

ORANGE
Australia's Colour City
COUNCILLORS
SUITE

019.20.00

e:\kjg\correspondence\letters\03-july.doc

17 July 2003

Mr Ian Thackeray
Committee Manager
Joint Select Committee on the Transportation and Storage of Nuclear Waste
Parliament House
Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Mr Thackeray

I refer to your call for submissions on the transportation and storage of nuclear waste and submit the following on behalf of Orange City Council.

It is understood the Federal Government intends to authorise the transportation of nuclear waste through the Central West via the main highways. Orange City Council is totally opposed to the transportation of nuclear waste through Orange and the NSW Central West.

Radioactive waste poses a serious threat to human life and the environment. There has been no consultation with local communities and this proposal has the potential to isolate and contaminate substantial areas should an incident occur.

The Mitchell Highway passes directly through the main street and CBD of Orange and the safe transport of radioactive waste cannot be guaranteed. There have been serious incidents involving large trucks in the main street of Orange in the past. A serious incident involving radioactive waste would be disastrous.

Like most areas along the highway, the region around Orange has diverse and productive agricultural enterprises as well as dense populations within the urban area. Of particular concern is the fact that this route passes over several tributaries that flow into the local water supply and form part of the larger Macquarie River catchment. If this were contaminated it would be devastating. The chance of any contamination to human life, agriculture or the environment cannot be tolerated.

It has been stated the majority of nuclear waste will be from hospitals. However, it has also been indicated 130 semi-trailer loads of material will come from Lucas Heights and that this will increase when the reactor is decommissioned and a new one established. The existing Lucas Heights has been a de-facto storage area and should continue to be so as they have expertise to monitor the waste and an appropriate emergency service response is close at hand.

Emergency services in regional NSW are not equipped to deal with radioactive material. NSW Fire Brigades are equipped to deal with Hazmat incidents but not radioactive material. All that could be done should an incident occur would be to isolate and monitor from a distance thus allowing any contamination to continue. The

ORANGE CITY COUNCIL

PO Box 35, Orange NSW 2800 Civic Centre, Byng Street Orange NSW Australia

Telephone 1300 650 511 Fax 02 6393 8199

email: council@orange.nsw.gov.au www.orange.nsw.gov.au

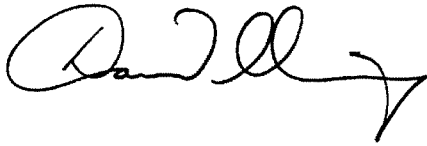
Joint Select Committee on the Transportation and Storage of Nuclear Waste
17 July 2003

only response unit for this type of incident is in the Sydney metropolitan area, four hours by road from Orange.

The Federal Government must stand back and reassess this important issue and in particular liaise with local communities which have major concerns that have not yet been addressed. To date there has been no consultation with local communities.

I reiterate Orange City Council is totally opposed to the transportation of nuclear waste through this region.

Yours sincerely



David Shearing
COUNCILLOR

ces