

## **Submission to the Nuclear Fuel Cycle Royal Commission March 2016**

### **on behalf of Anggumathanha Camp Law Mob**

The Anggumathanha Camp Law Mob is a group of Adnyamathanha people who meet regularly to discuss issues relating to our land, our customary practices and beliefs, and our cultural knowledge. We lodge this submission on behalf of all Adnyamathanha people and other South Australians who are opposed to any further expansion of the nuclear industry. We have taken part in the SA Nuclear Fuel Cycle Royal Commission, and our views along with many others are clearly stated in our submissions - we do not support any expansion of a nuclear industry including a radioactive waste dump on Adnyamathanha country.

We want our human rights to be respected. As members of the Camp Law Mob we will continue to exercise our right to protect our Indigenous cultural sites, traditions and customs. The right to protect and practice our customs, and to maintain our identity as Adnyamathanha people who follow Camp Law, is a human right. We refer the Royal Commission to the United Nations Declaration of Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

We also want to exercise our right to a fully informed process of consultation, and the right to be able to make informed decisions according to our customary ways of making decisions. We need to be able to freely talk about this in our first language, Yura Ngawarla, as well as in English. We want ample time to think about this and talk about it with others. We want to be able to have free and ongoing access to our country, and to be able to protect our country and keep it safe. We know from past experience that these rights have not been respected.

We do not support the hosting of nuclear waste dump in our country and we have made this view public on many previous occasions. Our health and wellbeing are once again being threatened. We want the Royal Commission to know that nuclear activities on our land pose a major threat to our cultural health and wellbeing. The Royal Commission process has created enormous division and distress for people who live locally as well as for traditional owners from further afield. We do not understand why we have to be subject to these repeated pressures from government and industry who want to destroy our country with culturally inappropriate developments.

Colonisation has already done enough damage to our peoples and our cultures. We have sacrificed so much with very little in return. We don't need a nuclear waste dump to bring wealth to this area; we need sustainable industries such as eco-tourism and bush tucker farms, sustainable agriculture and pastoralism, outdoor education centres, landcare projects and innovative research. We want to provide a safe environment for future generations.

Our past experience in dealing with governments and industry has been very depowering for us. This has made us mistrustful that our interests will be properly represented or listened to. Since colonisation our lands and resources have been severely depleted, damaged and in some cases destroyed against our wishes and without our consent. We feel there is enough technology and opportunities available to continue harvesting renewable energy sources (wind and solar particularly) and that this is where the priority should be for government and industry in South Australia and elsewhere.

Our cultural knowledge and customary practices which date back thousands of years warns us of the dangers associated with particular places in our country. Places where there is uranium are known as vasingi yarta or poison ground. We respect our Elders who shared their expert knowledge with us as the parents and grandparents of future generations, and as future custodians of land and culture.

Our involvement with fighting the nuclear industry is nothing new. We were long ago concerned by the government agreeing to uranium mining activities that have now permanently contaminated our land and our groundwater. We want no further expansion of the nuclear industry and we will continue to fight for our rights as traditional owners in respect of the wisdom of our old people that came before us. We care for our country. We only wish governments and industries would do the same.