

Media Release – 7 November 2019

Kimba nuclear waste dump ballot fails community acceptance test

A vote of Kimba residents has reportedly found that out of 824 eligible voters, 452, or 54.8%, voted in favour of a nuclear waste facility in their area. Of those who voted, 61% cast a yes vote.

Mara Bonacci, Friends of the Earth's SA nuclear waste campaigner, said: "Minister Canavan previously said in Parliament that 65% support would meet the Government's requirement for 'broad community support'. The Department's Principle Advisor Bruce Wilson [said](#) the Minister would need "at least that [65%], if not more" before proceeding."

"The Minister should abandon plans to dump on SA – the vote clearly fails to meet the Government's own criteria for broad community support. Moreover Barngarla Traditional Owners – who fought their exclusion from the ballot in the Human Rights Commission and the courts – are clearly opposed. And the majority of South Australians are opposed."

An SA poll commissioned by Greens Senator Sarah Hanson-Young in mid-2018 found that 55% agreed that "South Australia should stop the Federal Government from building a national nuclear and radioactive waste dump in outback SA" while 35% disagreed. Those who strongly agreed with stopping the dump outnumbered those who strongly disagreed by a factor of three (41:14).

Dr. Jim Green, national nuclear campaigner with Friends of the Earth, said: "The Government's bribery of local communities is unconscionable. Having access to basic services on the Eyre Peninsula – basic services that most South Australians take for granted – ought not be dependent on accepting a national nuclear waste dump.

"The Government's claim that the nuclear waste dump will generate 45 jobs is [dishonest and shameless](#). At least when Prime Minister John Howard tried to impose a nuclear dump in SA, he had the honesty to acknowledge that no jobs would be generated."

"South Australians fought long and hard to prevent the Howard Government turning SA into the nation's nuclear waste dump, and we will continue fighting until the Morrison Government backs off." Dr Green concluded.