

Submission  
No 4

# BROKEN HILL CITY COUNCIL



INCORPORATED A MUNICIPALITY 1888  
PROCLAIMED A CITY 1907

PLEASE ADDRESS ALL  
COMMUNICATIONS TO THE  
GENERAL MANAGER

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ABN 84 873 116 132

JOTE NO. 26538 - H11/77  
GS:MR

TELEPHONE/PERSONAL ENQUIRIES

ASK FOR Mr. G. Scott

April 11, 2003

Peter L. Black, OAM, MP  
Member for Murray Darling  
The Globe Building  
1/142 Argent Street  
BROKEN HILL 2880

Dear Sir,

## Proposed Low Level Radioactive Waste Dump

Council resolved at its March meeting to approach the relevant Ministers to express its concerns over the failure of the Federal-Government to adequately address the issues raised in Council's previous submission in relation to this matter.

In particular the following issues have not been addressed.

Paragraph Number	Broken Hill City Council's submission points.	Supplementary Report – response to submissions received. (BHCC only).
1.3.1	The draft Environmental Impact Statement failed to apply the principles of (ESD) - Environmentally Sustainable Development	The supplement states that ESD is improved by dealing with the waste. Whilst probably correct, this does not mean that ESD has been applied to the process in a meaningful manner.
1.3.1	Failure to hold full public enquiry.	The supplement refers to the public consultation process held, which included a display at the Plaza for a day. This is not considered to be full and proper public consultation.
1.3.2	Failure of draft Environmental Impact Statement to address issues raised in previous submission.	The supplement repeats the process and that the decision is for the Minister once site determined. It does not deal with issues raised.

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1.5	That public consultation will occur after the site is chosen is inappropriate given that BH is the likely transport route.	The supplement suggests that there are 2 routes to the site and that Broken Hill is only one option. Given that the alternative roads via the Wentworth route are minor roads, it is still likely that the route will be through Broken Hill in either case.
7.3	That all forms of transport be included, not just trucks	The supplement states that this was considered, however there is no detailed analysis shown. The reasons given for rejecting the options of rail and or sea are:- Increased handling; greater cost; small loads; reluctance by ships to carry waste; poor service linkages; and the potential to lose a container overboard. These reasons may be valid, but an Environmental Impact Statement is supposed to consider all options and the reasons for their rejection, not just a blanket rejection.
7.3	That Broken Hill City Council considers that ESD principles should be applied in the analysis of proposed transport methods.	The supplement states that this was done in the draft Environmental Impact Statement. This was not part of the information provided in the draft Environmental Impact Statement.
7.5	That Broken Hill City Council is a declared Nuclear Free Zone.	The supplement refers to the fact that nuclear products are currently shipped through Broken Hill without opposition, therefore the transfer of this waste is in accordance with the Broken Hill City Council's stance on nuclear free zones.
7.5	That the public consultation was a low key affair which did not allow for proper public consultation.	The supplement claims that the process was carried out as determined by Environment Australia. This does not mean that it was done well or appropriately. A shopping centre display is not considered an adequate forum for this type of venture. Additionally, the supplement states that "it was not possible to visit every town along the proposed routes". Why not, surely the cost would be minimal given the scale of this proposal?
7.6	Concerns raised with regard to the risk of transport through Broken Hill.	Again this issue was not addressed by the submission. Comments with regard to the safety measures and history of WMC with regard to the transport of uranium oxide do not appear to have much relevance. We do not know who will be transporting the material and what their safety record is.



COPY

MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

In reply please quote: MOF8695

Mr P L Black OAM MP  
Member for Murray Darling  
1/142 Argent Street  
BROKEN HILL NSW 2880

26 JUN 2003

Dear Mr Black

I refer to your representations of 16 April 2003 to the Minister for the Environment, the Hon Bob Debus MP, on behalf of Broken Hill City Council, Acting General Manager, Mr J Leary, PO Box 448, Broken Hill, 2880, concerning the Federal Government's proposed new nuclear waste facility and the transport of nuclear waste. The Minister has asked me to reply to you on his behalf and I apologise for the delay in replying.

The NSW Government has expressed its strong opposition to the Federal Government's plans to establish a new nuclear waste facility and to transport nuclear waste from the Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation's (ANSTO) facility at Lucas Heights through Western NSW. The NSW Government also has long-held concerns about the Federal Government's plans for the ANSTO nuclear reactor at Lucas Heights.

The Premier of NSW, the Hon Bob Carr MP, has written to the Federal Government raising the community's concerns and seeking clarification on the siting of the waste facility and the proposed route for the transportation of hazardous nuclear waste from the ANSTO facility to the site. To date, the Federal Government has made no response to those questions.

Prior to the NSW election in March this year, the Premier promised that if the Federal Government continued to fail in responding to these concerns, the NSW Government would establish a Parliamentary Inquiry to properly scrutinise the Federal Government's plans.

The Premier is delivering on that promise and has established a Parliamentary Inquiry. The Joint Select Committee on the Transportation and Storage of Nuclear Waste will examine a number of important issues, including the sourcing, transport and storage of nuclear waste, and associated health and safety issues. This Inquiry will ensure that the people of NSW and affected communities are given the information they are entitled to in relation to the Federal Government's intentions.

The closing date for submissions to the Inquiry is 31 July 2003. However, the Minister has referred Mr Leary's letter to the Chair of the Committee, the Hon. Peter Primrose MLC, for consideration.

The NSW Government will continue to appeal to the Federal Government to meet its safety and environmental responsibilities with regard to the ANSTO research reactor and will maintain its opposition to the establishment of a nuclear waste facility in NSW and the transport through NSW of nuclear waste from the ANSTO facility.

Yours sincerely

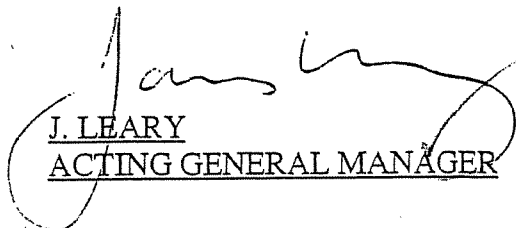
**Jenny McAllister**  
**Policy Advisor**

7.6	That the statistical analysis was not undertaken.	The supplement states that a risk analysis was done, however this information was not included in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. Why not?
7.6	That an analysis of international accidents be provided.	The supplement states that an analysis was conducted as part of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement, however a comment that accident levels are generally low is not a satisfactory assessment of this matter.
7.6	That an analysis of the abilities of emergency services to cope with spills should be undertaken as part of the Environmental Impact Statement.	Emergency services have expressed concerns in their own submissions. The response outlined in the supplement does not satisfactorily address the issues raised. The response times for suitably trained and equipped services are not considered appropriate. The general suggestion is that the NSW Fire Brigade would deal with these matters as a HAZMAT incident. Once again, it is necessary to understand the distances between large urban population centres where such HAZMAT equipment and trained staff exist, and the likely response times that would apply.

It is clear from the supplementary report, that many of the concerns raised in the submission and Draft Environmental Impact Statement have not been dealt with and will not be dealt with until the actual site is chosen, if then. The Environmental Impact Statement will now be prepared and forwarded to the Minister along with the draft and supplementary reports. The Minister will then make a decision on the project. No further consultation is proposed at this time.

It would be appreciated if you could take this matter up with the relevant Minister/s in an effort to have these matters properly assessed.

Yours faithfully,



J. LEARY  
ACTING GENERAL MANAGER



Parliament of New South Wales,  
Legislative Assembly

## PETER L. BLACK, OAM, MP

*Member for Murray Darling*

April 16, 2003

The Hon. R.J. Debus, M.P.,  
Attorney General,  
Minister for the Environment,  
Level 25, 59-61 Goulburn Street,  
SYDNEY N.S.W. 2000

Attention: Mr. Mark Aarons/

**Subject: Broken Hill – Proposed Low Level Radioactive Waste Dump**

Dear Minister,

Kindly find enclosed correspondence received by my office on April 15, 2003, subject as above, from:

Mr. Jim Leary,  
Acting General Manager,  
Broken Hill City Council,  
P.O. Box 448,  
BROKEN HILL N.S.W. 2880

Your advice and assistance in this matter is earnestly sought.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Peter L. Black'.

PETER L. BLACK, OAM, MP

*The Globe Building, 1/142 Argent Street,  
BROKEN HILL N.S.W. 2880*

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Facsimile: (08) 8087 1796*

