



## AUSTRALASIAN RADIATION PROTECTION SOCIETY INC.

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### **Nuclear Fuel Cycle Royal Commission – Response to Tentative Findings**

#### **About the Australasian Radiation Protection Society (ARPS)**

The Australasian Radiation Protection Society was founded in 1975 and has more than 250 members from all regions of Australia and New Zealand. Members are engaged in a variety of radiation protection activities aimed at ensuring the safe use of both ionizing and non-ionizing radiation in a wide variety of applications, including medicine, pure and applied science, industry, mineral exploration and mining. ARPS members are involved in the management of any resultant radioactive waste generated by these activities. The primary objective of the society is to promote the principles and practices of radiation protection, to protect people and the environment from the harmful effects of radiation, while allowing beneficial activities that might result in radiation exposure.

#### **Response to Tentative Findings**

The tentative findings provide a comprehensive body of evidence related to the matters under investigation by the Royal Commission. The tentative findings provide a scientifically sound basis for future decision making regarding those activities.

Activities that generate radioactive waste provide significant benefit to South Australia and Australia through research, medical diagnosis and treatment, and in industry (**finding 64**). ARPS agrees that there is a broad social obligation to effectively manage radioactive wastes that arise from these activities (**finding 70**). ARPS believes that a central, purpose built radioactive waste disposal facility does provide long term advantages and improvement over the current arrangements for radioactive waste storage (**finding 66**). In the spirit of the submission to the Royal Commission by the ARPS South Australian Branch (recommendations 8 and 9) a proactive, immediate approach to develop a central radioactive waste disposal facility is strongly supported. This should be a priority because radioactive waste disposal has been an ongoing issue since 1980.

In relation to **findings 71 and 72**, another practical option might be for the South Australian government to support or facilitate South Australian communities that wish to engage with the Commonwealth Government's current process to identify a radioactive waste disposal site.

Findings 116 to 124 provide a well-researched outline of the potential radiation risks. In relation to **finding 120** and **figure 7** an estimate of radiation exposure to members of the public has been published in Radiation Protection in Australasia (the Journal of ARPS). I have attached a copy of this paper for your information.

Cameron Jeffries  
President

