



BOB DEBUS MP
MEMBER FOR BLUE MOUNTAINS

24 JUL 2003

The Hon Peter Primrose MLC
Chair, Joint Select Committee on the Transportation of Nuclear Waste.
Parliament House
Sydney NSW 2000

Dear Mr Primrose,

Re: Impact of Commonwealth plans for transport of nuclear waste on the electorate of the Blue Mountains

I write to express my opposition to the pending transportation of nuclear waste by the Federal Government through the Blue Mountains.

I am aware that the Federal Science Minister, Peter McGauran MP, told the Federal Parliament on 10 February 2003 that up to 130 trucks carrying nuclear waste will be dispatched from the Federal Government's Lucas Heights reactor in Sydney through western NSW.

The impending decision by the Federal Government to truck nuclear waste through a sensitive world heritage environment is of serious concern for families in the Blue Mountains electorate. I have previously made a commitment to constituents in my electorate to campaign against this poorly conceived proposal - and I reiterate my willingness to undertake such a campaign.

It is doubly frustrating that this proposal arises in the context of the Commonwealth's failure to engage in a debate with the community about their plans to manage waste produced by the proposed 2nd reactor for the Lucas Heights facility. The decision to proceed with the construction of a second reactor without any clear or agreed plan for the management of radioactive waste is a source of great concern to me.

I further understand that Minister McGauran has refused to rule out the possibility that a medium level nuclear waste dump will be located in NSW. It seems obvious that if NSW is to carry the burden of hosting Australia's only nuclear reactor on behalf of the Commonwealth, we should not also be burdened with their nuclear waste dump.

In concluding, I remind the Committee of the work undertaken by this Government to ensure that the Blue Mountains World Heritage Area remains a pristine area for the conservation of wildlife and the enjoyment of our general population. That commitment should not be undermined by the short sighted plans of the Commonwealth.

Yours sincerely



Bob Debus