

I have been an active and vocal supporter of the ban on nuclear weapons for many years, since seeing the devastation of Hiroshima and Nagasaki as a child.

The Bill must be rejected. The premise of the Bill - that AUKUS will specifically translate into a safer Australia - is fundamentally flawed. The Bill purports to regulate the nuclear safety aspects of activities relating to AUKUS submarines, but gives no exact methodology for doing this. We are told that militarisation creates a safer world, however, it is obvious that more weapons and arms lead to more violence, instability, and gender inequality. Australia must refuse to bend the knee to the nuclear deal proposed by the military industrial complex of the US and UK.

Our AUKUS 'partners', the US and UK, have proved incapable of disposing of their nuclear waste in the 60+ years since first putting nuclear submarines to sea. The Bill opens a backdoor to Australia becoming the dumping ground for tons of high-level nuclear waste from the US and UK nuclear submarine fleets. This is due to the Bill's definition of "an AUKUS submarine" including UK and US nuclear submarines (Part 1, Division 3, Subdivision A, clause 7). Therefore, UK and US nuclear submarine material or equipment can be maintained, stored or disposed of in Australia.

There are serious concerns in our society about the lack of clear safety standards for this nuclear waste. For example, Part 1, Division 2, Section 5 clause 2 broadly outlines what is "reasonably practicable" concerning safety standards on nuclear waste and submarines. These standards are taken verbatim from the Work Health and Safety Act 2011 (Commonwealth), alarmingly meaning the same standards we have for working at a supermarket are the ones intended for use for nuclear waste. Storage and disposal of nuclear wastes compromises the safety and welfare of the people in South and Western Australia. Its effect on environmental sustainability is disastrous. The dangers to our indigenous peoples have not been sufficiently explored. There are significant issues in the Bill surrounding the disposal of high-level nuclear waste in the Australian bush where it could have impacts on indigenous communities, and our unique Australian wildlife. I therefore recommend a complete rejection of the Bill.

Storage and disposal of nuclear wastes compromises the safety and welfare of the people in South and Western Australia. How can the government ignore the fact that nuclear waste storage is prohibited in South Australia by the SA Nuclear Waste Storage (Prohibition) Act 2000? But this conveniently does not matter, as the Bill outlines that state law will be overridden by Federal law, meaning that waste can be dumped wherever it likes. This is shameful, not to mention a complete abuse of power at the expense of civil society's human rights. I seem to remember the ALP stating its commitment to "remain strongly opposed to the importation and storage of nuclear waste that is sourced from overseas in Australia" and I'm personally dismayed at being lied to.

Australia claims to be a "proud and long-time supporter of" the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 on women, peace and security. But the Bill's complete lack of a gendered-perspective or consultation with members of civil society who are women who bear children, demonstrates otherwise. Women are more vulnerable to ionising radiation than men. Pregnant women exposed to high doses of ionising radiation are at risk of malformations, and disabilities to their children, as well as the risk of stillbirth. The Bill must be rejected. There is **no** mention in the Bill of the disproportionate ways in which nuclear waste or nuclear radiation affects women and their children, leaving it a mystery as to how the government would care for its citizens in the wake of this dangerous deal.

This Bill is a blatant continuation of colonialism: AUKUS destroys Indigenous land and denies Indigenous peoples' right to say No. Australia has a long and ongoing legacy of colonialism, especially through nuclear waste disposal and nuclear testing on indigenous land and people. AUKUS and this Bill will continue these colonial and racist implications. How can we propose that nuclear waste be dumped on Aboriginal land, without consulting with the First Peoples of that area? AUKUS nuclear waste dump plans ignores the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (adopted by United Nations, Sept 2007) in Indigenous People's Article 29 rights to "Free, Prior and Informed Consent" over storage or disposal of hazardous materials on their lands.

The Bill must be rejected for its neglect of care about the First Nations people of Australia. Traditional owners must have a right to say No to nuclear waste and dumping on their land. This lack of communication with Indigenous groups that would be affected by this nuclear waste is unconscionable. Australia should stand up for the good of humanity and the environment, as nuclear weaponry, storage or disposal brings absolutely no good to any living being. The Bill sets out that a nuclear dump is likely to be imposed on communities in SA and WA, with complete disregard of civil society, including the local women and Indigenous Peoples, and should therefore be rejected.

The public is being kept in the dark about this. We have a right to know who is targeted and a right to refuse to accept the imposition of US and UK nuclear wastes. At the very least, AUKUS and the Bill must commit to comply with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Article 29 provision of Indigenous People's rights to "Free, Prior and Informed Consent" over storage or disposal of hazardous materials on their lands. This Bill destroys any gains made in gender justice, racial justice, environmental justice and economic justice, and must not go ahead.