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To: <ian.thackeray@parliament.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 8/08/2003 6:16 PM
Subject: Submission to Joint select Committee into the transportation and storage of Nuclear Waste

Dear Mr Thackeray

Would you please accept this late submission to the Joint Select Committee. I am aware that Sutherland Shire Council has made a preliminary Submission and will follow up with a more detailed submission.

I am making this submission myself to emphasise that there are alternative technologies that would produce the major part of the radioisotopes required in Australia for Nuclear Medicine, without the need for Reactor produced Nuclear Waste. The alternative Accelerator Technology only produces a small amount of radioactive waste and is far cheaper than the use of a Nuclear Reactor.

Council commissioned a report from Gregory Morris and Robert Budnitz of Future Resources Associates, Inc from Berkley in the United States. This report dated 7th June 2001 is comprehensive and covered our needs in Australia. A copy of this report will be made available to the Joint Select Committee.

I am not suggesting that the Committee revisit the question of the need for a Nuclear Reactor. That is a wider question already covered by number of inquiries. However your terms of reference go to the sourcing of Nuclear Waste. I would therefore submit that you should be aware of and take into account any technologies that would result in a significant reduction in the production of Nuclear Waste.

This would be particularly important given that the Federal Government has:

1. Said that it will not establish the store for Intermediate level waste (Spent Fuel Rods) in South Australia along with the low level radioactive waste store in that State.
2. Stated that it will remove the Nuclear Waste from the Lucas Heights facility.

This would mean that NSW is in line for the proposed store for the spent fuel rods and the NSW Government should be taking a strong stand on this issue as has already been taken by the South Australian and Western Australian Governments.

There have been a number of accidents at ANSTO over the years in handling and storing Nuclear Waste . Therefore it is important for the community that I represent that any available alternate technology that would see a reduction in the production of and subsequent transportation of Nuclear Waste should be taken seriously.

We are talking about Nuclear Waste with a short half life of over 200,000 years. This creates an intergenerational equity issue that future generations will not thank us for.

I would be happy to make a more detailed submission which I believe will fit in with Councils Final Submission.

Yours Faithfully
Councillor Ken McDonell
Sutherland Shire Council

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