

17-Mar-2016

To the Commissioner:

I'm writing as an employee of Maptek, a South Australian based technology company with a high profile globally in the mining industry. I have read with interest the tentative findings of the Nuclear Fuel Cycle Royal Commission. The case for management, storage and disposal of high level nuclear waste in a repository located in South Australia is compelling and in my view an opportunity our state would do well to consider.

In support of this, my work over more than 20 years to bring new technologies and process improvements to geological modelling, mine safety, design compliance, survey and mapping has given me great confidence in the abilities of the Australian mining industry. Our local mining industry leads the world technologically in many areas and has one of the best safety records of any country. We possess the geological and engineering knowledge right here in Australia to locate, model, design and construct a subsurface repository suitable for the long term storage of high level radioactive waste to a very high degree of proficiency and safety.

South Australia's geology is ideally suited. Although the required storage time seems long to most people, it is relatively short in terms of our local geology. The ages of formations and their movements in the State's Central and Western basins are in the billions of years, and their movements relative to the continental mass have been miniscule and predictable over hundreds of millions of years. With appropriate site identification, design and construction, it is possible to all but guarantee contained storage of materials away from the biosphere for the time required to decay them to natural background levels.

Sincerely,

Simon Ratcliffe.