

TOPIC 13 – COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & NUCLEAR FACILITIES – ENGAGEMENT WITH ABORIGINAL COMMUNITIES

Thursday, 12 November 2015
Conference Room, Nuclear Fuel Cycle Royal Commission
Level 5, 50 Grenfell Street, Adelaide SA 5000

Mr Bob Watts, Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO) (Canada) (9am via video-link)

Mr Watts is the Associate Vice President of Aboriginal Relations for NWMO, an organisation established in 2002 in accordance with Canada's Nuclear Fuel Waste Act to assume responsibility for the long-term management of Canada's used nuclear fuel. Mr Watts is also a Fellow and Adjunct Professor at the School of Policy Studies at Queens University. Throughout his career Mr Watts has focused on strengthening Canada's First Nations institutions. He has previously served as the CEO of the Assembly of First Nations and as the Interim Executive Director of the Canada's Truth and Reconciliation Commission. In 2014, he was the recipient of the Indspire Award, in recognition of his outstanding career achievement as an Indigenous professional.

Topics to be addressed at this public session:

- ⊕ The role and mandate of NWMO in Canada
- ⊕ The "Adaptive Phase Management" decision-making approach
- ⊕ Aboriginal community engagement by NWMO.

Mr Parry Agius, Alinytjara Wilurara Natural Resources Management Board (12pm)

Mr Agius is the Presiding Member of the Alinytjara Wilurara Natural Resources Management Board (Alinytjara Wilurara NRM Board). The Alinytjara Wilurara NRM Board was established under the Natural Resources Management Act in 2004 and is comprised of Aboriginal voting members. Together they are responsible for developing a natural resources management plan which aims to achieve ecologically sustainable development through a diverse range of projects. A key aspect of the Board's role is supporting effective communication and partnerships with organisations, agencies, communities, traditional owners, elders and individuals to manage the environment for mutual benefit. The Alinytjara Wilurara NRM region encompasses the north west third of South Australia (including Yalata lands, Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara lands, and Maralinga Tjarutja lands). Mr Agius has extensive experience in leadership positions in numerous organisations focused on Indigenous issues, including as the CEO of SANTS and chairperson of the SA Aboriginal Advisory Council.

Topics to be addressed at this public session:

- ⊕ Lessons learned from past Aboriginal engagement processes in Australia
- ⊕ Models for local investment, skills development and training
- ⊕ Methods and timeframes for achieving a deeper level of consultation with Aboriginal communities.