

# A high-level nuclear waste dump for SA

## The big questions

**The decision to import high level nuclear waste is a forever decision. Once we make it, there is no going back. So, we are not just making the decision for ourselves, but for thousands of generations of future South Australians.**

### Is this the best we can do?

What message are we sending the world if we say: 'the best that SA can do is take the worst that you've got'. Is our destiny to be the end point of a dirty chain - the last carriage at the end of the line?

Or should we be looking for economic opportunities that make our state cleaner, safer and deliver more jobs and opportunities for our children.

Surely if we have a choice, our collective vision for our state is not to be the dumping ground for some of the world's most toxic substances. South Australia has a tremendous history of innovation and a great reputation for clean and green food, wine and tourism. Surely we can do better.

### If it is such a money-spinner and can be done safely, why aren't other countries eager to do this?

Either it won't be an economic bonanza, or the job of storing this waste is a hell of a lot harder than we've been told. Otherwise, why aren't other countries putting up their hand to do this? Something just doesn't add up.

### Is there any rush?

No. This stuff isn't going away, and no other country is rushing to take it. If it's the right decision now, it will still be the right decision in 15 or 20 years' time. By then, safer solutions may have emerged. By taking our time, we aren't risking our economy – any income or jobs are years away, and so much is likely to change in the meantime.

### Surely, we all have to agree to this?

Absolutely! This decision will affect every single South Australian. Our international reputation - our story of who we are - will change forever.

This must not be a decision made just by a handful of politicians on North Terrace. All South Australians have the right to be actively engaged. That takes time and care to get right.

In particular, the Traditional Owners of any likely dump site in the north of our state must be given the genuine opportunity, and the necessary time and space, to say yes or no.

### So, what's the solution to the world's high level nuclear waste stockpiles?

A number of countries are working on high level waste storage facilities for their own waste (such as Finland), but they are still being built, so we don't know yet if they will work. The US currently doesn't have a solution. In the meantime, waste is being temporarily stored next to nuclear reactors in wet ponds, and temporary dry casks.

For years, there have been claims by the nuclear industry that a safe solution to radioactive waste is just around the corner.

Rather than import toxic waste into a part of the globe that doesn't currently have any – in order to bury it in the ground and hope it stays safe for tens of thousand of years – shouldn't there be a requirement placed on those that profit from nuclear power and nuclear weapons to invest in processing their waste into cleaner forms first?



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