

STANDING STRONG



2015 - 2017

*How South Australians won the campaign against
an international high-level nuclear waste dump.*

WARNING: This booklet contains images of people who have passed away.

'Standing Strong' was compiled to record some of the events between 2015-2017 when South Australia faced an international nuclear waste dump proposal.

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Thank you to Virginia Swan for the urgency to record this story.

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Standing Strong is dedicated to the life and work of Yami Lester – Yunkunytjatjara Elder, Land Rights activist and nuclear-free advocate who sadly passed July in 2017.

With great wisdom, generosity, strength, wit and humour, Yami was a powerful advocate for his people, fighting for human rights and land rights and speaking up as one of Australia's most powerful anti-nuclear voices.

Yami was blinded by the British atomic bomb tests in South Australia in the early 1950s. The bomb tests at Emu Junction and Maralinga continue to impact country and community members today.

Yami was a key player in the 1983 Royal Commission into the British atomic bomb tests. He became the Ambassador for the No Dump Alliance in 2016 and his voice was a reminder to keep strong as we contested the international nuclear waste dump.

He is missed and always remembered.

“In 1953, I was just ten years old when the bombs went off at Emu and Maralinga, I didn’t know anything about nuclear issues back then, none of us knew what was happening. I got sick and went blind from the Totem 1 fallout from those tests, and lots of our people got sick and died also.

Now I’m 74 years old and I know about nuclear issues. Members from the APY, Maralinga-Tjarutja and Arabunna, Kokatha lands say we don’t want nuclear waste on our land. There are big concerns. And I worry because I know it is not safe for South Australia land and the people. Why does the Government keep bringing back nuclear issues when we know the problems last forever?

It means a lot to me to be in this Alliance. I would like others to listen and join, become a member and fight together.”

Yami Lester, May 2016

Introduction...

A waste stream that lasts hundreds and thousands of years is hard to get your head around, even harder when you consider it is the world's most toxic and dangerous waste and your government has plans for it to come your way.

The plan to import 138,000 tonnes of high-level nuclear waste to SA shores, to stand above ground for decades pending disposal, brought a lot of people together. At first people seemed to be in shock but once that subsided, the community began to organise.

Traditional Owners and regional communities organised meetings in remote areas. People became informed and groups were established. Facebook forums grew, press conferences were held and research reports released. Posters were posted up, t-shirts

hand-printed, badges made and sold. Numerous info nights and 'Politics in The Pub' were hosted. Unions and churches passed resolutions opposing the plan and shared information with their members. Fact-sheets were printed and distributed.

A postcard and petition campaign saw over 35,000 signatures delivered to the Premier's office and thousands hit the streets for a National Day of Action on October 15, 2016 - a date that marked 63 years since the first british atomic bomb was tested at Emu Junction.

In offices, homes and on the street, people were doing what they could to get the word out.

Members of the Citizens' Jury took their job seriously with long days spent trawling through evidence and deliberating on such a crucial topic. Two-thirds of the 350 members of the Jury rejected "under any circumstances" the plan to import vast amounts of high-level nuclear waste from around the world as a

money-making venture.

Advertiser journalist Daniel Wills wrote:

“This “bold” idea looks to have just gone up in a giant mushroom cloud. When Premier Jay Weatherill formed the Citizens’ Jury to review the findings of a Royal Commission that recommended that SA set up a lucrative nuclear storage industry, he professed confidence that a well-informed cross-section of the state would make a wise judgment. Late Sunday, it handed down a stunning and overwhelming rejection of the proposal. Brutally, jurors cited a lack of trust even in what they had been asked to do and their concerns that consent was being manufactured. Others skewered the Government’s basic competency to get things done, doubting that it could pursue the industry safely and deliver the dump on-budget.”

Shortly after the Citizens’ Jury rejected the nuclear waste import proposal, Stephen

Marshall, the Leader of the Opposition, and the head of Business SA Nigel McBride declared the proposal “dead”. The Nick Xenophon Team also announced that they would actively oppose the nuclear waste import plan. The SA Greens were opposed from the start.

Business SA chief Nigel McBride said on November 11, 2016: “Between the Liberals and the Citizens’ Jury, the thing is dead.”

The Weatherill government announced on November 15, 2016 that it would not seek to repeal or amend the SA Nuclear Waste Storage Facility (Prohibition) Act 2000; legislation which imposes major constraints on the ability of the government to move forward with the nuclear waste import proposal.

And, finally, in June 2017 the Premier declared the nuclear waste proposal “dead”, there is “no foreseeable opportunity for this”, and it is “not something that will be progressed by the Labor Party in Government”.



Narungga man and human rights activist Tauto Sansbury (pictured left) said:

“Scrapping the international nuclear waste dump is a great outcome for us all. We absolutely welcome Jay Weatherill’s courageous decision for looking after South Australia.”

Safeguarding the future from the risks of nuclear waste felt like an overwhelming task, but we were up for the challenge. This period of time will never be forgotten and the work of so many groups and individuals who took action should be acknowledged. This little book records some of these actions and celebrates the strength and vision of the community.

The main lesson from the dump debate is a positive one: people power can prevail against the odds. It was particularly heartening that the voices of Traditional Owners were loud and clear and were given great respect by the Citizens’ Jury.

The Jury’s report said:

“There is a lack of Aboriginal consent. We believe that the government should accept that the Elders have

said NO and stop ignoring their opinions.

The Aboriginal people of South Australia (and Australia) continue to be neglected and ignored by all levels of government instead of respected and treated as equals.

... Jay Weatherill said that without the consent of Traditional Owners of the land ‘it wouldn’t happen’. It is unethical to backtrack on this statement without losing authenticity in the engagement process.”

Looking back, the period from February 2015 – June 2017 felt very heavy and difficult as the threat of an international waste dump hung over us. Throughout that period there was a constant reminder that South Australians had faced nuclear waste proposals in the past and won. Between 1998-2004, the Howard government pursued a waste dump for Australia’s nuclear waste in SA’s north. State-wide the plan was rejected by many people including a group of Kuyani men who took legal action and a group of senior Traditional women, the Kupa Piti Kungka Tjuta, who

formed the Irati Wanti campaign and the Rann Labor government successfully challenged the federal government in the courts.

Now that the plan to import high-level nuclear waste has been defeated, Traditional Owners, environmentalists, church groups, trade unionists and everyone else who contributed to the campaign can take a deep breath. But, just a short one as another dump proposal is very much alive: the federal government’s plan to establish a national nuclear waste dump in SA, either in the Flinders Ranges or on farming land near Kimba on the Eyre Peninsula.

We urge any SA Government, now or in the future, to continue to listen to the community on nuclear waste concerns and use its political and legislative power to protect South Australians from nuclear waste dump proposals.

Our home and our future is simply too good to waste.

Nuclear Fuel Cycle Royal Commission

In February 2015 SA Premier Jay Weatherill announced that a Royal Commission would be established to investigate commercial opportunities across the nuclear fuel cycle. These included uranium, uranium enrichment, nuclear power and the prospect of a nuclear waste dump.

The Premier appointed former State Governor and Royal Australia Navy officer Kevin Scarce, as Royal Commissioner. Despite having previously expressed pro-nuclear sentiments Scarce said he would run a “balanced” Royal Commission. Despite this he appointed a clear majority of nuclear advocates to his advisory panel, balanced by one critic. Five non-Indigenous advisory panel members were ‘balanced’ by zero Indigenous members. Numerous nuclear advocates were appointed to the staff of the Royal Commission, balanced by zero critics.

The final report of the Royal Commission was released in May 2016. It rejected on economic grounds almost all of the proposals it had examined: uranium conversion and enrichment, nuclear fuel fabrication, conventional and Generation IV nuclear power reactors, and spent fuel reprocessing. The only thing left standing was the plan to import nuclear waste as a commercial venture. Based on commissioned research, the Royal Commission proposed importing 138,000 tonnes of high-level nuclear waste (spent nuclear fuel from power reactors) and 390,000 cubic metres of intermediate-level waste.

The Weatherill government used the Royal Commission’s findings as the basis for a multi-million-dollar, taxpayer-funded promotional ‘Know Nuclear’ campaign under the guise of ‘consultation’.

'Know Nuclear'

After the Royal Commission recommendations were released, the SA Labor government established a 'Know Nuclear' state-wide promotional - campaign. This process was run by CARA - the Nuclear Fuel Cycle Royal Commission Consultation and Response Agency.

With visits to 100 sites between 29 July and 1 November 2016, this was the largest "community consultation" ever seen in South Australia's history, and cost taxpayers millions.

The nuclear roadshow set up stalls from Rundle Mall to Umuwa in the APY (Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara) Lands. Many of the stalls were met with scepticism and some with protest.

The CARA team closed their doors in March 2017. But while the 'Know Nuclear' push is off the streets, information remains online at: nuclear.yoursay.sa.gov.au/know-nuclear.



Above and right: Know Nuclear public consultation met with protest. Photos by Fernando M. Gonçalves.



Aboriginal Voices

Aboriginal people have always been on the front line of the impacts of the nuclear industry in Australia. Aboriginal land, people and communities were directly and severely impacted by the British atomic bomb tests and the after-effects continue to this day. Previous dump proposals have been met with opposition from Aboriginal communities. From the time the Royal Commission was announced many Aboriginal voices were out loud and clear speaking to many different aspects of the commission.

Karina Lester, a Yankunytjatjara woman, spoke out against Kevin Scarce's insistence that all submissions required a JP's signature. In a press statement Karina said:

“How many JP's live on the APY Lands or Maralinga Tjarutja Land? How far does one have to travel to track down a JP? This is very unfair of the Commission to put these requirements in place as this will disengage the community and it will be all

too hard to put in a submission. All South Australians need to contribute into this Royal Commission and feel that they have been consulted the right way.”

Enice Marsh (pictured left) and the Anggumathanha Camp Law Mob recorded their dissatisfaction with the Commission process via their submission.

“Why we are not satisfied with the way this Royal Commission has been conducted: Yaiinidlha Udneyu ngawarla wanggaanggu, wanhangga Yura Ngawarla wanggaanggu? – always in English, where’s the Yura Ngawarla (our first language)?

The issues of engagement are many. To date we have found the process of engagement used by the Royal Commission to be very off putting as it’s been run in a real Udneyu (whitefella) way.

Timelines are short, information is hard to access, there is no interpreter service

available, and the meetings have been very poorly advertised. Engagement opportunities need to be fair and equitable (readily available to all people) and the Native Title interest is no more important than the wider community. A closed and secretive approach makes engagement difficult for the average person on the street, and near impossible for Aboriginal people to participate.”

Tauto Sansbury, Narungga man and SA Aboriginal Congress Chair expressed dissatisfaction with the process:

“On two occasions Commissioner Scarce met with our SA Aboriginal Congress, which is the 29 Native Title groups in South Australia. On both occasions it was communicated that the groups did not want a waste dump. On both occasions they ignored our requests, our demands, so the fight went on. Now here we are in 2017 and the dump has been dumped and Scarce is very scarce.”

Economics

The Royal Commission was based on very limited modelling, including work done by the actively pro-nuclear MCM group. The modelling's highly optimistic assumptions were heavily criticised by a number of prominent economists.

SA economist Professor Richard Blandy told members of the Citizens' Jury: 'The forecast profitability of the proposed nuclear dump rests on highly optimistic assumptions....such a dump could easily lose money instead of being a bonanza.'

The SA Parliamentary Joint Committee inquiring into the findings of the Royal Commission subsequently released a thorough review of the Jacobs report. The review was carried out by the Nuclear Economics Consulting Group (NECG) and found that 'overly optimistic' assumptions used by Jacobs could put the project's profitability

'seriously at risk'. The review found that issues not adequately explored in the Jacobs report have 'significant serious potential to adversely impact the Project and its commercial outcomes' and that 'the potential for delays and/or cost increases in the Project is significant'.

The NECG review questioned the inclusion of some potential client countries, the project's timing, the likely return from the Reserve Fund, the size and complexity of the proposed infrastructure, and maintained that four important risks were understated:

1. Delays and cost increases (the potential is significant due to Australia's limited experience).
2. The complexity of accepting a large variety of waste types and containers from multiple countries (which could require additional facilities, increase costs and cause delays).
3. Reputational risk (the risk to other industries was not modelled); and

4. Nuclear accident/incident (no analysis was done).

During this time South Australians spent millions investigating the proposal to import high level nuclear waste, with a Royal Commission followed by the biggest 'community conversation' in the state's history:

Royal Commission: \$7.2 million
Community engagement: \$8.2 million
Total: \$15.4 million

The 'further investigations' still being promoted by dump advocates would have dwarfed what was already spent so far – credible estimates range from \$600 million to \$1 billion.

In the late 1990s, a company called Pangea Resources secretly planned to turn Australia into the world's high level nuclear waste dump. Some of the people involved in Pangea later resurfaced as paid consultants to the Royal Commission selling the same snake

oil. Pangea was defeated and now we have defeated the latest push to turn Australia into the world's nuclear garbage dump.

For further information on the economics promoted by the Royal Commission, and relevant extracts from the NECG report see: conservationsa.org.au/nuclear



Dr Richard Dennis, Chief Economist with the Australia Institute, and Professor Dick Blandy from the University of South Australia at the launch of *Digging for Answers* in March, 2016.

Renewable not Radioactive

The prospect of nuclear power in a state that leads the way on renewables seems absurd. Groups pushed back on the Royal Commission's consideration of the idea that nuclear power would become a viable option for South Australia.

Conservation SA commissioned leading energy expert Dr Mark Diesendorf to investigate the feasibility of 100% renewable electricity for South Australia by 2030. The report found that this was entirely achievable, even without supportive Federal Government policies.



“My research shows that South Australia has a real opportunity to get to 100% renewable energy generation before any nuclear power plant could ever be built here.”

***Dr Mark Diesendorf
(pictured left).***



Above top: 'Renewable not radioactive' stickers. Above: An urgent community meeting was called at the Joinery days after the Royal Commission was announced.



Above left: Dr Jim Green speaks at a Fukushima gathering at Parliament House. Above right: Nuke Free block at March in March protest. Below right: Dr Philip White at the 'Renewable not Radioactive' poetry slam. Below left: Jim Green, Craig Wilkins and Karina Lester address a media conference at the Joinery.



South Australian Traditional Owners say NO!

In May 2015 Traditional Owners called a meeting in Port Augusta to discuss the Royal Commission's Terms of Reference, share their concerns and work out how their united voice could be heard.

A Statement was written:

“We oppose plans for uranium mining, nuclear reactors and nuclear waste dumps on our land. We call on the SA Royal Commission to recommend against any uranium mining and nuclear projects on our lands. We call on the Australian population to support us in our campaign to prevent dirty and dangerous nuclear projects being imposed on our lands and our lives and future generations”.



Endorsed by members of the following groups: Kokatha, Kokatha-Mirning, Arabuna, Adnyamathanha, Yankunytjatjara-Pitjanjatjara, Antikirinya-Yunkunytjatara, Kuyani, Arrente, Western Aranda, Dieri, Larrakia, Wiradjuri.



Above left: Lucy May Wesley Cole with her placard 'Ngura' which means country.
Below left: Lucy's grandmother Rose Lester getting ready to march with 'Irati Wanti' sign - meaning 'Poison, Leave it'.
Above: Janice Wingfield and Sonja Gaston with the Irati Wanti banner.



Above L-R: Linda Coulthard, Enice Marsh and sisters Donna, Deidre and Lesley Coulthard.

Right: L-R: Linda, with her daughters Veronica, Deidre and Donna, meet in Copley to discuss the recently announced Royal Commission and begin writing their submission, July 2015.





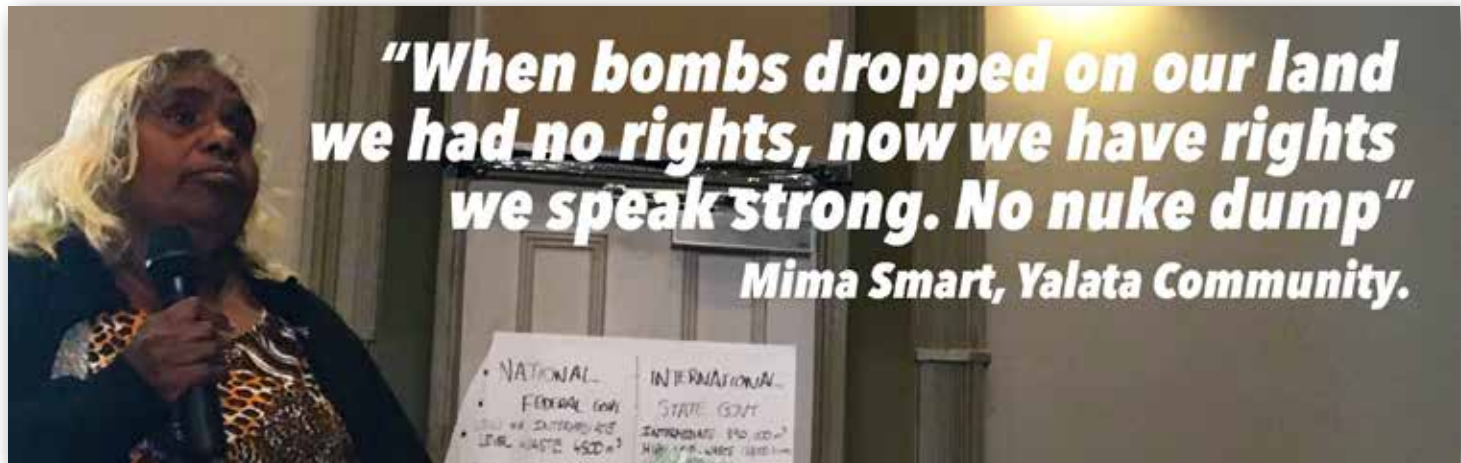
“To the South Australian government, to the federal government, to the mining giants - don’t worry about trying to put the waste dump here.

Because you’ll be wasting your money. We’ll be out there trying to stop it.”

Kevin Buzzacott, AAP July 9, 2015

Right: July 2015:
Tanya and Gloria
Haseldine from Ceduna.
Nuclear issues were
a big talking point
at the 2015 Students
of Sustainability
conference in Adelaide.
Above: Uncle Kevin
Buzzacott, Arabunna
Elder from Lake Eyre.





***"When bombs dropped on our land
we had no rights, now we have rights
we speak strong. No nuke dump"***

Mima Smart, Yalata Community.





Above: Sue Haseldine speaks at the Australian Nuclear Free Alliance meeting in Kalgoorlie. Above right: Pastor Keith Peters from Yalata community speaks in Port Augusta. Opposite page top: Mima Smart speaks in Port Augusta. Below left: Dianne Edwards.



Above left: Betty Muffler and Emily Austin. Above right: Kungka Tjuta perform Inma. Below left: A guest views the exhibition. Below right: Environment Minister, the Honourable Ian Hunter, with Karina Lester and Craig Wilkins.



Talking Straight Out

On October 15, 2015, the Talking Straight Out exhibition was held at the Festival Theatre in Adelaide. It marked 62 years since the British military detonated an atomic bomb at Emu Junction in South Australia's north. The bomb caused widespread sickness and death and the impacts continue to be seen today.

The exhibition shared images and insights from the successful Irati Wanti campaign that in 2004 saw the federal government abandon plans to build a nuclear waste dump in SA. Informed by experiences from the bomb, the Kupa Piti Kungka Tjuta spearheaded the campaign, gaining worldwide recognition for their fight.

"For six years the women travelled the country, talking straight out. They called their campaign Irati Wanti – the poison, leave it. They explained, they demanded, they marched and sang. They told of extraordinary personal histories. They wrote passionate letters to politicians. They won." - Excerpt from *Talking Straight Out* book.



Postcards, Posters and Placards

In March 2016, Conservation SA, Friends of the Earth and the Australian Conservation Foundation produced a postcard 'South Australia, too good to waste.' The postcard became an encouraging speaking tool as Adelaide anti-nukes groups took to the street to have them signed.

The postcard image was significant as it featured the faces of Adnyamathanha Elders Enice Marsh, Linda Coulthard and Linda's daughter Diedre Coulthard.

During 2016 thousands of postcards were signed calling on Jay Weatherill to scrap all proposed nuclear expansions being explored by the Royal Commission. Conservation SA held a stall at WOMAD where volunteers initiated thousands of conversations about nuclear plans for SA. World renowned environmentalist, activist and academic Dr David Suzuki (pictured right) signed the postcard and spoke to the media about the issue:



“To South Australians, to all Australians, I say if you want to deal seriously with the issue of nuclear waste, let the Kurna and the other Indigenous groups make the decisions.”



Above L-R: SA artist Jake Holmes' poster design that became an identifiable image of the campaign with posters appearing in windows everywhere. Janice Wingfield with a poster about Maralinga. Rose Lester, Tanya Hunter and friend at the Royal Commission briefing at Adelaide Town Hall. Below L-R: Craig Wilkins with one of Conservation SA's nuclear waste fact sheets. MOSSA (Mothers for a Sustainable SA) at the Adelaide Town Hall.



No Dump Alliance

www.nodumpalliance.org.au



The No Dump Alliance was formed in May 2016 to challenge the threat of an international nuclear waste dump in SA. Traditional Owners, unions, church, environment and other civil society groups worked together on a successful community campaign. The Alliance has committed to continuing these efforts in relation to any planned national dump in SA.

The Alliance was formed with Yami Lester as its Ambassador and his daughters Karina and Rose Lester as key spokespeople. Other spokepeople include: Tauto Sansbury, Narungga man and activist; Jamie Newlyn, Maritime Union Australia (MUA) - SA branch; and Craig Wilkins, Conservation SA.

The Alliance contacted state and federal leaders to make them aware of the nuclear

waste threats and the growing opposition in South Australia. The Alliance focussed on sharing information with a broad cross-section of the community and was also a proud and productive hub for a wide range of regional and city people.

The Alliance helped to organise information nights in Adelaide, a two day conference on nuclear waste issues in Port Augusta and were involved in the National Day of Action.

Members include the Nursing and Midwifery Federation, Australian Education Union, Medical Association for the Prevention of War, Australian Students Environment Network, Footprints for Peace, Sisters of Mercy, author Christobel Mattingly, economist Richard Blandy and many more.



Above left: Jamie Newlyn (MUA SA), Deidre Palmer (Moderator, Uniting Church SA) and Karina Lester all sign the No Dump Alliance statement of concern. Above right: Karina Lester, Lucy Lester, Bonny Brodie, Candice Champion and Simone Tur at the launch of the No Dump Alliance. Below: VIPs at campaign launch.



EXPOSURE 2016

Sept 2-4, Port Augusta

A community expo on nuclear waste dump plans for South Australia

Exposure 2016 saw communities from all over South Australia travel to Port Augusta to join with locals and talk nuclear waste.

Communities and individuals shared stories, got up to date on the current waste proposals and made plans for the future.

Elders and family travelled across from Yalata community on the far west coast, and down from Coober Pedy to join in discussions.

Edie Nyimpula King, who along with other Coober Pedy women performed Inma – traditional dance and song – said “we sing Inma against the irati – the poison. We sing to protect the country. Irati Wanti – the poison, leave it.”

With confusion around the two proposed waste dumps - one national and driven by Canberra and one international and coming from Adelaide, Exposure 2016 offered a clear explanation of the two separate proposals. The event exposed major inconsistencies in government information and offered fact-based evidence from medical, cultural and economic experts and a presentation from the Flinders Local Action Group focusing on the national nuclear waste dump. Interstate speakers included Mark Ogge from the Australia Institute and Dr Margaret Beavis from the Medical Association for Prevention of War.

The program included workshops on talking to the media and writing to your MP. During this



time the 2016 Federal election saw candidate Jillian Marsh, an Adnyamathanha woman, run for the Australian Greens, she shared her message at Exposure:

“The First Nations people of Australia have been bullied and pushed around, forcibly removed from their families and their country, denied access and the right to care for their own land for over 200 years. Our health and wellbeing compares with third world countries, our people crowd the jails. Nobody wants toxic waste in their back yard, this is true the world over.”



Top left: Mima Smart, Darryl Thomas and Edie King. Right from top: Janice Wingfield speaks in the forum. Audra and Jemilia from the Yalata community. Lucy Waniwa Lester tells her story.

Citizens' Jury

The 350 members of the Citizens' Jury established by the SA government to consider the Royal Commission report went through an intensive education process and two-thirds of the Jurors rejected the high-level nuclear dump proposal "under any circumstances".

Over three weekends Jurors heard from witnesses with economic, health, industry, safety and cultural knowledge. On November 6, 2016 a panel was convened of Aboriginal witnesses. This group represented many Indigenous groups across SA. While there were different perspectives presented, an overwhelming majority of witnesses expressed opposition.

Recommendations of the Citizens' Jury included:

"There is a lack of Aboriginal consent. We believe that the government should accept that the Elders have said NO and stop ignoring their opinions."

"It is impossible to provide an informed response to the issue of Economics because the findings in the RCR [Royal Commission Report] are based on unsubstantiated assumptions. This has caused the forecast estimates to provide inaccurate, optimistic, unrealistic economic projections."

"Multiple threads of concern are present that undermine the confidence of jurors in the Royal Commission report's validity. These concerns collectively combine to affect a powerful NO response to the concept of pursuing the storage and disposal of high level nuclear waste in SA."

Glen Wingfield, Vice-Chairperson of Kokatha Aboriginal Corporation and witness on the Aboriginal panel. said: ***"Heritage, culture is first and foremost. It is where we come from and go back to. We will always say no."***



“If you make the decision to let a waste dump be in this state, you will go down in history and have this on your conscience. What are you going to tell your children? I was a juror, I gave the decision to have a waste dump. We will be history in the making. Really think about it, think from your heart, don’t think about money, there is no money in this. They are tricking everybody.” Vivianne McKenzie, Adnyamathanha Traditional Owner.

Left to right: Glen Wingfield, Vivianne Mckenzie and Dr Jared Thomas.



National Day of Action, October 15 2016.

On the 63rd anniversary of the British atomic bomb tests at Emu Junction, over three thousand South Australians took to the streets as part of a national day of action against nuclear waste dumps. People came with home-made placards, banners and no dump t-shirts. There were banners from Traditional Owner groups, churches and unions.

The rally was in opposition to the international waste proposal and the national waste dump which at that time only targeted Wallerberdina in the Flinders Ranges. Speakers included Mima Smart and Keith

Peters from Yalata community on the far west coast of SA, economist and Professor Barbara Pocock from MOSSA (Mothers for a Sustainable SA), Joe Szacaks from Unions SA, Regina, Vivianne and Heather McKenzie, Adnyamathanha Traditional Owners and Robert Webb, resident from the Flinders Ranges.

People at the rally heard from Johnny Lovett and the Maralinga choir singing the Maralinga song and the Ukes not Nukes band singing up a storm on the Parliament House steps.



Above L-R: Roslyn Peters, Mima Smart, Barbara Pocock, Joe Szacaks, Karina Lester, Craig Wilkins and Regina McKenzie. Below: the crowd at the rally and rally poster.

Hollywood director Scott Hicks attended the event and posed a key question to the ABC: **“Why would we want to leave a legacy for our children’s, children’s children and beyond 100,000 years, that can never be taken away?”**

MCs Craig Wilkins and Karina Lester thanked the thousands of individuals and groups that took to the streets and warned the state government that this issue would not be dropped until the government listened and acted.



Legislation

For almost two decades South Australia has had strong legislation preventing the development of a nuclear waste dump - the Nuclear Waste Storage Facility (Prohibition) Act 2000.

This legislation was introduced in 2000 by the SA Liberal Olsen Government and strengthened in 2003 by the SA Labor Rann Government.

Throughout the campaign this legislation was cited to politicians, journalists and the community. It was an important part of every conversation and felt like a safety net. The yellow banner on the right, held by Reg Wilton and Enice Marsh was taken to the 2016 ALP state conference to remind the politicians of this law.

There was much concern when in March 2016 the Weatherill government moved to repeal

section 13 of the Act so that public funds could be spent on consultation following the release of the final report of the Nuclear Fuel Cycle Royal Commission.

On November 1, 2017, the Greens introduced a Bill through the upper house to reinstate the ban on any public funds being spent to advance a nuclear waste dump.

“The Greens’ Bill strengthens existing laws against using public money to “encourage or finance nuclear waste storage facilities” by removing the reference to spending money on further public consultation and debate over the dump,” said Mark Parnell MLC, Greens SA Parliamentary Leader.

The Greens’ Bill was passed with minor amendments.

A man and a woman are standing outdoors, holding a large yellow sign. The man on the left is wearing a light blue striped button-down shirt and has sunglasses on his head. The woman on the right is wearing a blue patterned jacket over a light blue scarf. The sign they are holding is yellow with black text. The background consists of a grey wall and several tall, narrow evergreen trees.

NUCLEAR WASTE STORAGE FACILITY (PROHIBITION) ACT 2000:

“The objects of this Act are to protect the health, safety and welfare of the people of South Australia and to protect the environment in which they live by prohibiting the establishment of certain nuclear waste storage facilities in this State.”

**KEEP THE POLICY
DUMP THE DUMPS**

Conclusion

In early June 2017 Premier Weatherill declared that the nuclear waste dump plan was 'dead'. Mr Weatherill further said that "it's not something that will be progressed by the Labor Party in Government."

The collective sigh of relief could be heard and felt across SA. Memes were shared, text messages shot around and happy phone calls were made to people from the CBD to many hundreds of kilometres away across long roads and red sands. The announcement made media headlines around Australia and the world.

Later in October 2017, a final report was released from a State Parliamentary inquiry into the international nuclear waste dump plan. It made only one recommendation: "That the South Australian Government should not commit any further public funds to pursuing

the proposal to establish a repository for the storage of nuclear waste in SA."

The issue of international waste is as over as it can be for now.

This little book only scratches the surface of the efforts made by everyone involved.

There are so many people and groups that need to be acknowledged for their efforts during this time.

This plan threatened no-one more than Aboriginal people. The voices of Aboriginal communities were loud and clear in opposition to the waste dump. The efforts were unwavering and, for many, deeply personal. Acknowledgement must be given to those people and communities who stood up strong.

There were many contributions from the wider community as well. Countless committed individuals and many active groups and networks. Thank you.

A huge thank you to all the jurors, and Citizens' Jury witnesses - your efforts, attention and deliberation has shaped South Australia for the better, forever.

To all the people who signed petitions, postcards, shared posters, wrote letters, called and visited MPs, wrote submissions, attended consultations, donated money, rallied, attended events, travelled long distances and made this issue a priority - we thank you, you made a huge difference.

There are also people that are no longer with us that are the reason why we have such a strong nuclear-free foundation in South Australia. Some people that either didn't

see the end of this campaign or even the beginning, but are an important part of the story.

Here we acknowledge the life of Marcina Richards, a Kokatha-Mirning woman from the west coast of SA who in her 70s and 80s travelled to meetings and always advocated for the land - she passed away before this book was complete.

We honour the work of the Kupa Piti Kungka Tjuta and others, who fought with pride and strength against the proposal for a nuclear waste dump near Woomera. Many of the families of these people continue their work today. We honour the late Yami Lester. We honour many others who over the years have campaigned hard and taught us all to stand strong.

We did it. And if we need to, we'll do it again.

"We know nuclear is not the answer for our lands and people, we have always said NO."

Karina Lester, Yankunytjatjara Native Title Aboriginal Corporation Chairperson.

No Dump Alliance



**Conservation
Council SA**



**Friends of
the Earth
Australia**



**AUSTRALIAN
CONSERVATION
FOUNDATION**