



MOUNTAINS COMMUNITY RESOURCE NETWORK Inc.

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The Committee Manager,
Joint Select Committee on the Transportation and Storage of Nuclear Waste,
Parliament House,
Macquarie St,
Sydney, 2000.

Joint Select Committee on the Transportation and Storage of Nuclear Waste

This submission is from the Mountains Community Resource Network, which works for social justice in the Blue Mountains.

We urge the NSW Government to enact legislation and/or undertake necessary actions to prevent the Federal Government building a new reactor at Lucas Heights, from transporting nuclear waste through NSW towns and cities on local roads and highways and from building a waste dump for any level of waste (low, medium, high) in NSW or in any other state.

We are concerned that it is possible that nuclear waste could be transported through the 27 towns of the Blue Mountains. The Great Western Highway is the main road through the Mountains, providing a thoroughfare for locals and interstate traffic. It is at times narrow and windy. There is no way that any government can ensure safety from a nuclear accident and from nuclear contamination in the transportation process. People have a right to live safely and a responsibility to act safely in the long term interests of communities and the environment. Blue Mountains people have been committed to a nuclear free city since 1982 due to concerns about this safety. We understand that there is no legal requirement to inform Blue Mountains City Council if waste will be transported, despite it going against formal policy and community concerns. We do not believe that the Federal Government should have the right to impose transportation on our community, or on any other community.

Indigenous Australians, and most specifically the Kupa Piti Kunga Tjuta have made clear that they are totally opposed to a nuclear waste dump being built on their lands. Two members recently won the International Goldman Environmental Award for their efforts. As one of these women came though the Mountains to collect her prize, she commented "those trucks will never be able to get over these Blue Hills without falling over". Let this not be a premonition of risk!

We believe that this is a complex issue with long term implications for community safety. The community has a right to be fully and truthfully informed about current and future plans, to be given the opportunity to oppose any plans and to be properly consulted and listened to.

Yours faithfully,

Greg Bull,

Greg Bull,
Chairperson, Mountains Community Resource Network.

July 29th, 2003

Network projects:

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