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MEETING WITH STEVEN GRZESKOWIAK

THURSDAY 23 MARCH 2023 | 1030 – 1100 | SECRETARY'S OFFICE

- Mr Steve Grzeskowiak has been appointed to lead the Review to identify locations in the current or future Defence estate suitable for the storage and disposal of intermediate and high level waste from Australia's nuclear-powered submarines.
- This is your first opportunity to meet with Mr Grzeskowiak to discuss the approach for the Review and to provide an update following the announcement of the optimal pathway. The draft Terms of Reference for the Review are provided at Attachment A.
- Since the announcement, the management of radioactive waste has received media attention, including comments from State Premiers (Victoria, Western Australia, Queensland, and South Australia) seeking to distance their States from being considered as potential locations.
- The Government, including the Deputy Prime Minister, has ruled out any intermediate or high-level waste from nuclear powered submarines being sent to the proposed Australian Radioactive Waste Management Facility in Kimba, South Australia and confirmed that it will be stored and disposed of on a Defence site.

ATTENDEES

- Greg Moriarty (Secretary)
- Steven Grzeskowiak (Review Lead, Review of the Defence Estate)
- VADM Jonathan Mead, (Chief, Nuclear Powered Submarine Taskforce)
- Celia Perkins (Deputy Secretary, Secretary and Estate Group)

KEY MESSAGES

s33(a)(ii)

- The Review will need to be followed by a much more detailed site selection process, which includes engagement with affected communities and Indigenous Groups.

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- The Government's commitment to manage all radioactive waste from nuclear powered submarines reflects best-practice stewardship principles, but has already resulted in media interest and sensitivities from interest groups.

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- The Deputy Prime Minister has ruled out that this waste will go to the National Radioactive Waste Management Facility at Kimba.

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- You may wish to seek Mr Grzeskowiak's views on whether he requires any additional resources or assistance beyond what has been provided – there would be substantial opportunity to learn from US and UK colleagues if he thought that was necessary.
- Mr Grzeskowiak ^{s47C}

BACKGROUND

Radioactive waste following the announcement of the optimal pathway

- The Review was announced as part of the broader AUKUS announcement.
 - Deputy Prime Minister Marles stated that within a year a process will be announced by which a facility will be identified, and it will be on current or future Defence land.
 - Deputy Prime Minister Marles has also confirmed that this waste will not go to the National Radioactive Waste Management Facility in Kimba and that it will be in a remote location.
- There has been regular media coverage since the announcement that radioactive waste would be stored in Australia, with concerns raised around Australia's capability to manage high-level waste and develop a suitable facility by the 2050s, as well as the potential health and environmental risks of managing radioactive waste.
- The Victorian and Western Australian Premiers have suggested that the waste should go to South Australia due to the majority of jobs from the nuclear-powered submarine program going to Port Adelaide, and Queensland's government has noted that nuclear waste dumps are banned in the state.
- The South Australian Premier argued that the decision on a waste location should be informed by the best interest of the nation's security and by the science.
- Elements of the community near the proposed Nuclear Radioactive Waste Management Facility in Kimba, South Australia, have expressed concern that high-level waste could be stored at that facility.

Scope of the Review

- The proposed Terms of Reference for the Review are at [Attachment A](#).

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- The Review team includes Defence representatives from the Nuclear Powered Submarine Taskforce, Security and Estate Group and Joint Logistics Command, as well as representatives from across Government.

- The Review team s47C with support from ANSTO, ARWA, Geoscience Australia and others.


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 Australian Government Defence	MEETING BRIEF FOR CNPSTF	
	Mr Steven Grzeskowiak, Review Lead for the Review to identify Defence locations suitable for radioactive waste	
Division: IP&A Division	Reference:	BN64622957
For information: FAS IP&A Ms Alex Kelton Head NPS Capability RADM Matt Buckley	Date: Time: Venue:	17 May 23 1430 - 1500 OCNPSTF

Attendees

1. The following personnel are attending:
 - a. Mr Steven Grzeskowiak, Lead for the Review
 - b. Ms Alexandra Kelton, First Assistant Secretary, International Policy and Agreements
 - c. s47E(d) [redacted], Director Stewardship

Previous Meetings

2. Your most recent meeting with Mr Grzeskowiak was on 23 March 2023, with Secretary Moriarty and Deputy Secretary Perkins, to discuss the approach for the Review.

Objectives

3. **Our objective:** To seek an update on the progress of the Review and whether Mr Grzeskowiak requires any additional resources to complete the Review. Talking points are provided at Annex A.
4. **Their Objective:** To ensure the approach for the Review remains aligned with Government priorities and direction. s47C [redacted]

Key Points

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8. Media coverage of waste issues related to the submarine program has been minimal in recent weeks, although we do expect waste will be a focus of the upcoming Senate Estimates process.

9. The Integrated Review Team is supported within the Taskforce with personnel from IP&A, Capability and Technical Division, and from Defence with personnel from Joint Logistics Command and Estate Group. Cross-government representation includes key personnel from the Australian Radioactive Waste Agency, ANSTO and Geoscience Australia.

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Annex:


A. Talking points

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ANNEX A TO
BN62944363
17 MAY 23

TALKING POINTS

- Welcome an update on the progress of the Review:
 - Grateful for an outline of the process that has been undertaken to date and an assessment of whether you require any additional resources.
 - Appreciate any insights as to preliminary findings and areas that will require further work.
 - We will need to ensure we build in sufficient time to consult the findings across Defence, ^{s47C} 

- Radioactive waste continues to be a sensitive issue.
 - While the media and public interest has been relatively limited to date, I expect there will be ongoing interest, particularly towards the end of the year when the outcomes of the Review are expected.
 - While this Review is an internal Defence process, we should build in the opportunity for broader engagement at the appropriate time.

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