



Holroyd City

Built Around People

Submission
No 204

Holroyd City Council

www.holroyd.nsw.gov.au

The Gateway to Western Sydney

Environmental & Planning Services

Our Reference:

Contact:

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Robert Brimble

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24 July 2003

The Committee Manager
Joint Select Committee on the Transport and Storage of Nuclear Waste
Parliament House
Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Sir or Madam,

PUBLIC SUBMISSION ON THE TRANSPORTATION AND STORAGE OF NUCLEAR WASTE

Holroyd City Council wishes to state its total opposition to the Commonwealth Government's proposal to transport nuclear waste through the highly populated Sydney metropolitan area and regional centres of New South Wales and to potentially store nuclear waste within New South Wales.

Council has received advice from the Joint Select Committee's Manager, Mr Ian Thackeray, that the proposed two road routes within NSW will traverse the Holroyd local government area.

It is understood that the preferred route for radioactive waste from the Lucas Heights reactor to the national nuclear waste dump at Woomera is along the Great Western Highway. In the Sydney metropolitan area this highway passes through many densely populated areas including, in the Holroyd local government area, Mays Hill, Wentworthville, Pendle Hill, Greystanes and Girraween. However, Council's concern in this regard is not restricted to its own locality or the Sydney region but extends to residents of other towns and cities along the transport corridor including Katoomba, Bathurst, Orange, Dubbo and Broken Hill.

It has been reported that during the first year alone there will be 130 semi-trailers of waste transported from the Lucas Heights reactor and that this will be followed by a further 250 truckloads from the existing reactor sometime after it is closed and decommissioned in 2006.

It is only natural that the transportation of nuclear waste will increase the risk of radioactive contamination due to the variable and unpredictable nature of road transport. Council understands that the Commonwealth Government has no obligation or intention to inform local governments, residents or emergency services of any plan to transport nuclear waste through its area. Because of this Holroyd City Council is gravely concerned about the resultant lack of preparedness of emergency services to respond in the event of an accident. This concern extends to emergency services personnel who may be placed in the position of unwittingly being exposed to radioactive materials without adequate protection. Council has learnt from the NSW Fire Brigade Employees Union that their members have no equipment or training in dealing with an accident involving a radiological release and as such would not be able to take action even if they were called to such an accident.

All Communication to be addressed to

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The current proposal is to transport low-level radioactive waste to a national radioactive waste repository and store at Woomera. However, Council has learnt that the Commonwealth Government has no plan for the long-term management of medium and highly radioactive waste. In addressing this situation the Commonwealth Government is reported to be examining areas in New South Wales particularly the region around Broken Hill and Silverton. The prospect of transporting medium and highly radioactive waste through the highly populated Sydney metropolitan area and through regional centres should not be contemplated.

Holroyd City Council therefore appeals to the Committee to take notice of community concerns and to totally oppose any plans for the transport of radioactive waste through metropolitan Sydney and the dumping of radioactive waste in New South Wales.

Yours faithfully,

D. Trezise
GENERAL MANAGER

Per:
MANAGER ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH