



28 July 2003

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

“You would have to be joking!”

We are the union covering environmental health officers and other professional staff involved in development control and employed by New South Wales local government. We have members employed by 172 councils in New South Wales – all with general responsibilities to ensure a safe natural and built environment for the people of the state.

Additionally, of course, those members are also citizens who are affected generally by the transportation and storage of nuclear waste. On their behalf we can confidently assert that none of them want nuclear waste driven down their streets, through their neighbourhoods or their cities. Members of ours work and live in all local government areas that would part of either of the two usual routes from Lucas Heights to South Africa.

We have members concerned about this in western Sydney, Lithgow, Bathurst, Orange, Dubbo and Broken Hill.

We have members living and working on any alternative route through Wagga Wagga, Narrandera and Hay.

On their behalf, and that of their families, we oppose the transport of nuclear waste in this way.

“Not in my backyard” underestimates the hostility of the community to this concept. We prefer...

Not in my city,
not in my state and
not in my nation.

We appreciate that this is a technology created for variety of energy uses but created without any requirement that the waste produced by the process be safely stored or processed into an inert waste material. It will always be a problem. It is incapable of being safely stored over the long term.

And if it is incapable of being safely stored then it is also equally incapable of being safely transported to storage facilities. There must be alternatives found for storage of this waste to eliminate the need for it to be transported.

Alternatives also need to be explored to ensure that transporting this waste is done in the safest manner possible. We don't believe that trucks driving over public roads and through vibrant, living communities satisfies this consideration.

We endorse and support the submissions to the Inquiry by

Greenpeace
PANR
Friends of the Earth
Australian Conservation Foundation.

I am also a Director on the Local Government Superannuation Scheme. As part of a process of better managing investment risk in our international and Australian equities portfolios the LGSS has resolved to screen all investments for sustainability. Investments in the nuclear industry are screened out for continuing investment purposes.

The LGSS doesn't want anything to do with an industry that creates a waste that remains toxic and lethal for centuries.

Yours etc

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ian Robertson', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Ian Robertson
Secretary