



Blue Mountains Conservation Society Inc

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Nature Conservation Saves for Tomorrow

July 29, 2003

The Committee Manager

Joint Select Committee on the Transportation and Storage of Nuclear Waste

Parliament House

Macquarie St

Sydney NSW 2000

Public Submission on the Transportation and Storage of Nuclear Waste

The Blue Mountains Conservation Society is deeply concerned about the Federal Government's nuclear waste plan and its potential impact on the local environment.

The Society is strongly opposed to the transportation of nuclear waste through areas of sensitive vegetation such as the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area.

Given the long history of trucks overturning on the highways of the Blue Mountains, accidental spillage of nuclear waste is a real possibility.

Transportation of nuclear waste through the Blue Mountains exposes residents and unique ecosystems to the risk of radioactive contamination. An accident will threaten water systems, habitat and world heritage biodiversity.

Because the Federal Government does not acknowledge any obligation to inform local communities when nuclear waste is being transported through their area, the preparedness of emergency services to respond in the event of an accident is seriously compromised.

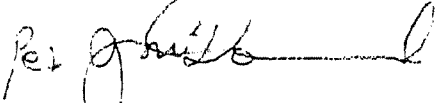
The NSW Fire Brigades Employees Union has stated its opposition to the transportation of nuclear waste. Fire Brigade employees are not trained to deal with a nuclear waste spill and do not have an adequate disaster response plan in place.

If Fire Brigade employees are not prepared to deal with an accidental spill, the community cannot expect untrained volunteers to risk their lives dealing with an emergency on our highways.

The Blue Mountains Conservation Society supports the Blue Mountains City Council in its opposition to the transportation of nuclear waste through the Blue Mountains.

The Society welcomes this opportunity to have a say on this important issue and urges the Committee to reject any plans for the transport of radioactive waste through the Blue Mountains community.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kevin Bell', written over a horizontal line.

Kevin Bell
President