



## Selecting a site for the National Radioactive Waste Management Facility

The Australian Government will deliver a National Radioactive Waste Management Facility on a site that is volunteered by a landowner, which is technically suitable, and which is alongside a community that broadly supports hosting this new industry for their area.

Radioactive waste is currently located at more than 100 locations around the country, and consolidating it into a single, safe and purpose-built facility is in line with international best practice and Australian Government policy.

The government's approach is carefully staged around ongoing technical assessment and informed consultation, to ensure the community is at the centre of the site selection process. We are working hard to ensure that a community makes an informed decision about if they would like to host a facility. The government has made many independent experts available to the community so they can become informed about the production, manufacture and

handling of nuclear medicine, nuclear science and the broader supply chain, to help them decide if they want to host this new industry.

A range of factors may be taken into account when making a final decision on the site for the facility. These include whether the local community is broadly supportive along with relevant site-specific technical considerations.

Community support will be considered by drawing on the public ballot, public and private submissions and feedback from stakeholders.

The views of neighbouring landowners are of particular importance, and the views of the Traditional Owners of land around the sites are also being directly sought.

Due to the multiple range of inputs to this decision, it is not possible to reduce the selection to a single number. The community ballot is only one input to any final decision.

## How is the community involved in the site selection process?

The community is at the centre of this process.

Both the Kimba and Wallerberdina Station communities were asked if they wished to proceed to this phase of the process, which involved technical assessments and in-depth community consultation.

The communities around the nominated sites at Kimba and Wallerberdina Station broadly said yes.

The government recognises that not everyone in the community shared this view, and we continue to consult with all members of the community, regardless of their position, including those for, against and undecided on the proposal.

## Making a submission

Submissions will be one of the factors Senator the Hon Matt Canavan, may take into account when considering broad community support for the facility.

Submissions can be made by:

*Email:* [radioactivewaste@industry.gov.au](mailto:radioactivewaste@industry.gov.au)

*Post:* **The Department of Industry, Innovation and Science – National Radioactive Waste Section  
GPO Box 2013, Canberra, ACT, 2601**

**The Minister will be provided with all submissions received by the department by close of business 12 December 2019.**

If a submission has been made prior to 1 August 2018 you can write to us and let us know that you wish that to be taken as your view, rather than providing a further submission. Submissions to the department will only be made public where permission is provided. Quantitative, non-identifiable data will be collected and may be published.

## Community ballot

With the assistance of local Councils, an Australian Electoral Commission ballot will take place that will give members of the community the opportunity to formally have their say. The boundaries for the ballot were shaped in consultation with the community.

For the Kimba sites, the ballot will be open to the local council area. For the Wallerberdina Station site, the ballot will be open to the local council area, plus a 50 kilometre radius.

The Minister will consider community support through the results of these ballots, and direct feedback from a range of key stakeholder groups, including neighbours, local businesses, community groups and Traditional Owners.

Those living outside the ballot areas can have their views taken into account through submissions or by contacting the department in person via phone or email.

Over three to four years, the department has provided considerable information to each community on many aspects of the facility, the facts and science of radioactive waste and the process of site selection.

Project offices, community liaison officers and local consultative committees have been established in the communities around the nominated sites of Wallerberdina Station and Kimba, and they continue to facilitate two-way communication between the community and the department.

Every community is different and this process is designed to ensure all views are taken into account.



This document is part of a series of factsheets providing information on the process to site the National Radioactive Waste Management Facility.

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