

Question on Notice

No. 1540

Asked on 30 November 2006

MS VAN LITSENBURG asked the Premier and Minister for Trade (MR BEATTIE)—

QUESTION:

What steps is the Beattie Government taking to stop the Federal Government from allowing the dumping of nuclear waste in Queensland?

ANSWER:

The management and disposal of high-level radioactive spent fuel from the nuclear fuel cycle is one of the most intractable problems facing the nuclear power industry throughout the world. Deep geologic disposal has been determined by the international scientific community as the best option for permanently separating high-level radioactive waste from people and the accessible environment. However, no country has yet successfully implemented a system for disposing of this waste.

It is possible that Queensland has locations in western areas considered suitable for disposal. While these may be remote from centres of population, there are also immediate risks posed by transporting nuclear waste over long distances through rural communities.

Because of these concerns, the State Government has introduced the *Nuclear Facilities Prohibition Bill 2006* to Parliament. The Bill specifically prohibits the disposal of nuclear waste along with other aspects of the nuclear fuel cycle consistent with the position supported by the Queensland Parliament in June 2006.

Because the Federal Government is likely to have overriding powers on the siting of nuclear facilities, Queensland may not be able to prevent the dumping of radioactive wastes in the State. Should the Federal Government choose to impose its will by force, the *Nuclear Facilities Prohibition Bill 2006* includes a provision for the State Government to conduct a plebiscite on whether the people support it. My government will make sure that the clear views of the State's residents are made known to the Federal Government.