

## Target country: Australia

Target Country	CG No.	Target CG Coordinator	JC Article No.	National Report Citation	Question/Comment and Answer	
AU	2	P. Kayser	19	§ A Pag. 4	<b>Question</b>	Considering that each state and the commonwealth have different regulations for managing radioactive wastes, how effective coordination between authorities and a uniform level of safety in the management of radioactive waste is assured throughout Australia
					<b>Answer</b>	<p>Under Section 15 of the <i>Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Act 1998</i>, the CEO of the Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency is responsible for promoting uniformity of radiation protection and nuclear safety policy and practices across jurisdictions of the Commonwealth, the States and the Territories. The responsibility reflects the fact that Australia is a federation of States and Territories, with each jurisdiction having its radiation protection and nuclear safety regulatory framework. Within ARPANSA, the Radiation Health Committee includes representatives of all jurisdictions in Australia and produces national codes and recommendations that are implemented into policies and practice by the regulatory bodies. The RHC is currently working to produce a draft National Directory for Radiation Protection which can be downloaded at <a href="http://www.arpansa.gov.au/dr_ndrp.htm">http://www.arpansa.gov.au/dr_ndrp.htm</a>. A further draft is expected to be published in the first half of 2004.</p> <p>The aim of the Directory is to provide nationally uniform requirements for the protection of people and the environment against exposure or potential exposure to ionizing and non-ionizing radiation and for the safety of radiation sources, including provision for the national adoption of codes and standards. The Directory has been developed to address the needs of radiation protection regulators but it will also benefit other sectors involved in implementing radiation controls, such as mining and occupational health and safety regulators.</p>
AU	2	P. Kayser	26	§ F Pag. 18	<b>Question</b>	It is generally accepted that having a decommissioning plan or at least some decommissioning provisions of nuclear installations before hand is an adequate practice that can help a lot to implement a real decommissioning plan when needed. In this regard, do Queensland authorities intend to require its

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						radioactive management facility to develop such a plan in the short term?
					<b>Answer</b>	Yes.
AU	2	P. Kayser	19	Annex E Pag. 44	<b>Question</b>	What are the current regulatory practices for operation and waste management for mining and milling of radioactive ores? Are these facilities licensed and supervised by state regulatory bodies?
					<b>Answer</b>	The activities are regulated by State and Territory radiation protection regulators in accordance with the following codes of practice <i>(i) Code of Practice on Radiation Protection in the Mining and Milling of Radioactive Ores</i> <i>(ii) Code of Practice on the Management of Radioactive Wastes from the Mining and Milling of Radioactive Ores</i>  These codes are available for download at <a href="http://www.arpansa.gov.au/nuc_codes.htm">http://www.arpansa.gov.au/nuc_codes.htm</a>
AU	2	P. Kayser	32-1	§ B.3 Pag. 7	<b>Question</b>	The current policy in NSW is to force the licensees to store their radioactive wastes until the wastes decay to the point at which they are no longer radioactive or until such a time there is national repository and/or store operational. How the state authorities satisfy themselves that the licensees do not get rid of the wastes to avoid costly maintenance of their own waste stores? What happens if a company holding radioactive wastes go bankrupt, who has to manage the wastes?
					<b>Answer</b>	The regulatory body in New South Wales, the Environment Protection Authority, conducts periodic inspections of licence holders' premises including radioactive waste inventories. In the event that an authorised possessor of radioactive material goes into bankruptcy, a State Trust will fund the continued storage of the material. As NSW does not have a radioactive waste management store or disposal facility, the possessor will continue to store the material or arrange for its lawful disposal by the manufacturer or other entity overseas.
AU	2	P. Kayser	32-1	§ B Pag. 6	<b>Question</b>	What are the current provisions for Australia to get back radioactive wastes from reprocessing of spent fuel shipped to several European facilities? Are current plans for building an adequate storage facility compatible with the scheduled program?
					<b>Answer</b>	Waste from spent fuel sent abroad for reprocessing will be returned to Australia as category S waste, equivalent to the IAEA classification of long-lived

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						intermediate level waste. The contract for spent fuel sent to COGEMA, France specifies the return of waste from the basic quantity of fuel (1304 fuel elements) by the end of 2015. The waste from spent fuel sent to Dounreay, UK will be returned in the period 2011-2022. The national store project for the storage of Australia's intermediate level waste was announced in 2000. Suitable sites are currently being identified.
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