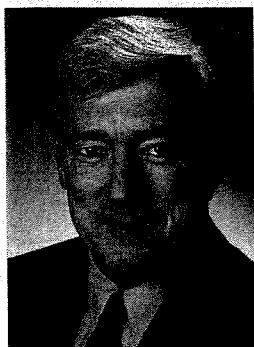




23 July 2003

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



Peter Andren M.P.
Federal Member for Calare

Dear Mr Thackeray,

RE: TRANSPORTATION & STORAGE OF NUCLEAR WASTE

In this brief submission to the *Joint Select Committee on the Transportation and Storage of Nuclear Waste*, I wish to bring to the Committee's attention the concerns of many people in Central Western NSW, in regard to the proposed route for the transport of nuclear waste from Lucas Heights to Woomera, SA.

As Federal Member for Calare, I am aware, through representations made to me by my constituents, of a high level of public concern about the health, safety and environmental risks that would arise from accidents involving the transport of nuclear waste on road.

The seat of Calare includes the regional centres of Lithgow, Bathurst, Orange and Cowra. The most favoured route for the road transport of the nuclear waste from Lucas Heights to Woomera takes it over the Blue Mountains, through to Bathurst and Orange on the Great Western Highway, Molong to Nyngan on the Mitchell Highway, via Wellington and Dubbo, and then Nyngan to Woomera via Broken Hill, Peterborough and Port Augusta. This route traverses a large part of the Calare electorate, including major centres, smaller towns and villages.

I have received correspondence from local councils, interest groups and constituents about the potential for contamination that would result from accidents involving the vehicles transporting the waste. Their concerns, and indeed fears, remain despite the Science Minister's view that road transport is the safest option due to the fact that the waste will be securely contained and in "40 years of transportation or radioactive material ... there has not been an accident that has posed a threat to the environment or life."ⁱ

In its draft environmental impact statement for the national repository project, the Department of Science, Education and Training found air transport impractical for the volume of waste in the initial shipment, and more expensive than road transport, but still a suitable option in regard to safety (*Table 7.2*).ⁱⁱ Air transport was also supported for the transportation of nuclear waste in the report of the *Senate Select Committee on the Dangers of Radioactive Waste*, "No Time to Waste", tabled in April 1996.ⁱⁱⁱ

Please address
correspondence to:

P.O. Box 181
BATHURST NSW 2795
(Suite 2, The Reliance Centre
203-209 Russell Street)
Tel: (02) 6332 6229
Fax: (02) 6332 6240
Toll Free 1300 301 762

Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600
Tel: (02) 6277 2341
Fax: (02) 6277 8471

60 Main Street,
LITHGOW NSW 2790
Ph/Fax: (02) 6351 3838

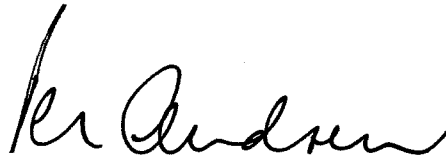
email:
Peter.Andren.MP@aph.gov.au
Website:
www.peterandren.com

For this reason, I support the removal of our nuclear waste by air, from the numerous locations around the country where it is currently stored, to Woomera. It is considered as safe as road or rail, and has been precluded only due to the impracticality of added handling and increased cost. It is also likely that air transport will have to be used to move waste from storage locations in Tasmania – which raises the question: if it can be done from Tasmania, why not from other locations in Australia?

For the sake of community peace of mind, additional handling and extra cost is a small price to pay when dealing with nuclear waste.

I have also enclosed copies of my press releases, the Hansard text of my question to the Minister for Science on this issue and correspondence with local councils to provide the Committee with some idea of the scope of debate in my electorate.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter Andren', written in a cursive style.

PETER ANDREN
Federal Member for Calare

ⁱ *Hansard*, (No. 2, 2003), 10 February 2003, p 11,250.

ⁱⁱ *Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the National Repository Project – Part Report*, (www.detva.gov.au/radwaste/DraftEIS/parts.htm), 26 July 2002, Part B – Chapter 7, Table 7.2, p 130.

ⁱⁱⁱ *“No Time to Waste”*, report of the Senate Select Committee on the Dangers of Radioactive Waste, April 1996, Chapter 5 – 5.15, p 85.

Nuclear Waste: Transport

Mr ANDREN (2.43 p.m.) —My question is directed to the Minister for Science. Minister, if you are aware of concerns going back several years from councils in my electorate about the proposed road transport of nuclear waste from Lucas Heights through the Blue Mountains and central west of New South Wales to a planned repository in Woomera, why are you insisting on road transport for such large amounts of this waste, given the risk of accident and sabotage, when the draft EIS suggests that, while more expensive than road, air transport offers a suitable and, dare I say, safer option?

The SPEAKER —I remind the member for Calare, as I remind the Leader of the Opposition, of his obligation to address his question through the chair.

Mr Sawford —Keep your nuclear waste in your own state!

The SPEAKER —Does the member for Port Adelaide have some authority that allows him to not only shout across the chamber but interrupt the chair? I remind the member for Calare, as I have reminded other members, of his obligation to address his remarks through the chair. I am happy to raise the matter with him at the conclusion of question time if my intervention is a mystery to him, but the use of the word 'you' is generally inappropriate.

Mr McGAURAN —I am very glad to receive the honourable member's question. The final environmental impact statement has examined the transport options, and I am advised that transport by road was found to be the safest option for a number of reasons. The first and most important reason is the form and nature of that transportation. Low-level waste will consist of inert solids—the waste is produced in the form of solids—so there is no dust, there is no liquid and there is no possibility of spillage. That solid waste is surrounded by concrete and contained in steel drums, which are packed securely inside six-metre long steel shipping containers. There is no possibility of a spillage into waterways or along the transport route during transportation. Containers are designed to remain intact in the event of an accident. Also, some 30,000 packages of radioactive material are transported throughout Australia each year, in accordance with strict, internationally accepted guidelines, without mishap. In 40 years of transportation of radioactive material—the vast bulk of it by way of nuclear medicine requirements—there has not been an accident which has posed a threat to the environment or to life.

Mr Sawford —You transported 3,000—

The SPEAKER —Order! The member for Port Adelaide!

Mr McGAURAN —The other thing to take into account is that, during the first disposal—which is expected to be in 2004—some 130 truckloads of waste will be moved from the Lucas Heights facility in Sydney to the repository. I believe it will be in Woomera, but we are still awaiting the Minister for the Environment and Heritage's final determination. That will be done over a period of a month, and it is not going to be a long convoy. Another 40 trucks will move waste stored throughout Australia. That will be a one-off disposal to clear the backlog of 40 years of accumulated low-level waste. There is a need for only 170 trucks.

Mr Sawford —Tell us what the defence department—

The SPEAKER —I warn the member for Port Adelaide!

Mr McGAURAN —Then, every two to five years, the repository will be opened to accept waste. It will be a relatively small amount—40 cubic metres per year, of which 30 cubic metres is produced by ANSTO at Lucas Heights. So you are talking about a handful of semitrailers once the backlog is cleared. In the unlikely event of a serious accident, all states have emergency responses in place to deal with potential radiological incidents. In addition, the Commonwealth would be in a position to provide assistance on request from the states. The short answer to the honourable member's question is that transport of radioactive waste to the repository will be undertaken in a responsible manner, with no contamination risk to the public.



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29 January 2003

United Effort Needed on Nuclear Waste Route – Andren

All Government representatives, Local, State and Federal, must work together to change the proposal to transport nuclear waste via road from Lucas Heights, through the Central West, to Woomera, according to Peter Andren, Member for Calare.

“The plan to transport radioactive waste on trucks through central western NSW is of grave concern to many people in this region, regardless of how low the level of radioactivity is,” Mr Andren said.

“3700 cubic metres of nuclear waste is to be moved to Woomera from around Australia – 1320 cubic metres of which is at Lucas Heights and will be transported through the our region under the route favoured by the Government.

“Orange City and Lithgow Councils have been outspoken on the issue, but it affects all people and councils along the proposed route.

“Lucas Heights to Woomera in SA by road takes the waste over the mountains through to Bathurst and Orange on the Great Western Highway, Molong to Nyngan on the Mitchell Highway, taking in Wellington and Dubbo, and then Nyngan to Woomera via Broken Hill, Peterborough and Port Augusta.

“This material is travelling through a lot of Council areas, and different State and Federal electorates and it will not be changed unless all representatives get together to lobby the Minister for Science Peter McGauran.

“I have written to all Councils in Calare and to the CENTROC Chairman encouraging them to make a combined approach to the Government.

“I believe that for this initial and substantial movement of our nuclear waste the Government should use air transport as the safest alternative even if it is more expensive.

“The report on the favoured route recognised air transport as a valid option but felt it was not as cost effective or practical as truck transport.

“The report says the reduced handling in road transport compared to road/rail or road/air is an important safety factor.

“However, I still prefer a short road journey to Richmond RAAF base in the dead of night than coming through the mountains with a long way still to go,” he said.

“I hope my colleagues the Coalition Members for Macquarie and Lindsay, Kerry Bartlett and Jackie Kelly will join this community approach, as this radioactive waste will be heading right through their electorates as well.

“Two things are certain about this nuclear waste. It’s Australia’s waste and Australia’s problem and it can’t remain in current storage. It has to be transported and stored as safely as possible and in my opinion air transport, whatever the cost, should be the preferred option,” Mr Andren added.

For more information: 02 6332 6229 or 0419 612 891

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4 February 2003

Science Minister Plays Politics on Nuclear Waste

Science Minister Peter McGuaran's attempt to play politics with the issue of transporting nuclear waste through the Central West is dismissive of the real concerns held by those who live here, according to Peter Andren Member for Calare.

"Mr McGuaran is clouding the issue by accusing me of spreading fear and misinformation about the transportation of nuclear waste which is blatantly false. All the information I have comes from his Department," Mr Andren said.

"The Minister accuses me of 'peddling distortions' and being opposed to the repository. In my last release I stated categorically:

'Two things are certain about this nuclear waste. It's Australia's waste and Australia's problem and it can't remain in current storage. It has to be transported and stored as safely as possible and in my opinion air transport, whatever the cost, should be the preferred option.'

"I do not dispute that radioactive material is transported across the country – I'm sure much of it travels by air as well, hence my view that this waste be transported by air.

"Mr McGuaran misses my point that this initial movement of radioactive material – some 3700 cubic metres – should perhaps be taken to Woomera by means other than road transport because the community are worried about it. It's as simple as that.

"His Department's report states that air transport is a valid and safe option, but not as cost effective or practical as road transport. From this I took the view that to allay community fears, why not spend a bit more.

"The waste could be flown out over the ocean and around the coast, then brought in the most direct route over the land to Woomera.

"I have never disputed the need to store this material in a single, responsibly managed repository, nor have I disputed the use of nuclear material, especially in medicine from which I myself have benefited.

"In light of the Minister's distortion of my statements on this matter, I can only reiterate my belief that the best way to move the initial load of radioactive waste is via air transport," Mr Andren said

"Unlike Mr McGuaran's coalition colleagues, the Members for Macquarie and Lindsay, who have yet to detail any concerns from their electorates, the people of Calare have serious reservations about this stuff coming through," he added.

For more information: 02 6332 6229 or 0419 612 891.

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11 February 2003

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Minister Ignores Community Fears on Nuclear Waste

Science Minister Peter McGauran has effectively ignored the concerns of Central West communities about the transport of radioactive waste by road through their towns and cities in answer to a question in Parliament from Independent Member for Calare, Peter Andren.

Mr Andren asked the Minister that if he was aware of community concerns about transporting the waste by road as expressed through councils within Calare, why was he insisting on trucking the material when air transport is described as a suitable option in the environmental impact study.

“Mr McGauran’s response did not give any further information to the people of Calare as to why this stuff absolutely has to go by road,” Mr Andren said.

“The Minister insisted that the final EIS has found road transport to be the safest option as the solid waste is encased in concrete and contained in steel drums and then packed in steel shipping containers with no spillage risks.

“If this is the case then why not put the contained waste on a RAAF Hercules Transport for the sake of reassuring the public? The draft EIS states that air transport is a suitable option, and if the packaging is so safe any extra handling shouldn’t increase the risk of accident and spillage.

“This is the crux of what I have been saying: an alternative is available and residents don’t want the waste coming through where they live.

“Mr McGauran explained that 30,000 packages of radioactive waste material is transported across Australia each year, with no accidents that have posed a threat to environment or life.

“However we are talking here of 130 truckloads over 12 months to transport all the waste that has stockpiled at Lucas Heights over 40 years.

“I have put a question on notice to the Minister asking for more detail about the annual movement of nuclear waste, including where and how it is being moved and the details of any mishaps that may have occurred.

“The answers should provide more information to residents of the Central West NSW than the Minister was prepared to give yesterday,” Mr Andren said.

“The objections of the Orange, Bathurst and Lithgow councils are loud and clear.

“Bathurst City Council for one first voiced its opposition to any proposed transport of nuclear waste though its council area in December 1999, and its stance has certainly not changed over the last four years,” he added.

EDITORS NOTE: text of question & answer attached.

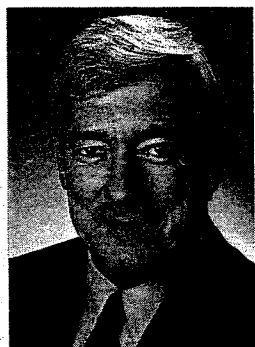
For more information: 02 63 326 229

COPY



29 January 2003

This document was sent to the General Managers of all local councils in the Calare electorate: Blayney Shire, Cabonne Shire, Cowra Shire, Evans Shire, Lithgow City, Orange City, Bathurst City & Oberon Council.



Peter Andren M.P.
Federal Member for Calare

Dear «FirstName»,

RE: TRANSPORT OF NUCLEAR WASTE FROM LUCAS HEIGHTS TO WOOMERA (SA) VIA ROAD THROUGH CENTRAL WEST NSW

I am writing you to in regard to the Federal Government's plan to transport nuclear waste material from the Australian Nuclear Science & Technology Organisation (ANSTO) at Lucas Heights in Sydney through the Central West of NSW to the Repository at Woomera, South Australia.

This proposal has attracted considerable publicity of late and it is an issue of much concern to many people throughout the region. I have said publicly I believe such a large relocation of waste should be done by air.

The preferred route takes the waste from Sydney over the Blue Mountains through to Bathurst and Orange on the Great Western Highway, Molong to Nyngan on the Mitchell Highway taking in Wellington and Dubbo, and then from Nyngan to Woomera via Broken Hill, Peterborough and Port Augusta.

This means that the radioactive waste will be travelling through a significant number of council areas. For this reason, if you have concerns about nuclear waste being transported through your council area, I am urging all councils in Calare to make a combined approach to the Federal Government and Science Minister Peter McGauran voicing these concerns.

The Minister's contact details are: The Hon. Mr Peter McGauran, Minister for Science, Parliament House CANBERRA ACT 2600 (Tel: 6277-7440).

I would expect other councils along the route to detail any concerns they have about this matter, and to approach relevant Federal MPs in the Mountains and further west of Calare.

I have also attached my press release of 29 January 2003 for your further information.

Yours sincerely,

COPY

PETER ANDREN
Federal Member for Calare

Please address correspondence to:

P.O. Box 181
BATHURST NSW 2795
(Suite 2, The Reliance Centre
203-209 Russell Street)
Tel: (02) 6332 6229
Fax: (02) 6332 6240
Toll Free 1300 301 762

Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600
Tel: (02) 6277 2341
Fax: (02) 6277 8471

60 Main Street,
LITHGOW NSW 2790
Ph/Fax: (02) 6351 3838

email:
Peter.Andren.MP@aph.gov.au
Website:
www.peterandren.com

Printed in Calare



**the Council
of the City
of Lithgow**

Nuclear
ADMINISTRATION CENTRE
MORT STREET
LITHGOW NSW 2790
Telephone: (02) 6352 1077
Fax: (02) 6351 4259

Address all correspondence to:
The General Manager
PO Box 19
Lithgow NSW 2790

Mr I F Stewart

IFS:DM
18831:OR/IGR/01

For further information please contact:

In reply please quote:

21 February 2003

Mr Peter Andren
Federal Member for Calare
PO Box 181
BATHURST NSW 2795

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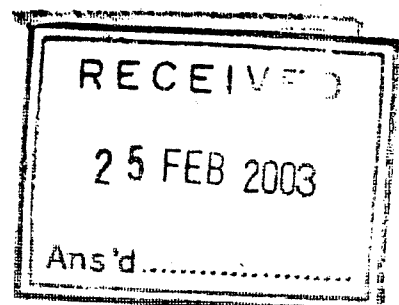
Dear Peter

As you would be aware the Lithgow Local Government Area has been designated a Nuclear Free Zone for many years now and I wish to advise that in response to your correspondence dated 29 January 2003, Council at its most recent meeting has again resolved to oppose any proposal to transport nuclear waste through its local government area. Attached is a copy of Council Minute No. 128 for your information.

Yours sincerely

Mr Iain Stewart
GENERAL MANAGER

CC: The Hon. Mr Peter Mc Gauran, Minister for Science
Friends of the Earth - Australia



ITEM 5 **TRANSPORT OF NUCLEAR WASTE FROM LUCAS HEIGHTS TO WOOMERA VIA ROAD THROUGH CENTRAL WEST NEW SOUTH WALES**
AUTHOR: IAIN STEWART, GENERAL MANAGER
FILE: 18831:OR/IGR/01

RESOLVED

COPY

THAT Council oppose any proposal to transport nuclear waste through the Lithgow City Council area and that Council expresses concerns to Mr. Peter Andren the Federal Minister for Calare and to the Honourable Mr. Pcter McGauran Minister for Science Parliament House Canberra.

MOVED: Councillor M M Collins

SECONDED: Councillor B P Morrissey

CARRIED

128





**the Council
of the City
of Lithgow**

Mr A Muir

ADMINISTRATION CENTRE
MORT STREET
LITHGOW NSW 2790
Telephone: (02) 6352 1077
Fax: (02) 6351 4259

Address all correspondence to:
The General Manager
PO Box 19
Lithgow NSW 2790
14998:OR/1GR/05

For further information please contact:

In reply please quote:

27 December, 2002

The Honourable P Andren MP
Reliance Centre
203-209 Russell Street
BATHURST NSW 2795

COPY

Dear Peter

DRAFT EIS FOR THE NATIONAL REPOSITORY PROJECT

As you are aware the Department of Education, Science and Training's Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the construction of a national near-surface repository for low level and short-lived intermediate level radioactive waste at the Woomera Prohibited Area or either of 2 nearby sites is currently being considered by the Federal Minister for the Environment and Heritage. Of particular interest is the proposal to transport the nuclear waste by road with a possible route passing through the Lithgow Local Government Area (ie via Broken Hill - Sydney to Molong via Katoomba, Bathurst and Orange on the Great Western Highway).

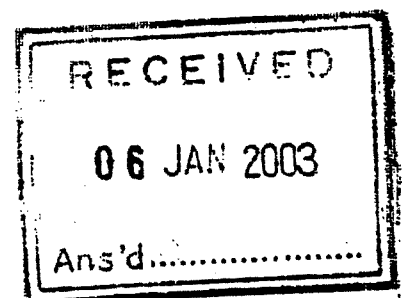
The Lithgow Local Government Area (LGA) has been designated a "Nuclear Free Zone" with signs being erected at the entrances to the LGA. In addition, Council at its meeting of 10 January 2000, resolved in relation to this matter, that "Council join with Blue Mountains City Council in opposing the transportation of nuclear waste through its area".

Council at its meeting of 16 December 2002 resolved to make representations to the Minister for the Environment and Heritage, the Member for Bathurst and yourself to express Council's concerns to the proposed road transport options detailed in the EIS and reiterate Council's opposition to the transport of nuclear waste within the LGA. Any assistance that you could provide in this matter would be appreciated.

Please do not hesitate to contact Mr A Muir in Council's Environmental and Planning Services Division should you require any additional information in relation to this matter.

Yours faithfully

Mr Andrew Muir
ENVIRONMENTAL AND PLANNING SERVICES MANAGER





Bathurst City Council

CIVIC CENTRE

Corner Russell & William Streets
Bathurst New South Wales

Private Mail Bag 17
Bathurst NSW 2795

Telephone 02 6331 1622
Facsimile 02 6331 7211

5 February 2003

Mr P Andren MP
Federal Member for Calare
Post Office Box 181
BATHURST NSW 2795

COPY

Dear Mr Andren

Transport of Nuclear Waste Through Central West New South Wales

Thank you for your letter of 29 January 2003, regarding the above.

Please find attached copies of:

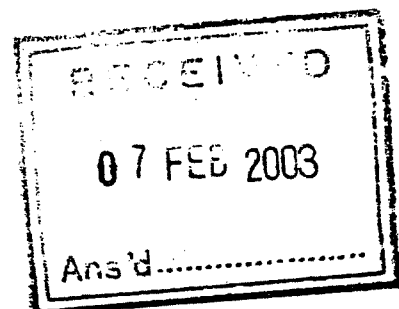
- * Council's previous correspondence regarding this matter.
- * Council's letter to the Hon Nick Minchin, the previous Minister.
- * Reply from the Federal Minister.

As you have suggested, Council has written to the Minister for Science, the Hon Mr Peter McGauran, and a copy of this correspondence is also attached.

Any assistance you can provide regarding this matter would be appreciated.

Yours faithfully


Neil Allen
CITY ENGINEER



Bathurst – All you ever wanted

Reference: NA:KK: 13.00024

Enquiries: Mr Neil Allen 02 6333 6221



Bathurst City Council

CIVIC CENTRE 12
Corner Russell & William Streets
Bathurst New South Wales

Private Mail Bag 17
Bathurst NSW 2795

00/0216

Telephone 02 6331 1622
Facsimile 02 6331 7211

16/2/2000

~~27 October 1999~~

Mr P Andren
Federal Member for Calare
Post Office Box 181
BATHURST NSW 2795

COPY

Dear Mr Andren

Proposed Nuclear Reactor - Lucas Heights

Please find attached a copy of Council's correspondence to the Minister for Industry, Science and Resources, regarding the proposed Nuclear Reactor at Lucas Heights.

Council would be appreciative of any assistance you can give regarding this matter.

Yours faithfully

P Perram
GENERAL MANAGER

16/2
Reference: NA:CB: 13.00024

Enquiries: Mr Neil Allen 02 6333 6221

records



Bathurst City Council

CIVIC CENTRE
Corner Russell & William Streets
Bathurst New South Wales

Private Mail Bag 17
Bathurst NSW 2795

Telephone 02 6331 1622
Facsimile 02 6331 7211

00/02019

Senator Hon N Minchin
Minister for Industry, Science and Resources
c/- Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

7 February 2000

COPY

Dear Mr Minchin

Proposed Nuclear Reactor - Lucas Heights

Council, at its meeting held 15 December 1999, resolved to support representations to appropriate Governments regarding opposition to the transportation of nuclear waste through a number of Council areas between Lucas Heights and Adelaide.

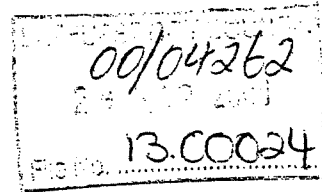
As a City through which the Great Western Highway passes, any decision to transport nuclear by-products west of Sydney will have a direct impact on the well being of the population of Bathurst. This Council is therefore obliged to object to this motion, in the strongest possible terms.

I trust you will heed Council's concerns, and resolve this matter accordingly.

Yours faithfully

P Perram
GENERAL MANAGER

Reference: NA:CB: 13.00024
Enquiries: Mr Neil Allen 02 6333 6221



Office of the
Minister for Industry, Science and Resources
SENATOR THE HON NICK MINCHIN

Mr P Perram
General Manager
Bathurst City Council
Private Mail Bag 17
BATHURST NSW 2795

21 MAR 2000

COPY

Dear Mr Perram

Thank you for your letter of 7 February 2000 to the Minister for Industry, Science and Resources, Senator the Hon Nick Minchin, advising that the Bathurst City Council resolved, at its meeting of 15 December 1999, to express its opposition to the transportation of nuclear waste through Council areas between Lucas Heights and Adelaide.

I can assure you that all transport of radioactive materials within Australia meets the relevant international, Commonwealth and State regulations and requirements. These requirements specify the class of packaging required on the basis of type, form and quantity of the radionuclides being carried. Transport of radioactive material has been performed safely in Australia for over 40 years, a safety record that is far superior to the transport of other hazardous materials such as petrol.

A number of issues relating to transportation of radioactive waste in Australia have also been addressed in the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed replacement research reactor at Lucas Heights, which was released in February 1999. The EIS document, under the heading "Background to Radioactive Material Transport Safety", provides useful information on transportation of nuclear materials. I have attached for your information the relevant pages of this document.

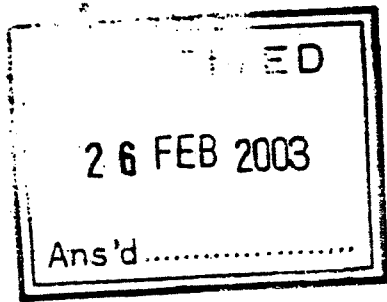
Thank you for bringing the Council's concerns to the attention of the Government.

Yours sincerely

David Wawn
Adviser

Enc

CE
DPD ✓
G.M. ✓



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24 February 2003

Mr Peter Andren MP
Federal Member for Calare
PO Box 181
BATHURST NSW 2795

Dear Mr Andren

TRANSPORT OF NUCLEAR WASTE THROUGH THE CENTRAL WEST

Thank you for your letter on this matter, which was noted by Orange City Council at its meeting held on 20 February 2003.

Council has sent a letter of objection to the Minister for Science as requested.

Thank you for your support on this most serious matter.

Yours sincerely

Allen Dwyer
GENERAL MANAGER

