



District Council of  
**KIMBA**  
EST. 1924

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

**10.8.23**

### **Statement from Kimba Mayor, Dean Johnson:**

The District Council of Kimba is extremely disappointed in the Federal Government's announcement that it will not appeal the decision by the Federal Court of Australia to set aside a decision by former Resource Minister Keith Pitt to site a National Radioactive Waste Management Facility at Napandee in Kimba, and that it is walking away altogether from this process.

We call on Resources Minister Madeleine King to reconsider her decision and to place sufficient weight on what is best for all members of our community and the broader region.

We are also disappointed that the Council and the community were first made aware of this decision through the media, and we are yet to receive any official correspondence or even a phone call from the Minister or the Department on the decision and the reasons for the decision.

This is a kick in the guts for our community who have invested eight years of extraordinary effort and determination to do what is right for our region and in the national interest to create a suitable facility for Australia's low and medium level radioactive waste.

As a council we have undertaken a significant level of planning and critical decision making for the economic future of our community on the basis the radioactive waste facility would proceed. This includes considering the extra resources required for essential services such as health and childcare based on the town's anticipated growth as a result of this facility's construction and operations.

All of that work has been for nothing. We sincerely hope the Federal Government recognises the hard work and sacrifices, and the impact of this decision on Kimba, and they make every effort to provide ongoing support and assistance so that we may be able to secure the economic prosperity of our region.



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We are incredibly proud of our community and the way in which they have considered all factors and embraced their right to 'have their say' on this issue. As a reminder, an official ballot by the Australian Electoral Commission facilitated by the Council in 2019 to gauge support for a final siting of the facility at one of two sites in the Kimba District received a turnout of more than 90 per cent of those eligible to vote. The result was 61.6 per cent in favour and 38.4 per cent against.

Even if the Government does not appeal the Federal Court decision, there are options available to Government to continue to pursue the siting of the facility in the region, including revisiting the process of broad community consultation rather than simply walking away.

Our region strongly relies on agriculture, and we need to find alternate industries to secure Kimba's future. The positioning of a national radioactive waste management facility was a significant opportunity for our region and that has now been taken away.

**END**