



The Hon Greg Pearce MLC

Minister for Finance and Services

Minister for the Illawarra

MEDIA RELEASE

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NO RADIOACTIVE WASTE WILL GO TO KEMPS CREEK

The Minister for Finance and Services Greg Pearce today announced the safe removal of waste material at Hunters Hill and reaffirmed that no hazardous radioactive waste will go to Kemps Creek.

He said this was a victory for the people of Kemps Creek who were threatened with the dumping of hazardous material on their doorstep under the former Labor Government.

Mr Pearce said waste material had been identified on land at Nelson Parade, Hunters Hill decades ago and the former Labor Government had threatened to dump it at Kemps Creek.

"However, we have come up with a solution which will ensure no hazardous material is taken to Kemps Creek," Mr Pearce said.

"The waste will be removed and tested on site at Hunters Hill under the supervision of ANSTO, the Federal Government's Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation.

"In the unlikely event of any hazardous material being found it will be removed and separated from the rest of the soil and taken to a secure Office of Environment and Heritage facility.

"It will **not** be transported to Kemps Creek.

"If hazardous waste is found ANSTO has confirmed this waste material can be separated on site.

"The non-hazardous material will be sent to the site at Kemps Creek.

"In other words, we have come up with a safe, practical solution for all parties."

Mr Pearce said the OEH site had been taking radioactive material from the community, including from hospitals, for more than 20 years and is equipped to handle the material from Hunters Hill should any be found.

"The facility was upgraded by the previous Government five years ago to comply with the requirements for the secure storage of radioactive materials under the ARPANSA Code of Practice: Security of Radioactive Sources," he said.

"All preliminary testing by independent bodies has indicated that it is not anticipated that any hazardous waste will be found on site.

"However to ensure absolute safety, rigorous monitoring has been put in place by ANSTO, in accordance with world's best practice.

"The NSW Liberals & Nationals were elected on the promise of fixing this state and cleaning up Labor's messes and that is exactly what is being done.

"After 16 years of inaction on this issue under Labor, the NSW Liberals & Nationals have come up with a solution in just seven months, with the backing of the Federal Government's nuclear authority, ANSTO," Mr Pearce said.

Member for Mulgoa Tanya Davies said this was a win for the local community at Kemps Creek who had voiced their concern about Labor's proposal.

"I have worked tirelessly with the Premier, the Minister for Finance and Services, Greg Pearce, Minister for Environment & Heritage Robyn Parker and the Member for Lane Cove Anthony Roberts to find this solution," Ms Davies said.

"Kemps Creek residents had every right to be concerned about the prospect of hazardous material being taken to their region but the Government has listened and we will act to ensure this does not happen," she said.

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