

The people and environment of South Australia must be protected from Federal *imposed* storage of AUKUS High-Level nuclear waste:

Brief by David Noonan Independent Environment Campaigner 10 Nov 2025.

South Australians have a **Right to Say No** to *undemocratic* Federal *imposed* storage of AUKUS High Level nuclear waste in our State. All Federal MPs & Senators from SA, Members of the SA Parliament and candidates for the SA State Election on 21st March should declare their position:

Q: Will you accept or reject Federal imposed storage of AUKUS nuclear waste in SA?

The Federal Government quietly took up [new AUKUS Regulations](#) (2 Oct) as *powers to impose* AUKUS wastes by *override* of State laws that *prohibit* nuclear waste storage in SA, NT and WA.

AUKUS [Regulation 111](#) “State and Territory laws that do not apply in relation to a regulated activity” names and prescribes our SA [Nuclear Waste Storage \(Prohibition\) Act 2000](#). The *Objects* of this key SA Law set out what is at stake: “**To protect the health, safety and welfare of the people of SA, and the environment in which they live**” from nuclear waste storage.

Federal Labor’s draconian powers to compromise public health, safety and welfare protections in SA Law, lacks social licence, are an affront to civil society, and damages trust in governance. This is also a threat to Indigenous People with a cultural responsibility to protect their country.

Community expects our State Labor Government to give a clear State Election commitment to protect SA from the risks and impacts of untenable and illegal AUKUS High Level nuclear waste storage, see “**The lethal legacy of Aukus nuclear submarines will remain for millennia – and there’s no plan to deal with it**” ([The Guardian](#), 10 August 2025, interview with Prof Ian Lowe).

Labor has a further key leadership test ahead of our Election: to commit to support Indigenous People’s human rights, set out in the [United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples](#) Article 29 (UNDRIP 2007), to “**Free, Prior and Informed Consent**” over storage of hazardous materials on their lands. AUKUS wastes absolutely are hazardous materials!

a **Question for Premier Peter Malinauskas:** Will you respect and support Indigenous Peoples Rights to Say No to Federal siting of AUKUS nuclear waste storage on their country in SA?

Call for full disclosure on a N-waste siting process after Labor breaks its commitment:

The public has a **Right to Know** what regions are being targeted for storage of High-Level nuclear wastes. A secretive ongoing Defence review “to identify potential nuclear waste disposal sites” ([ABC News](#) March 2023) must be made public ahead of the SA State Election.

AUKUS Minister Marles has broken his commitment to [announce a process](#) by early 2024 to identify a site to dispose of AUKUS High-Level nuclear wastes. The failure by Defence to set out any process - other than to take up powers to *impose* nuclear wastes - is unacceptable.

REPORTER: Is a high-level nuclear waste dump the price that South Australia will have to pay for the jobs that go to the state? (Minister Marles [Press Conference](#) 14 March 2023)

MARLES: *Well, as I indicated there will be a process that we will determine within the next 12 months for how the site will be identified. You’ve made a leap there, which we’re not going to make for some time. It will be a while before a site is ultimately identified. But we will within the next 12 months establish a process for how we walk down that path.*

It is now over 4 years since [Federal Labor agreed with Morrison’s AUKUS](#) nuclear sub agenda.

SA Labor to let ‘national security interests’ decide siting for AUKUS nuclear waste?

National press reported the Woomera Area to be a ‘favoured location’ for storage and disposal of nuclear sub wastes back in August 2023 ([“Woomera looms as national nuclear waste dump site including for AUKUS submarine high-level waste afr.com”](#)). WA, Qld and Vic political leaders have [rejected](#) a High-Level nuclear waste disposal site in their States, with WA suggesting the Woomera Prohibited Area in SA: “*would be one obvious location within the Defence estate, however, we will await the outcomes of the federal review*” ([SMH](#) 15 March 2023).

Premier Malinauskas has so far only said AUKUS nuclear waste should go to a ‘remote’ location in the “[national security interest](#)” (see “*Site for high-level nuclear waste dump under AUKUS deal must be in national interest, SA premier says*” ABC News 15 March 2023).

The [Premier’s “Office for AUKUS”](#) (Letter, 7 Oct 2025) accepts “safe and secure disposal” of High-Level nuclear waste, including spent fuel, produced when subs are decommissioned. The Office says no decision has been made on a location but declines to reveal what is underway, expresses no concerns over unprecedented nuclear waste storage or ‘social license’, and expects “community acceptance” (in SA?) for a nuclear ‘disposal solution’:

“I can confirm that no decision has been made on a location within Australia for the disposal of intermediate, or high-level radioactive waste from nuclear-powered submarines. Determining suitable locations and methods for safe and secure disposal will take time, but Australia will do so in a manner that sets the highest standards ... and which builds community acceptance for a disposal solution.”

SA is left in the dark, without a say, as an ongoing target for an AUKUS nuclear waste dump.

AUKUS is to store US origin nuclear wastes from 2nd hand Virginia Class subs in Australia:

AUKUS aims Australia take on second-hand US Virginia Class nuclear powered subs in the early 2030’s loaded with up to a dozen years of US origin military High-Level nuclear waste and fissile Atomic-Bomb fuel accrued in operations of US Navy High Enriched Uranium nuclear reactors.

Swapping an Australian flag onto this US military nuclear reactor waste places an untenable ‘for ever’ burden on all future generations to have to cope these US nuclear wastes.

Scenario: an AUKUS nuclear dump imposed on SA, High-Level military waste shipped into Whyalla Port to go north, nuclear subs to be ‘decommissioned’ at Osborne Port Adelaide

Whyalla Port is back on a nuclear waste target range. How else could AUKUS nuclear waste get to a storage site in north SA? The Woomera Area is expected to be on a regional short list for an AUKUS dump, requiring nuclear waste transport routes across SA. Port Adelaide community has a **Right to Say No** to nuclear decommissioning plans for expanded Osborne submarine yards.

SA politicians must protect SA and rule out both an *untenable* AUKUS nuclear dump and decommissioning nuclear subs and nuclear reactors at Osborne or else-where in SA.

SA must respect Traditional Owners Human Rights to [Say No](#) to imposition of nuclear wastes.

The SA public have Rights to full disclosure and for politicians to have to declare their positions, We need an informed public debate *ahead* of our State Election. Silence by our political leaders, while a path is paved toward nuclear decisions, makes a nuclear waste dump future more likely.

Info: see [Rex Patrick](#) & “[AUKUS waste in perpetuity](#)”, and [David Noonan](#) in [Pearls and Irritations](#)