



## **DON'T DUMP ON SA RALLY DEC 2, 2017 | KAURNA COUNTRY, ADELAIDE.**

On Saturday 2nd December, speakers and residents travelled hundreds of Kilometres from Kimba on the Eyre Peninsula and the iconic Flinders Ranges House to attend the Don't Dump on SA rally. They were joined by over 1000 South Australians at Parliament House to highlight concerns over federal government radioactive waste dump plans.

The rally was called by members of the communities affected by the federal government's proposal to put a radioactive waste dump in our state, despite legislation that explicitly prohibits this. The proposal is for permanent disposal of low level waste but the long lived intermediate level waste would be stored above ground until being moved again for deep underground disposal at a time and location yet

to be decided. The majority of this waste is currently securely stored at the Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation (ANSTO) site at Lucas Heights in southern Sydney.

There was a range of speakers including members of the affected communities, politicians, trade unionists, representatives of faith groups, youth representatives and more.

There was a Kaurna Welcome To Country by Kaurna woman Bonny Brodie.

Indigenous dance group from Port Augusta, the Dusty Feet Mob performed and the Rise Up Singers encouraged people to get loud and lyrical with songs and chants.

Adnyamathanha woman Vivianne McKenzie and the Australian Conservation Foundation Dave Sweeney were the event MCs and kept the crowd engaged between speakers reminding us that as a state election draws closer we can make a difference on this issue by bringing it up with our local members and representatives. Vince Coulthard, chair of ATLA (Adnyamathanha Traditional Lands Association), pictured above, said:



***“The Flinders Ranges is an iconic area, people come from all over the world to visit. I’m saddened to hear that the government wants to spoil this beautiful, pristine area with a devastating piece of junk. We certainly understand that there has to be somewhere they can store it, but you don’t take a pristine area and destroy that. We ask that the state government stand with the Adnyamathanha community to stop this waste dump.”***

Former moderator of the Uniting Church, Dr Deidre Palmer, addressed

the rally and shared concerns for the Traditional Owners of the Flinders Ranges area. She said:

***”Last year we voted as the Uniting Church in SA to stand in solidarity with the Adnyamathanha people in opposing the placing of a nuclear waste dump on their land. We are here today renewing our commitment to that solidarity and to join with you as fellow South Australians in this resolve.”***

Dr Susi Andersson, who has lived in Hawker in the Flinders Ranges for 25 years and is the local GP, said:

***“The Flinders Ranges is not the right place for any nuclear waste facility. The purported benefits of this dump, if realised, will equal only 1% of jobs in tourism and just 2% of one year of tourism income for the Flinders Ranges and outback. Any drop in tourism will wipe out any possible economic benefit. Everyone, including the government and ANSTO (Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation), agree that the Flinders is not suitable for long term disposal of intermediate level waste, but that is where it will be stored until another site is proposed, accepted and built. This may take decades or centuries and may never happen. We are creating a toxic legacy for our children and grandchildren. Safeguards and legislation put in place today will be brushed aside when it’s convenient for future governments. This can never be the right place to bring intermediate level waste.”***



A highlight of the event was the revealing of a dress made by designer Tori-Anne Gil and modelled by Maoriella Stuart, pictured above. The dress used the artwork of Juanella Mckenzie, a 27 year old Adnyamathanha Woman grew up on Yappala Station who said:

***“The design is the dreaming story for Hookina Spring. This site is has one of the highest density of artefacts in all of Australia. A fault line runs through here and it’s smack bang in the middle of South Australia’s first registered Story/Song Line through the Office of Environment and Heritage, by Regina Mckenzie my Mum. What people don’t understand is if a nuclear waste dump goes here it kills the storyline. We won’t be able to tell, sing or dance these stories anymore. My daughters love to sing this song it’s their favourite. Don’t rob them of their cultural right and the entire community’s right to this beautiful place.*”**

***I painted the design with every intention of it bringing awareness and in the hope of capturing the love I feel for this place and my 3 daughters Ngarlaa 5, Ngayan 3 and Ngintaka 2 also feel. Say no to the nuclear waste dump”.***

Tom Harris, pictured below, who has been farming in Kimba for over 50 years, said:



***“Just imagine if we allow a waste dump in the heart of the Eyre Peninsula what the overseas buyers are going to say about our grain. It doesn’t matter whether it does affect it, it’s the insinuation. It’s not only the grain exports, you’ve got to realise there’s the fishing industry at Port Lincoln, there’s oysters out of Cowell. The Eyre Peninsula is isolated, but it’s a very healthy, productive area for South Australia and creates a lot of wealth. A lot more wealth than any waste dump could ever provide for SA. Just 4% of Australia’s land mass is good productive land for growing*”**



***food. How could anyone be that dumb to want to put a waste dump in the heart of that 4%? We must stop this waste dump in SA. I don't want to put that at risk for everybody in SA and we shouldn't, so let's stop the dump!"***

Speaking strong, Kate Freeth addressed the crowd saying:

***"Some of you say it's out of harm's way, it's in the middle of nowhere. Well, that middle of nowhere is my family's backyard. You wouldn't want it in your backyard. So stand with me and fight with me. It goes against the grain!"***



Former politician Barry Wakelin, pictured above said:

***"I was the member of parliament that tried to get the last dump on the road at Woomera. The Kimba experience has taught me a very great amount. Quite frankly, the government and ANSTO cannot be trusted with this job. They cannot be trusted with the management of nuclear waste."***

Jamie Newlyn, Secretary of the Maritime Union of Australia SA Branch said:

***"We stand with Traditional Owners of this land, we stand with the farmers of this land".***

With communities, politicians, religious leaders, unionists, health professionals and others coming together to speak out against the flawed and divisive proposal to establish a radioactive waste management facility in South Australia, this is sure to be a big issue in the lead up to the state election in March.

Jack Crawford from the rally organizing collective and the Environment Officer, Adelaide Uni Student Representative Council, said:

***"One of the most daunting things for young people today is the threat to the environment - one of the most disturbing threats is that of nuclear waste. It's hazardous and it's long lived."***

A representative from the major four political parties was invited to attend and speak at the rally. The offer was taken up by Mark Parnell, leader of the SA Greens, who talked about the full reinstatement of the Nuclear Waste Storage Facility (Prohibition) Act 2000.

Senator Rex Patrick, who has taken the place of Nick Xenophon in the Senate, expressed concern over the selection process at Kimba. Labor Giles MP Eddie Hughes sent a message of support as he was unable to be there in person and apologies were sent from the Premier and leader of the Opposition. Great job to all those that came out and got involved. Let's keep up the fight!

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