

# GUNDAGAI SHIRE COUNCIL

Submission  
No 216

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO:  
THE GENERAL MANAGER

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COUNCIL REF: R9/1

YOUR REF: LMP:gp

24 July, 2003

The Committee Manager  
Joint Select Committee on the  
Transportation and Storage of Nuclear Waste,  
Parliament House,  
Macquarie Street,  
SYDNEY. N.S.W. 2000

Dear Sir,

**Re:Submission re: Transportation through Gundagai Shire Area.**

Reference is made to your letter of 10 July 2003. Council wishes to address item b) health and safety risks associated with the transportation and storage of nuclear waste in New South Wales.

Under the terms of reference. The concerns are related to road crashes, tourism and the servicing of the Transport Industry.

The submission is attached

Yours Faithfully,

G.A.J. Tickner  
General Manager.

## **Gundagai Shire Council**

### **Submission to the**

### **Joint Select Committee on the Transportation and Storage of Nuclear Waste**

#### **Road Crashes**

Gundagai operates a State Emergency Service Primary Rescue Unit which is required to respond to road crash rescue incidents. Most of these incidents occur on the Hume Highway. The members of this Unit are volunteers equipped by the SES and the community of Gundagai. Training is conducted in the volunteers' own time. It is envisaged that additional training and equipment would be required to ensure that the Unit is capable of safely attending a possible incident involving one of these transports. This training and equipment must not impose a cost on the community of Gundagai.

Undoubtedly there would be Specialist Units based in the Capital Cities but our local Unit would be first response charged with the responsibility of preserving life.

#### **Tourism.**

Tourism, overnight accommodation and provision of services for the travelling public are vital parts of the Gundagai economy. Tourism preferences are dependent upon the vagaries of public perception. Any diminution of public confidence or utilisation of Gundagai's facilities is of significant concern.

How do you propose to address the adverse public reaction from some quarters and ensure that this does not have a lasting effect to communities along the route?

#### **Transport Industry**

Gundagai being adjacent to the Hume Highway is an important centre for the Transport Industry. Provisions for fuelling, servicing and repairing of heavy vehicles is at this stage not a major but nevertheless significant industry in the area. Should the Nuclear waste transports require the use of these services then safeguards must be provided to ensure that there are no reductions in the amenity of the services for the general Transport Industry

#### **Sheahan Bridge**

This is the major crossing of the Murrumbidgee River on the Hume Highway and is the only heavy transport suitable facility between Canberra and Wagga Wagga. A breakdown or other incident on this bridge will bring Highway transport to a stop. Such incidents involving dangerous goods have occurred in the past. Speedy rectification of this type of incident is essential. You must have Specialists Units available and readily dispatched at short notice.