

NUCLEAR WEAPONS AND POWER POLICY

Date this document was adopted

non-legislative

PURPOSE

This document outlines Council's position and declarations that the City of Adelaide is a Nuclear Free Zone.

The Corporation of the City of Adelaide declares a Nuclear Free Zone within the boundaries of the City of Adelaide, with the provision of exemption being made for the transport of small quantities of biomedical reagents to or from destinations in the city and radioisotopes used in medical facilities.

STATEMENT

A Nuclear Free Zone is the Council declaring its opposition to the nuclear arms race and all stages of the nuclear fuel cycle; nuclear power stations; and uranium nuclear waste and other material connected with the nuclear power industry being stored or transported through the city.

Radioactive materials used for approved medical and research purposes and some industrial applications, such as radioisotopes, are generally not restricted by this definition even though there may be concern about the safe use, storage, handling and disposal of these materials. The Council believes the benefits to the user outweigh the risks to the community at large.

Local governments are charged with many aspects of the health, safety and well-being of people. It is important that local governments consider nuclear and radiation issues as part of their responsibilities for health, town planning, community information and education. Local Government's powers in areas related to nuclear power, weapons and defence are limited but they can be a voice for their community and advocate positive initiatives that other levels of government can implement.

Local Nuclear Free Zone declarations have limited legal significance; however, they are important public statements of the views of a Council and its local community.

Legislation

Nuclear Free Zones cannot be directly implemented by a Local Government Authority.

Anything in relation to the safe storage, transport and handling of radioactive substances (nuclear materials) is administered by the South Australian Environment Protection Authority-under the *Radiation Protection Control (RPC) Act 2021 (SA)*,

Radiation Protection and Control Regulations 2022 (SA), as well as the *Code for the Safe Transport of Radioactive Material 2019 (ARPANS Act Transport Code)*.

While the South Australian Environment Protection Agency is responsible for the safe handling of radioactive substances and the City of Adelaide has no power, this does not derogate from the City of Adelaide applying the general provisions of *Public Health Act 2011 (SA)* in its municipality.

A Nuclear Free Zone excludes any activities associated with nuclear radioactive material in its area but allows exclusion for the use of medical radioactive substances. Other fields, such as geology, geophysics, forensic science, structural engineering and materials analysis, use radioactive equipment.

OTHER USEFUL DOCUMENTS

Related documents

- Nil

Relevant legislation

- *Radiation Protection Control (RPC) Act 2021 (SA)*
- *Radiation Protection and Control Regulations 2022 (SA)*
- *Public Health Act 2011 (SA)*
- *Environment Protection Act 1993 (SA)*
- *Nuclear Waste Storage Facility (Prohibition) Act 2000 (SA)*
- *Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety (ARPANS) Act 19998 (Commonwealth)*
- *Code for the Safe Transport of Radioactive Material (2019) (ARPANS Act Transport Code) (Commonwealth)*
- *Customs Act 1901 (Commonwealth)*
- *Nuclear Non-Proliferation (Safeguards) Act 1987 (Commonwealth)*
- *Weapons of Mass Destruction (Prevention and Proliferation) Act 1995 (Commonwealth)*
- *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act 1999 (Commonwealth)*

GLOSSARY

Throughout this document, the below terms have been used and are defined as:

Nuclear Free Zone is any geographic area, regardless of size, in which:

- There are no nuclear weapons, nor any facilities associated with the development, manufacture, transport or use of nuclear weapons, component parts and associated technology
- There are no nuclear power plants, including power stations, uranium enrichment and reprocessing plants
- No major radioactive materials or wastes are created, used, stored or transported
- No uranium exploration, mining or export takes place;
- There are no ports of call or landing rights for any nuclear forces, including nuclear-armed and/or powered vessels and aircraft.

ADMINISTRATIVE As part of Council’s commitment to deliver the City of Adelaide Strategic Plan, services to the community and the provision of transparent information, all policy documents are reviewed as per legislative requirements or when there is no such provision, a risk assessment approach is taken to guide the review timeframe.

This Policy document will be reviewed every **5** years unless legislative or operational change occurs beforehand. The next review is required in **2029**.

Review history:

Trim Reference	Authorising Body	Date/ Decision ID	Notes
COCO1995/173	Council	27/2/1995	New policy created
ACC2003/1077	City Strategy Committee	24 July 2020	Reaffirmed Council’s position
ACC2024/XXXX	Council	XX/8/2024	Policy reviewed and reaffirmed.

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