



Friends of the Earth Adelaide

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Re: AUKUS nuclear waste storage plans and the March 2026 SA State Election

Under current plans, Australia will be responsible for management, storage and final disposal of high-level and intermediate-level nuclear waste, including spent nuclear fuel and nuclear reactors, from AUKUS nuclear powered submarines. I understand that Australia will also be responsible for storage of spent nuclear fuel from Virginia class submarines acquired second hand from America, even though highly enriched uranium fissile material and much of the spent nuclear fuel will have accumulated before Australia takes over the subs.

Storage and disposal of nuclear waste is prohibited under South Australian law (the *Nuclear Waste Storage Facility (Prohibition) Act 2000*). However, under new AUKUS Regulations (*Australian Naval Nuclear Power Safety Regulations 2025*), the Federal Government intends to over-ride state prohibitions. Storage of AUKUS nuclear waste is *illegal* in our State.

Regarding a site for storage of high-level nuclear waste, in March 2023 Minister for Defence Richard Marles stated, *"We will, in the course of the next year, announce a process by which that site will be identified."* Two and a half years later, still no process, plans or costings for the AUKUS high-level nuclear waste dump have been released to the public.

The public has a right to know the position of its elected representatives in regard to the vexed issue of storage and disposal of nuclear waste, especially high-level spent nuclear fuel, emanating from the AUKUS project. In the lead up to the March 2026 state election, will you, therefore, please provide answers to the following questions:

1. Will you oppose or accept an AUKUS high-level nuclear waste dump being imposed on South Australia by the Federal Government?

2. Will you call for full and prompt disclosure from the Federal Government on an AUKUS nuclear waste storage and siting process?

3. Do you respect and support Indigenous Peoples' right to say "No" to storage and disposal of AUKUS nuclear waste on their country in South Australia, and agree that Australia should uphold the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People?

"Article 29, part 2. States shall take effective measures to ensure that no storage or disposal of hazardous materials shall take place in the lands or territories of indigenous peoples without their free, prior and informed consent."

4. Will you oppose the decommissioning of AUKUS nuclear powered submarines and nuclear reactors at Osborne / Port Adelaide, or at Whyalla or elsewhere in SA?

I look forward to your early reply.

For further information please see David Noonan's briefing paper, "The people and environment of South Australia must be protected from Federal *imposed* storage of AUKUS High-Level nuclear waste", online at <https://nuclear.foe.org.au/nuclear-subs>

Yours sincerely

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