, and the Department of Environment and Conservation), in consultation with the Commonwealth for any transport proposals. This assessment should include consideration of the risk of potential terrorist activities. (p140)

RECOMMENDATION 18: NSW Agencies including Police, NSW Fire Brigades, NSW Health, and the Department of Environment and Conservation should, in consultation with the Commonwealth, detail and cost the emergency services requirements to best manage any transport proposals. (p140)

RECOMMENDATION 19: A formal agreement should be negotiated between the NSW Government and the Federal Government on any proposals to store and transport radioactive waste in New South Wales, based on the above risk assessments. This agreement would include:

- The Commonwealth to arrange an assessment of the transport proposals by the IAEA’s Transport Safety Appraisal Service,
 - This assessment should consider all possible modes of transport, including sea, depending on the site location being assessed;
- Clearly defined roles and responsibilities (clarify jurisdictional uncertainties);

- Tracking of waste material;
- Emergency services requirements (resourcing, training, responses);
- Risk minimisation;
- Prevention of accidents;
- No liquid wastes to be transported;
- Community acceptance criteria; and
- Independent monitoring by NSW to certify or ensure that the relevant codes are adhered to (pp140,1).

RECOMMENDATION 20: Any agreement be based on the principle that the Federal Government bear the full costs incurred by the community (including local councils) of any transport and storage proposals. (p141)

RECOMMENDATION 21: The NSW State Government should obtain legal advice on the Federal Government's constitutional power relating to nuclear technology. (p45)

RECOMMENDATION 22: In the event the Federal Government fails to adopt the committee's recommendations 1 to 4:

The NSW Government should amend the Uranium Mining and Nuclear Waste Facilities (Prohibition) Act to prohibit:

- the construction and operation of nuclear waste facilities in New South Wales (with the exception of an interim waste facility at Lucas Heights), and
- the transportation of reactor sourced radioactive waste (with the exception of stocks of existing spent fuel). (p101)