

RADIO NEWS & TALKBACK PRECIS

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Morning / Lunch Period (9am–1pm)
(Plus talkback items scanned from last night)
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RADIO NEWS BROADCASTS

Adrian Pederick, Liberal MP for Hammond (639ABC 9.07-9.16) Royal Commission into the Nuclear Fuel Cycle / Overseas trip

(Smallacombe: ... a group of business and political leaders have just returned from a trip around Europe to look at SA getting involved in a global solution to nuclear waste, have to mention this is not at all connected to the Fed Govt's proposal to look at the waste repository near Hawker, it's more kind of related to the state's Royal Commission, Adrian Pederick ... that area takes in Murray Bridge and Coorong area and he's just returned from his trip, he's been in Adelaide for about an hour and 10 mins ... good morning ... why did you decide to go?) well I was very keen to get involved in the debate because you hear a lot of pros and cons about nuclear energy and parts of the fuel cycle so I was very keen to go and get educated in my own right and it's been a very enthralling 12 days away and the group has certainly learnt a real lot about nuclear energy and the processes that take place and the issues that you need to deal with in the nuclear fuel cycle *(Smallacombe: How will this help with your decision making when it comes to political and policies that could be made around this?)* well look from a political angle I think really in regards to the Royal Commission and that's likely to be handed down today and I know the interim report talked about SA could probably fit in the scheme of things with a repository for high level waste and I think politically it really needs to look at in a bipartisan way because it's such a big issue and will go across many, many governments over time and from my perspective I think we all need to have the conversation and see whether the people want it because at the end of the day, if you don't have the social license this won't go ahead and this is the sort of thing that was put to us whether we were in Finland, in France or in England and it certainly proved to us that if the people don't come with you and they're the first port of call, all these countries expressed to us when you're looking at sites you certainly need the social conscious of the people to go ahead with any proposal in the fuel cycle *(Smallacombe: What areas in Europe did you find that they did support nuclear waste?)* certainly the whole fuel cycle arrangement in Finland is very impressive, their facilities ... a town of 40,000 people and within 15 kms of that town there's two reactors functioning at the moment, they're building a third reactor there, there's been up to 4,000 people working on that site and the building of that third reactor, there's 1,500 people there working and running the site, but also we looked at the low radiation repository and went down 60 meters into the ground and stood at the top ... between the top of the two silos for the low and intermediate level material and we also looked at their arrangements for building

their high level waste repository so all of this was within a few kms of each other and within 15kms of a major town of 40,000 people, also in France we travelled throughout France and that country has 58 reactors and we went out for a four hour drive out of Paris and went to the Andreas [phonetic] Laboratory, 500 meters down into the ground, many kilometers of tunnels where they're looking at various ways to store nuclear material 500 meters under the ground in hard rock, certainly the English have been managing the nuclear industry since they worked on the Manhattan projects during World War II at Cellar field [phonetic], now this is an area, we didn't get there because of the bank holiday but we were briefed on it in Manchester and it's an area that has a river running through it and it's got all levels of the fuel cycle there, there's reactors nearby, they're managing material intermediate facilities and they're looking at deep geological repositories, it's the whole cycle that's going on there but look they've had conversations for decades and decades all these countries and it's really moved the issue along (*Smallacombe: ...was going to ask how long these communities have been in discussion about this, so it's not something that just happens overnight ... Murray Bridge, Coorong, the Murray, the Coorong, the Lakes, do you see nuclear as a safe option for your regional area?*) well look for any regional area and as part of my role in Parliament, I'm the shadow parliamentary secretary for the regions and agriculture, for any regional area and even ... close to town, if they geologically stacked up according to all the geologists, there's a possibility that nuclear material could be deposited there as spent fuel, that in the first instance it all has to happen with the license of the community, the debate here has long been about using the vast areas of the Outback and if we go ahead with the proposal that may be where a repository lands if we go ahead, there's years of conversations to have yet, but certainly the interesting thing we saw overseas was the fact that there's farmland right up to the facilities, Champagne they've got reactors in amongst the vineyard, in France and the communities just get on with life and it doesn't seem to affect any issues around producing good food, good wine so it's certainly a debate we have to have and wherever any sites are looked at geologically and that's the first issue that needs to be looked at I think, there needs to be a geological assessment using hydraulic assessment, seismic assessments and deep core drilling to see what sites are proposed and see potentially where a site could be, but there's a long conversation that needs to be had with the community and look at minimum I would think, three to five years as a minimum time and it could be a lot longer than that but you have to take the community with you and you have to have a site that is socially acceptable (*Smallacombe: ...you mentioned the Outback again, but would you support this type of thing in your electorate of Hammond near the Murray River and the Coorong?*) the only way I'd support a feature like this in my electorate would be whether the geology stacked up and whether the people would accept it, that's the only way I would support it because it was interesting as I said, there were actually places in Europe and certainly in Finland and France where communities were competing to take on these facilities because of the employment opportunities involved in the process, but look it would be after a lot of debate and the people would have the first lot of call to say 'no' we don't want it in a certain area but we need to be looking, if the talk is when the Royal Commission findings come down to have a look at it in SA, we need to look right across the state and find out the best possible location and then go through a whole process of consultation (*Smallacombe: Would you say*

that SA should get involved in global nuclear waste storage?) well the Fins look at it, they raise it as, from the rock to the rock, now we've been exporting uranium for around 30 years or more and there were some courageous politics down back when the Bill went through supporting Roxby Downs Olympic Dam in 1982 ... when a Labor politician crossed the floor and got it up when my party was in govt so I think we just have to have the conversation and I'm not trying to dodge the question, but what I'm saying, we need to have a look at it, we need to see if people will accept it, but certainly from the geological point of view and the engineering and science that we saw in Europe, it really opened your eyes on the possibilities of what could happen because quite frankly these people do not have the vast open spaces that we have the opportunity to use, they've had to use areas close to communities and I talked to the people at Manchester about the Cellarfield proposal where there's a whole range of high level material in storage, there's nuclear reactors operating and they said 'well there's a river flowing through, people go fishing there, people farm right up to the fences' so it really opened my eyes onto the possibilities but at the end of the day, it will be up to the local communities to make that decision if that's where we in SA move (*Smallacombe: Thank you ...*) no worries, thank you (*Smallacombe: Hope you get some rest after your trip*) no worries.