

## Blue Mountains Community Interagency

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

29 July 2003.

To the Committee Manager:

**This submission is from the Blue Mountains Community Interagency.** This Interagency comprises over 70 services/organisations in the Blue Mountains west of Sydney and includes the following individual services: Neighbourhood Centres, Family Supports, Community Development projects, Youth, Disability, Migrant, Children's and Child Protection, Community Housing, Employment and staff from Blue Mountains City Council (BMCC). These services/organisations represent the interests of thousands of people in the Blue Mountains LGA.

We thank you for the opportunity for making this submission and it is our hope that the concerns we raise are seriously considered by the Joint Select Committee and acted upon.  
On behalf of those people and in their interests we make the following comments:

We urge the **NSW Government to enact legislation** and/or undertake necessary actions to

- STOP the Federal Government building a new reactor at Lucas Heights
- transporting nuclear waste through ANY towns and cities on local roads and highways
- building a new waste dump for any level of waste (low, medium, high) ANYWHERE

We urge the **NSW government to lead the way in medical isotope production** by: purchasing from the glut on the world market, mainly from Canada; proposing that safer and less costly forms of isotopes can be made from non-nuclear sources – NSW could become a **LEADER** in this production and we wouldn't need a new reactor costing over \$500 million.

In particular, we are concerned that it is possible that **nuclear waste could be transported through 27 towns in the Blue Mountains** - a local road and major highway west - a **World Heritage Area** with many special fauna and flora species; a \*cold climate and intrepid highway (despite the upgrades) where the potential for accidents is high and the potential for accidents increases with \*speed (\*Federal Government EIS 2003 Chapter 7), which passes through residential areas close to homes, schools and businesses; which is a major tourist area.

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.

We believe that there should be **“cradle to grave”** attitudes and actions regarding nuclear production ie from mining it, to manufacturing and to waste – storage, transportation and waste disposal. The actions and decisions we undertake now have impacts on current peoples and future generations. **THERE IS NO WAY ANY GOVERNMENT OR COMPANY CAN ENSURE SAFETY FROM NUCLEAR ACCIDENT AND FROM NUCLEAR CONTAMINATION. PEOPLE HAVE A RIGHT TO LIVE SAFELY AND A RESPONSIBILITY TO ACT SAFELY IN THE INTERESTS OF COMMUNITIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT.** There is no insurance payable on nuclear accidents and damage.

**Blue Mountains City Council (BMCC)** first became a **Nuclear Free Zone** in 1982. It has in the recent past reaffirmed its opposition to the transportation of Nuclear Waste through the Blue Mountains. There is no legal requirement to inform BMCC if waste will be transported and this goes against formal policy and community concerns.

**We do not believe that there are ADEQUATE plans in place should a transport accident occur in the Mountains. THIS IS NOT ACCEPTABLE. A plan needs to have people willing and able to implement it.**

**Indigenous Australians (Kupa Piti Kunga Tjuta)** have campaigned against a nuclear waste dump being built on their lands. Two members recently won International Goldman Environmental Awards for their efforts. **WE, AS GOVERNMENT AND THE PUBLIC NEED TO LISTEN AND ACT ON THEIR WISDOM AND GRAVE CONCERNS (see attachment)**

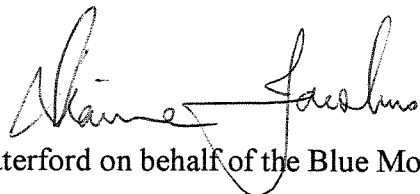
BLUE MOUNTAINS RESIDENTS WERE NOT GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK AT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT CONSULTATIONS FOR THE RECENT EIS (as were residents of Dubbo, Broken Hill, Mildura and Port Augusta)

The Community Interagency requests that a hearing take place in the Blue Mountains where residents can voice their concerns.

**Again, we reiterate our grave concerns as contained in this submission and urge the NSW Government to stand up for the people and environment of NSW by saying**

**NO TO A NEW REACTOR  
NO TO TRANSPORTAION THROUGH NSW TOWNS  
NO TO A WASTE DUMP FOR NUCLEAR WASTE IN NSW**

Yours Sincerely,



Dianne Jacobus / Mary Waterford on behalf of the Blue Mountains Community Interagency

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Blue Mountains Community Interagency is a regular Forum attended by representatives from Neighbourhood Centres, Family Support services, Community Development projects, Youth services, Disability services, Migrant services, Children's and Child Protection services, Community Housing and staff from Blue Mountains City Council, and government agencies. It is convened by the Mountains Community Resource Network.

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# irati wanti

## THE POISON - LEAVE IT

We are the Aboriginal women Yankunytjatjara, Antikarinya and Kokatha.

We know the country.

The poison the Government is talking about will poison the land.

We say "NO radioactive dump in our ngura - in our country."

Its strictly poison we don't want it.

We were born on the earth, not in the hospital. We were born in the sand. Mother never put us in the water and washed us when we were born straight out. They dried us with the sand. Then they put us, newborn baby, fireside, no blankets, they put us in the warm sand. And after that, when the cord comes off, they put us through the smoke. We really know the land. From a baby we grow up on the land. Never mind our country is the desert, that's where we belong. And we love where we belong, the whole land. We know the stories for the land. The Seven Sisters travelled right across, in the beginning. They formed the land. Its very important Tjukur the Law, the Dreaming that must not be disturbed. The Seven Sisters are everywhere. We can give the evidence for what we say; we can show you the dance of the Seven Sisters.

Listen to us! The desert lands are not as dry as you think! Can't the Government plainly see there is water here? Nothing can live without water. There's a big underground river underneath. We know the poison from the radioactive dump will go down under the ground and leak into the water. We drink from this water. Only the Government and people like that have tanks. The animals drink from this water malu kangaroo, kalaya emu, porcupine, ngintaka perentie, goanna and all the others. We eat these animals, that's our meat. We're worried that any of these animals will become poisoned and we'll become poisoned in our turn.

Everywhere there is underground water. We know that. It doesn't matter what station you make the dump on or near. They've all got wells. The sheep and cattle have to drink from the bores. Of course they'll get poisoned in their turn. Can't the pastoralists see that plainly?

The poison the Government is talking about is from Sydney. We say send it back to Sydney. We don't want it! Are they trying to kill us? We're a human being. We're not an animal. We're not a dog. In the old days the white man used to put a poison in the meat, throw them to feed the dogs and they got poisoned, straight out and then they died. Now they want to put the poison in the ground. We want our life.

All of us were living when the Government used the country for the Bomb. Some were living at Twelve Mile, just out of Coober Pedy. The smoke was funny and everything looked hazy. Everybody got sick. Other people were at Mabel Creek and many people got sick. Some people were living at Wallatina. Other people got moved away. Whitefellas and all got sick. When we were young, no woman got breast cancer or any other kind of cancer. Cancer was unheard of with men either. And no asthma, we were people without sickness.

The Government thought they knew what they were doing then. Now, again they are coming along and telling us poor blackfellas "Oh, there's nothing that's going to happen, nothing is going to kill you." And that will still happen like that bomb over there.

And we're worrying for our kids. We've got a lot of kids growing up on the country and still coming more, grandchildren and great grandchildren. They have to have their life.

We've been fighting this radioactive waste, this poison, for more many years. Arguing about it, talking to people, asking people to help us. They might help us, but they'll really be helping themselves. Whitefellas have got kids too, we all have to live in the country.

And then, we really couldn't believe it when we heard them talking about sending the rubbish from all other countries as well! They must really want to kill us! We can't believe it! How can you live like that? They're really aiming to wipe the country out, not just us but all living things in the whole earth!

It's from our grandmothers and our grandfathers that we've learned about the land. This learning isn't written on paper as whitefellas knowledge is. We carry it instead in our heads and we're talking from our hearts, for the land. You fellas, whitefellas, put us in the back all the time, like we've got no language for the land. But we've got the story for the land.

Listen to us!

Makinti: X Ivy Stewart  
Kampukuta + Eileen Brown's mark m.m.  
Kowing: U C J W I L T O N  
Mun-  
yungka: Dianne Edwards  
+ Emily Austin  
+ Angelina Wonga's mark m.m.  
Tjunta: Peggy Cullinan's mark m.m.

Ivy Makinti Stewart, Eileen Kampukuta Brown, Lucy Kowing Wilton, Dianne Edwards, Emily Munyungka Austin, Angelina Wonga, Peggy Cullinan.  
for the Kupa Piti Kungka Tjuta

FOR MORE INFO CHECK OUT [www.iratiwanti.org](http://www.iratiwanti.org)

