



Medical  
Association  
for  
Prevention of War  
(Australia)

PO Box 1379, Carlton VIC 3053  
03 9023 1958  
eo@mapw.org.au  
www.mapw.org.au  
ABN 157 79 883 661



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### Australia's Nuclear Waste

#### Doctors call for an open independent review of nuclear waste production and disposal.

The Medical Association for Prevention of War is calling for an open independent review of nuclear waste production and disposal in Australia, to create a careful evidence-based, long-term best practice plan.

The recent deeply flawed proposal for a federal nuclear dump and store at Kimba now looks unlikely to get support in the Senate.

It was a cheap storage plan for highly radioactive waste that stays radioactive for more than 10,000 years—an interim facility with no longer term plan. It effectively dumps the problem on future generations of South Australians.

**The Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency chief executive Dr Carl-Magnus Larsson, at a Senate inquiry in June 2020, said: “Waste can be safely stored at Lucas Heights for decades to come.”**

MAPW Vice-President Dr Margaret Beavis said, “We have plenty of time to properly review and plan a disposal facility that meets international best practice standards. The recent proposal did not meet those standards.

Contrary to disgraceful and dishonest government scaremongering, there is no threat to nuclear medicine in Australia. I and other MAPW members regularly rely on nuclear medicine in our clinical practice.”

Medical Association for Prevention of War calls on the government to commit to an open independent review of both production and disposal of nuclear waste.

One of the first principles of toxic waste management is to reduce production.

Non-reactor production of nuclear medicine is increasing, and produces very little radioactive waste. Australia should be partnering with countries like Canada, to research non-reactor production of the commonest nuclear medicine isotope Technetium.

ENDS

Background information:

<https://www.croakey.org/divisive-campaign-on-sa-facility-highlights-urgent-need-for-long-term-nuclear-waste-management-plan/>

For comment:

Dr Margaret Beavis 0401 99 56 99  
Dr Sue Wareham 0407 924 152

#### AFFILIATE



#### FOUNDER

