



POLICE ASSOCIATION OF NEW SOUTH WALES

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30th July, 2003.

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

SUBMISSION BY POLICE ASSOCIATION OF NEW SOUTH WALES TO THE JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE TRANSPORTATION AND STORAGE OF NUCLEAR WASTE.

Since 1998 members of the Police Association of New South Wales has been involved in the movement of Nuclear Waste on three (3) occasions from Lucas Heights to Port Botany.

The transportation in 1998 involved our members and we are unaware of any safety briefings being provided to Police on that occasion. There are clear demarcation lines regarding roles and functions to be adhered to by all involved unions. These demarcation lines must be strictly adhered to in order that no union members safety is placed at risk. Those demarcation lines have evolved since 1998 in an appropriate manner in our view.

With the transportation of nuclear waste on the 25th November 1999 and 29th January 2001, the Police Association of NSW were heavily involved in the planning, briefing and debriefing stages. Two staff, John Cumberland, O.H.&S Co-ordinator and Bob Morgan, Organiser were provided with full safety briefings and assistance on any issue on each occasion by ANSTO staff at Lucas Heights. Our members were provided with desired briefings including safety.

Each operation passed off in a satisfactory manner with the exception on the last occasion when a Water Police officer received minor injuries whilst extricating a protestor who was in the direct path of the transporting ship, which was underway. The action taken by our member prevented the protestor from being seriously injured or killed.

The last operation (29/01/01) saw approximately 120 Police involved, from Local Area Commands, Traffic Management, Rescue and Bomb Disposal Unit, Water Police, Dog Unit and Communication staff, together with their appropriate vehicles, boats and equipment.

Staffing this type of operation is very demanding due to the flexibility required for all involved parties. The planning process must allow for maximum flexibility in order that all possible contingencies that effect the operation are taken into account. This flexibility therefore causes significant levels of police resources to be available for the safe conduct of the operation.

ISSUES FOR FUTURE STORAGE OF NUCLEAR WASTE.

The Lucas Heights facility is situated within the Sutherland Local Area Command, Inner Metropolitan Region. Police have contingency plans relating to the current storage of nuclear waste on site and liaise with ANSTO staff on a regular basis to review all plans for the site. There appears to be no outstanding issue with any liaison and information being provided to Police.

ISSUES FOR FUTURE TRANSPORTATION OF NUCLEAR WASTE

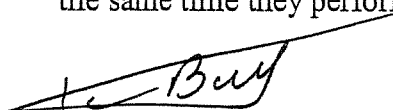
Police participate in this type of operation in accordance with their statutory responsibilities.

Issues to be considered in the future are:

- Staffing numbers and length of shift times for Police
- Safety briefings and compliance with all standards concerning nuclear waste
- Operations planning, briefings and debriefs,
- Logistical issues, including types of uniform, police vehicles, meals, amenities, radios, torches, and communications.
- There are a number of other operational Policing issues to be considered internal of the New South Wales Police.

The Police Association of New South Wales must be involved in any future movement of nuclear waste as we provide a vital liaison role with all other unions involved prior to, during and following the operation. This liaison has proven successful in the last two operations as evidenced by the positive results achieved by all those with an interest in the operation.

This association has a clear moral and legislative responsibility to ensure our members occupational health and safety and industrial rights are maintained whilst at the same time they perform their duties as required by law.

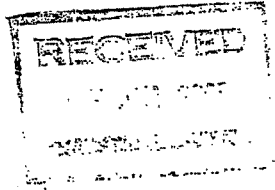


Ian Ball
President
Police Association of NSW

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By facsimile
Number of pages (inclusive): 3

9 July 2003

CIRCULAR TO: ALL AFFILIATES

The Secretary

RE: Joint Select Committee into the Transportation and Storage of Nuclear Waste

Dear Colleague,

Please find attached a copy of documentation regarding the appointment of a Joint Select Committee on the Transportation and Storage of Nuclear Waste. The closing date for submissions is the 31st July 2003.

Should you wish to discuss this matter further please do not hesitate to contact me at the Labor Council on (02) 9286 1631.

Yours fraternally

Mark Morey
RESEARCH DIRECTOR

*copy to
organiser
for comment*

