

**Nuclear Fuel Cycle Royal Commission
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As the author of three books and a major chapter on the effects of nuclear weapons on innocent people: *The Miracle Tree* set and written in Nagasaki in 1980, (Hodder & Stoughton 1985), *Maralinga the Anangu Story* (Allen & Unwin 2009), *Maralinga's Long Shadow : Yvonne's Story* (Allen & Unwin 2016), and *Atom Bombs before Aborigines – Maralinga*, Chapter 11 in *Survival in Our Own Land: 'Aboriginal' experiences in 'South Australia' since 1836*, I am appalled that a storage facility for international nuclear waste could even be contemplated in Australia.

Aboriginal people have suffered grievously for over 200 years since European occupation of their lands commenced. To perpetrate yet another invasion on country to which they are spiritually bound would be a further manifestation of greed and insensitivity to the First Peoples of Australia. They have already protested strongly against earlier proposals to locate waste dumps on their traditional lands.

Par 69. In 1953 sadly the Anangu People had no opportunity to protest against the pollution of their country by nuclear weapons testing. Four generations have suffered the consequences and an area of their country will remain *Ngura wiya* – a No Go Zone forever.

Par 78b. How can the Government of South Australia contemplate mortgaging the future of countless generations by building a nuclear waste storage dump? There is NO guarantee of the long term safety of such containment. There is NO guarantee against future geological activity. The long term safety of the population cannot and must not be traded off in favour of the short term creation of a few jobs and some minor revenue.

Pars 81-90: As for the argument that South Australia has a responsibility to take back the waste from uranium exported to other countries, it is patently wrong. Countries which have bought South Australian uranium for their own use have done so for their own benefit. It is therefore incumbent upon them to deal with all aspects of its use and afterlife.

Pars 133–138: Although stringent regulations and conditions are in place, there can be NO guarantee that accidents will not occur with massive long term implications. Par 135 acknowledges that there have been “a number of incidents” involving damage to containers of uranium oxide concentrate during transport. It only needs one such “incident” to become a major accident with irreversible effects. Accidents during both land and sea transport would have unthinkable long term environmental effects on people and land and marine life.

Pars 146-147 and 148 -151: Far better to encourage investment in renewable sources of energy, including solar, wind, tidal. Par 150. As the amount of insurance cover is admitted to be insufficient to fully compensate victims and remediate the environment, this surely must be a warning. Thinking Australians do not want our country to become the next Chernobyl or Fukushima. Instead we must honour our responsibility to keep Australia safe for future generations. We CAN be the clever country and lead the world in developing SAFE sources of renewable energy, which our magnificent island continent has in abundance.

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16 March 2016**