

Timeline for Storage of radioactive waste at the ADI Site

List of Acronyms

AAEC - Australian Atomic Energy Commission

ADI - Australian Defence Industries

ANSTO - Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation

ARPANSA - Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency

ASSESS - a system for selecting suitable sites

ASTEC - Australian Science and Technology Council

CSIRO - Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation

CXRL - Commonwealth X-ray and Radium Laboratory

DPIE - Department of Primary Industries and Energy

HIFAR - high flux Australian reactor

NHMRC - National Health and Medical Research Council

NRIC - National Resource Information Centre

Circa 1972

The Department of Supply transfers the wastes collected by CXRL, and some Commonwealth wastes, to the Department's site at St Marys, NSW.

July 1991

ANSTO enters into a contract with Australian Defence Industries (ADI) to condition and store radioactive waste from the ADI site at St Marys. Sutherland Shire Council responds by launching a court action against ANSTO.

Senate Select Committee on the Dangers of Radioactive Waste, No Time to Waste, 1996, p. 3.

5 February 1992

The Sutherland Shire's court action against ANSTO, launched in July 1991, is successful. The NSW Land and Environment Court finds that ANSTO's functions under the ANSTO Act do not extend to the storage of radioactive waste belonging to other entities, and orders that ANSTO must not bring the waste from St Marys to its Lucas Heights site, and that CSIRO's contaminated soil, already brought to Lucas Heights, must be removed within three years.

Council Of The Shire Of Sutherland v. Australian Nuclear Science & Technology Organisation, Land and Environment Court of New South Wales, Decision of 5 February 1992, Unreported, Case no. 40215/91.

Mid-1994

A regulation is made to enable ANSTO to condition intermediate level radioactive waste at ADI's site at St Marys. Following the recommendation of a Senate inquiry, the regulation is replaced with a regulation which contained a sunset clause.

Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation Regulations, [No. 259 of 1994](#) and [No. 415 of 1994](#).

Senate Debates, 11 October 1994, pp. 143144.

23 August 1994

The Minister for Industry, Science and Technology announces that the CSIRO radioactive soil waste and the other radioactive waste at St Marys will be moved to Woomera for interim storage. The Commonwealth Environment Protection Agency will review final transport and storage arrangements.

'Statement from the Minister for Industry, Science and Technology, Senator Peter Cook', Media Release, 23 August 1994.

May 1995

The intermediate level radioactive waste in storage at St Marys is transported to a Department of Defence facility at Woomera. The Department of Defence had assumed administrative responsibility for the waste some time previously.

'Canberra firm on radioactive waste transfer', The Age, 22 March 1995;

'N-waste site search gains momentum', The Australian, 9 June 1995.