

Australian Geoscience Council Inc.

The Council of Earth Science Societies in Australia



7 Landsborough Street
Griffith, ACT 2603
18 September 2001

The Information Officer
National Store Project
Department of Industry, Science and Resources
GPO Box 9839
Canberra ACT 2601

Dear Information Officer

The National Store Project

I am writing on behalf of the Australian Geoscience Council (AGC) to indicate our support for the proposed National Store Project.

The AGC comprises nine societies and associations, represents most of the geoscientists in Australia, and has a total membership of over 7000. Our main aim is to promote the geosciences, in the best interests of both our constituent organisations and the Australian nation as a whole.

The AGC considers that the establishment of a national repository to house intermediate level radioactive waste generated in Australia is the best way to deal with the problem. We note that the disposal facility will be strictly limited to waste generated in Australia.

We also consider it appropriate for the Commonwealth Government to select the site and be responsible for its management. Because the volume of waste involved is very small, it does not seem to us to be sensible to have several sites distributed around the continent. One properly managed facility should be all that is required.

The waste should be isolated in accordance with best scientific practice and we note the site selection considerations outlined in Project Proposal. We agree with the criteria listed in the document, but would suggest that the ground water issue should clearly identified as an important criterion when the site for the repository is finally chosen.

We would like to thank you for the opportunity to comment on the National Store Project.

Yours sincerely

David Denham
President

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