

RADIOACTIVE WASTE POLICY

POLICY OBJECTIVE

This Official Council Policy addresses the matter of the disposal of radioactive waste within the Wentworth Shire Council.

POLICY STATEMENT

The intent of this policy is to establish the Council's view on the storage, transport, and processing of radioactive materials and waste within the Wentworth Shire Council.

1. POLICY COVERAGE

This policy applies to all areas of the Wentworth Shire Council.

2. STRATEGIC PLAN LINK

Objective: 4.0 Wentworth is a caring, supportive inclusive community that is informed and engaged in its future.

Strategy: 4.1 Provide strong and effective representation, leadership, planning, decision-making and service delivery

3. DEFINITIONS AND ABBREVIATIONS

Term/Word	Definition
Radioactive substance	Means any natural or artificial substance whether in solid or liquid form or in the form of a gas or vapour (including any article or compound whether it has or has not been subjected to any artificial treatment or process) which emits ionising radiation spontaneously with a specific activity greater than the prescribed amount and which consists of or contains more than the prescribed activity of any radioactive element whether natural or artificial (NSW Radiation Control Act 1990)
Controlled Facility	Means: a nuclear installation, a prescribed radiation facility or a prescribed legacy site (Australian Protection and Nuclear Safety Act 1998)
High level radioactive material (ARPANSA)	High level waste typically has levels of activity concentration of in the range of 10^4 - 10^6 terabecquerel/m ³ . Note: 1 terabecquerel (TBq) equals 10^{12} Bq or a thousand billion Bq (ARPANSA).

4. POLICY CONTENT

It is the policy of this Council that:

1. Council will strongly oppose any proposal to establish any facility that stores Radioactive Waste, including high level radioactive material, anywhere within the Wentworth Shire Local Government Area.
2. No uranium, nuclear waste nor other radioactive materials connected with any nuclear power industry, radioactive and nuclear material processing facility or associated storage facility shall be processed or stored within or transported within or through the municipality.

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3. Council is not opposed to the responsible use of radioisotopes in medical, dental and veterinary practices and for mining and industrial purposes. Council is of the opinion that the benefits to the users and the community generally outweighs the risks to the community at large.
4. Council will continue to act to have the Wentworth Shire Council declared a Nuclear Free Zone.

5. RELATED DOCUMENTS & LEGISLATION

Radiation Control Act 1990 (NSW)

Radiation control Regulation 2013 (NSW)

Protection of the Environment Operations (Waste) Regulation 2005

Statutory Review: Radiation Control Act 1990 – NSW EPA

Guide for classification of Radioactive Waste: Radiation Protection Series G-4 – Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency (ARPANSA) October 2020

6. ATTACHMENTS

Nil.

7. DOCUMENT APPROVAL

This document is the latest version of the official policy of the Wentworth Shire Council, as adopted by Council on 20 April 2022 All previous versions of this policy are null and void.

This policy may be amended or revoked by Council at any time.

A PDF copy of the signed document can be accessed from Council’s record management system and Reliansys.

Signed:.....

26 April 2022

General Manager Wentworth Shire Council

Date