

## A Letter to the Kimba Community

As many members of our community would be aware judgement was handed down Tuesday by Judge Natalie Charlesworth in the Federal Court of Australia resulting in the decision by former Resource Minister Keith Pitt to site a National Radioactive Waste Management Facility at Napandee in Kimba being set aside.

I understand there will be a range of emotions rippling through our community with some positive, some less so. I'm sure there is also uncertainty and confusion as to what the recent court decision ultimately means for Kimba and Napandee as the proposed site for the NRWMF.

Firstly, as I write this it's still very early and council is yet to be briefed on legal interpretation of the judgement and what, if any, legal or other pathways are available in response. We have sought updates and will do our best to inform our community as we get those reports. We also hope to learn the government, minister and departmental response in due time.

While acknowledging this process has been long and difficult, it has certainly not been without reward. Front and centre to this is the connections we have started to explore with our traditional owners, the Barngarla people in developing and understanding each other's positions and objectives. We thank Barngarla and other traditional owners for their goodwill and engagement to Kimba and hope we can continue to build and grow our relationship into the future.

While there can be many views on the legal challenge, council respects the decision of Justice Charlesworth in the Federal Court of Australia and fully accepts the findings therein. We also recognise BDAC and their right to test government decisions through the court.

I'm so appreciative to our community for not only the trust and support our council have received since this project was raised back in 2017 but also their ongoing respect and empathy towards each other. Since that time, we have strongly negotiated and have received over \$6M in direct grant funding as well as numerous other opportunities to further our community over this time. We are committed to continued advocacy supporting best outcomes for the Kimba community.

In the absence of updates since the court decision we can only assume the government is still committed to establishing a NRWMF. Again, we will keep you informed as and when we receive updates.

In conclusion, council are committed to getting the best possible result for Kimba, but at the moment we just don't know how that looks. It's early and will take time for a full assessment of the judgment and possible options from there. Our commitment is to keep communications channels open, and we will endeavour to keep you informed as we learn more.



Mayor Dean Johnson  
District Council of Kimba