

CABINET - SUBJECTS FOR CONSIDERATION,.....21.May.....1991

CABINET	SUBJECT	DOCKET
No. V. LATE 13.1 Decision	Maralinga and Emu Lands: clean up of former atomic test sites. APPROVED	S.A.A. 3/05/91
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;">Not Relevant</div>		
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13-11  
**MINUTES forming ENCLOSURE to**

SAA 3/05/91

**TO: THE PREMIER FOR CABINET**

**RE: MARALINGA AND EMU LANDS: CLEAN UP OF FORMER ATOMIC TEST SITES**

1. **PROPOSAL**

That Cabinet agree on a State position for the clean up of the former British atomic test sites at Maralinga and Emu.

That the position statement as outlined in the attached draft letter, be conveyed to the Prime Minister.

2. **BACKGROUND**

2.1 In September 1950 the British Government entered into arrangements with the Australian Prime Minister to test nuclear devices on Australian soil.

2.2 Between 1953 and 1963 the British scientists detonated seven nuclear devices (major trials) at Maralinga, and two at Emu some 200 kilometres to the north. A further three devices were detonated at the Monte Bello Islands off the Western Australian coast.

2.3 In addition to the major trials, the British conducted several hundred minor trials in which components of nuclear devices were exposed to extreme pressures and heat, without fission occurring, to test safety limits in accident conditions and to prove trigger mechanisms for the British thermo-nuclear program subsequently conducted at Christmas Island. The minor trials caused extensive areas of permanent contamination at the Atomic Test Range by the dispersal of radioactive materials such as plutonium and other toxic materials.

2.4 In preparation for the atomic test program in 1953, attempts were made to locate and remove the nomadic Aboriginal people who lived in and traversed the areas which were declared "prohibited". Many of the nomadic and semi-permanent settlers of areas such as the Ooldea mission were then relocated to settlements in Western and South Australia. Many went to Yalata where for 30 years they were required to live in a mode which was culturally, socially and spiritually alien to their traditions and their 40,000 year history. The social and kinship fabric of their society broke down with devastating effects.

2.5 In 1967 the British Government attempted to clean up the plutonium plume dispersal areas arising from the minor trails at Taranaki, by ploughing the surface (Operation Brumby). This resulted in creating a more difficult technical clean up problem because it spread radioactive contaminated soil to a greater depth. In 1979 a further clean up of surface debris and the removal of plutonium located in pits was undertaken by the British Government. On the basis of poor information, the Australian Government accepted these attempts at a clean up as final and the U.K. Government now avers that no further claim should be made on them. Both Federal and State governments strongly disagree with this contention. The Federal Government's Technical Assessment Group (TAG) Studies have clearly indicated that the levels of contamination identified by the British were understated.

2.6 In 1984 the Australian Government established a Royal Commission, under the presidency of Mr. Justice J.R. McClelland, to inquire into the British Nuclear Tests in Australia. The Royal Commission reported on 20th November, 1985.

The Commission reported on the conduct and effects of all major and minor trials, including deficiencies in safety procedures, the potential danger to service personnel and the Aboriginal population, the extent of contamination of land areas which was insufficiently defined by existing information and the long term problems for Australia.

The Commission recommended that the lands contaminated by the trials should be completely cleaned up, and that the costs should be the responsibility of the British Government (Recommendation 6) and that Aboriginal people should be compensated for the loss of the use and enjoyment of the lands (Recommendation 7).

2.7 In 1985, the Commonwealth Government established a Technical Assessment Group (TAG), comprising eminent scientific personnel from Australia, the U.K. and the U.S.A. to assess the extent of contamination and to recommend a range of options for clean-up with indicative costings.

The TAG reported in 1990 and presented a range of options from fencing the contaminated areas (\$13m.) to a total clean up of all residual wastes (\$650m). (ATTACHMENT 1).

2.8 In conjunction with TAG the Commonwealth Government established a Consultative Group to advise on the political and human factors of the TAG findings. The British Government, Maralinga Tjarutja, Department of the Premier and Cabinet, the S.A. Health Commission and State Aboriginal Affairs are members of the Consultative Group together with W.A. Government officials.

- 2.9 The Maralinga traditional Aboriginal owners now have the freehold title to 76,000 square kilometres of land, part of which is heavily contaminated by plutonium plumes as a result of the minor trials. The Commonwealth Prohibited Zone, Section 400, and State Crown Land at Emu also contain extensive areas of contamination.

### 3. DISCUSSION

- 3.1 The Technical Assessment Group Report estimated radiation doses based on full-time occupancy of a contaminated area by people living in a traditional manner. It suggested that no remedial or control measures are necessary in those areas where annual radiation doses to full time residents do not exceed 5mSv (milliSievert) per year.

As occupancy in these areas is likely to be only intermittent, Maralinga Tjarutja and the S.A. Health Commission have accepted this boundary suggestion as reasonable.

- 3.2 Within the resultant zone:

3.2.1 The central ploughed area is so heavily contaminated that decontamination by removing the top soil and burying or treating it to remove plutonium is necessary;

3.2.2 There are a number of burial pits containing plutonium which should be stabilised to prevent release of plutonium.

3.2.3 There is an area of intermediate contamination where some measures are necessary to reduce doses but full decontamination would be environmentally and financially unrealistic. Some form of fencing or delineating is considered to be the most suitable treatment for this area.

- 3.3 Maralinga Tjarutja, the statutory authority representing all traditional owners of the lands, has advised that the elders have agreed that a total clean up is unrealistic, technically and environmentally. Further, they acknowledge the unreasonable costs implied by a complete clean-up.

While not specifically referring to the options listed in the TAG Report, Option 6(c) best describes the minimum level of clean up acceptable to them (indicative costing \$82m). They also require the clean up of Emu but have, as yet, not identified their position regarding the method most acceptable to them (indicative costing \$11m.).

To accommodate this position, Maralinga Tjarutja would seek compensation for the permanent loss of the use of specified land areas. (Maralinga Tjarutja letter ATTACHMENT 2).

- 3.4 This position is considered by South Australian members of the Consultative Committee to be reasonable and should form the basis of the Government's position. At this stage no definite assessment has been made of the compensation costs and the form such compensation could take has not yet been identified. Options include:
- 3.4.1 transfer of Maralinga Village (currently valued by the Federal Government at \$20 million in existing infrastructure) to Maralinga Tjarutja;
  - 3.4.2 monetary payment additional to the clean up costs to be negotiated between the Commonwealth Government and the Maralinga Tjarutja;
  - 3.4.3 increased monetary compensation through the Recommendation 7 monies currently held by ATSIC i.e. compensation for the loss of the use and enjoyment of the lands by the traditional owners at the time of, and subsequent to, the Atomic Test Program ;
  - 3.4.4 long-term joint management arrangement of the lands' surveillance and policing requirements i.e. negotiation with the Commonwealth for the Maralinga Tjarutja to be trained and employed to manage the test sites as required in lieu of the Australian Protective Services and other Commonwealth personnel;
  - 3.4.5 a combination of the above or other.
- To facilitate determination of the form and/or amount of compensation, the South Australian Government position has been one of support to the Maralinga Tjarutja in their negotiations. However, such support should not compromise the State's position on the undertaking or extent of clean-up.
- 3.5 The State should strongly indicate to the Commonwealth Government that a clean up of the Emu test site is required. The appropriate form of remedial action needs to be agreed after further consultation.
- 3.6 The only area in which the views of the Maralinga Tjarutja and the S.A. Government officers have differed to date relates to the level and type of fencing required. It has been estimated that the secure fencing required by the Maralinga Tjarutja would add a further \$19m to the cost of clean up and it is unclear at this stage what advantage could be gained from this level of fencing. It would inhibit movement of wildlife through the area and, in principle, conflicts with the acceptance of the findings of the TAG studies. It is believed that the rationale for this type of fencing is solely related to the claims for compensation.

4. RECOMMENDATION

4.1 The State position, which is proposed take the form of a letter from the Premier to the Prime Minister, should contain:

. the State's recognition of the work done by TAG and the State's participation in the Consultative Committee;

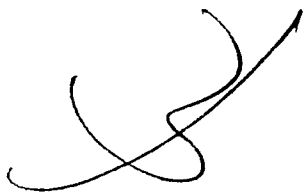
. the State's position on a minimum acceptable level of clean up of surface and buried contamination;

. the State's support for Maralinga Tjarutja's acceptance of a restricted clean up, and support for compensation for land use forgone by virtue of this option;

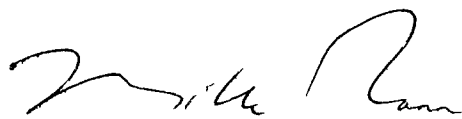
. the State's view that further discussions should be held on the clean up of Emu;

. support for the Commonwealth's negotiations with the British Government to meet its moral obligation to contribute towards the costs of clean up.

4.2 That the attached draft State's position on the clean up of the former British Atomic Test Sites at Maralinga and Emu be conveyed to the Prime Minister.



PREMIER



MINISTER OF ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS

14 MAY, 1991

Summary of rehabilitation options for a decontamination contour corresponding to a committed dose of 5 mSv y<sup>-1</sup>

Release to:	Area released km2	Option:	Untreated Area (Plumes)	Treated Area	Taranaki pits	TM101/Tietkens	Alstrip cemetery	Other numbered	DC/RB pit	Unnumbered pits	Sub-total Engineering Costs \$A, Million	Sub-total Design/Develop. & other costs \$A, Million	Total costs \$A, Million	Timescale years	
Note: I R Fence = intrusion resistant fence; Fence = warning fence.															
OPTION 1															
To south of Maralinga village	1560	1	FENCE ENTIRE AREA									4.5	8	13	1.5
					I R Fence at Taranaki										
OPTION 2															
To Forward Area gate excluding Maralinga Village	1920	2(a)	Fence entire area north of option line		I R Fence	I R Fence	I R Fence	Fence	Fence	Fence	4.5	8	13	1.5	
		2(b)	.	.	I R Fence	I R Fence	I R Fence	Grout	Grout	Fence	20.8 - 29.5	8.5	29 - 38	3.5	
		2(c)	.	.	I R Fence	I R Fence	Exhume/bury	Grout	Grout	Fence	21.0 - 29.7	11.5	32 - 41	5.5	
		2(d)	.	.	I R Fence	I R Fence	I R Fence	ISV	ISV	Fence	13.5	18	32	3.5	
OPTION 3															
To Forward Area gate including Maralinga village	2020	3(a)	Fence area north		I R Fence	I R Fence	I R Fence	Fence	Exhume/bury	Fence	10.4	9	19	1.5	
		3(b)	Fence area north		I R Fence	I R Fence	I R Fence	Fence/cap	Exhume/bury	Fence	10	9	19	1.5	
		3(c)	Fence area north		I R Fence	I R Fence	I R Fence	Exhume/bury	Exhume/bury	Fence	24.2	12	36	5.5	
		3(d)	Fence area north		I R Fence	I R Fence	Exhume/bury	Exhume/bury	Exhume/bury	Fence	24.9	12	37	5.5	
OPTION 4															
To Roadside	2155	4(a)	Fence area north		I R Fence	I R Fence	I R Fence	Fence/cap	Exhume/bury	Fence	10.9	9	20	2	
		4(b)	Fence area north		I R Fence	I R Fence	Exhume/bury	Exhume/bury	Exhume/bury	Fence	24.5	12	37	5.5	
OPTION 5															
To Iwara junction	2570 - 2820	5(a)	Fence area north		I R Fence	I R Fence	I R Fence	Fence/cap	Exhume/bury	Fence	10.9	9	21	2	
		5(b)	Fence area north		I R Fence	Exhume/bury	Exhume/bury	Exhume/bury	Exhume/bury	Fence	52.0 - 53.4	12	64 - 66	5.5	
OPTION 6															
Test site area	2820	6(a)	Fence area	Remove/bury	Exhume/bury	Exhume/bury	Exhume/bury	Exhume/bury	Exhume/bury	Sort/bury	102.5	14.3	117	6	
	.	6(b)	Fence area	Remove/bury	Grout	Grout	Grout	Grout	Exhume/bury	Sort/bury	75.3	14.8	90	6	
	.	6(c)	Fence area	Remove/bury	ISV	ISV	ISV	ISV	Exhume/bury	Sort/bury	57.6	24.3	82	6	
	.	6(d)	Fence area	TRUdean	Exhume/bury	Exhume/bury	Exhume/bury	Exhume/bury	Exhume/bury	Sort/bury	102	15.3	117	6	
	.	6(e)	Fence area	TRUdean	Grout	Grout	Grout	Grout	Exhume/bury	Sort/bury	73.1	15.8	89	6	
	.	6(f)	Fence area	TRUdean	ISV	ISV	ISV	ISV	Exhume/bury	Sort/bury	60.2	25.3	86	6	
	3120	6(g)	Mix 120 km2	TRUdean	Grout	Grout	Grout	Grout	Exhume/bury	Sort/bury	130.8	7	138	6	
	.	6(h)	Skim 120km2/bury	Remove /bury	Exhume/bury	Exhume/bury	Exhume/bury	Exhume/bury	Exhume/bury	Sort/bury	648	5.3	653	9	
	.	6(i)	Mix 110 km2; skim 10 km2/bury	Remove /bury	Exhume/bury	Exhume/bury	Exhume/bury	Exhume/bury	Exhume/bury	Sort/bury	194	5.5	200	6	
	.	6(j)	Mix 110 km2; skim 10 km2/bury	Remove /bury	Exhume/bore hole disposal	Exhume/bore hole disposal	Exhume/bore hole disposal	Exhume/bore hole disposal	Exhume/bore hole disposal	Sort/bury	230	5.5	236	6	
OPTION 7															
Land east of Right Street	2430	7(a)	Fence all contours west of Right Street; mix soil east of Right Street		No action	Exhume/bury	No action	No action	No action	No action	70.5	11.2	82	3.5	
		7(b)			No action	Exhume/bury	Exhume/bury	Exhume/bury	No action	No action	62	11.2	73	3.5	
		7(c)			No action	Grout	Grout	Grout	No action	No action	47.8	8.7	57	3.5	
		7(d)			No action	ISV	ISV	ISV	No action	No action	41.6	10.2	52	3.5	
OPTION 8															
Land outside Section 400	34	8(a)	Soil mixing	No action	No action	No action	No action	No action	No action	No action	26.4	8.2	35	2.5	
		8(b)	Removal/mound	No action	No action	No action	No action	No action	No action	No action	57.5	8	66	2	
		8(c)	Removal/burial	No action	No action	No action	No action	No action	No action	No action	98	13.3	111	3.5	
OPTION 9															
Emu	1.4	9	Removal/mounding at Totem sites	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	11	0.1	11	0.5	

ATTACHMENT 1

# MARALINGA TJARUTJA

ATTACHMENT 2

TELEPHONE: CEDUNA (086) 25 2946  
(086) 25 2947  
FACSIMILE No: (086) 25 3076

1st Floor, Sprys Building,  
Poynton Street,  
Ceduna, S.A. 5690

Our Ref: 2056A

Postal Address:  
P.O. Box 435,  
Ceduna, S.A. 5690

Your Ref: 20 March 1991

The Honourable The Premier  
Parliament House  
North Terrace  
ADELAIDE SA 5000

Dear Premier,

Thank you very much for the opportunity to meet with you on 20th March 1991 in relation to the radioactive and related contamination at Maralinga.


As you are no doubt aware, Maralinga Tjarutja has worked closely with the State Office of Aboriginal Affairs in relation to this matter and is most grateful for the assistance and co-operation of that office and of the Radiation Protection Branch of the SA Department of Health.

You may also be aware that Maralinga Tjarutja was very pleased that the Australian Government commissioned the Technical Assessment Group Report. It was a report which Maralinga Tjarutja suggested to the Royal Commission into British Nuclear Tests. The Royal Commission endorsed that recommendation. Maralinga Tjarutja was closely involved in the work of the Technical Assessment Group (TAG) and, indeed, provided one of the six studies which constituted the final report.

Maralinga Tjarutja has taken the opportunity to have independent scientific advice on the very complex scientific matters which are considered in the report. That advice came from eminent international scientists with experience in radioactive clean-ups and their effects on surrounding communities.

In essence, Maralinga Tjarutja's views on the TAG Report can be summarized as follows:

- (a) The Technical Assessment Group has made a most conscientious effort to obtain and marshal the necessary scientific data and to consider all aspects

  
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David  
J. Mallet  
24/3/91

of Aboriginal lifestyle relevant to an accurate assessment of the risks from radioactive contamination to the traditional inhabitants of the Maralinga lands.

- (b) The standard for "safe" exposure (5 m.Sv. per year) adopted by the Technical Assessment Group is a level of exposure which the community is prepared to accept as a pragmatic assessment of the safe level. The community is prepared to accept this level on the basis of its own scientific advice.
- (c) A full clean-up of the Maralinga lands to a state fit for habitation by traditional Aboriginal people is technically and environmentally feasible.

However, whilst TAG considered that revegetation was feasible following the removal of foliage and topsoil from the 300 square km from the plume area north of Taranaki (with which Maralinga Tjarutja agrees) TAG was not required to address the full range of environmental issues raised as a result of such a vegetation clearance.

Maralinga Tjarutja has discussed the TAG Report with the inhabitants and traditional owners of the Maralinga Land. Inevitably, such a discussion raises very wide issues-- which go well beyond the nature and cost of any particular clean-up option and encompass issues such as:

- the nature of the community's future use of the Maralinga lands
- the community's future living patterns
- whether the community wishes to preserve and use any of the resources at Maralinga Village (including the airstrip and water supply)
- whether the community wishes police surveillance of Maralinga to remain and, if so, in what form
- the community's view as to the nature and location of roads surrounding Maralinga village.

Having discussed these matters, the Maralinga traditional owners believe that, in principle, the following should happen.

#### A. Maralinga

1. All of the contaminated areas at Maralinga and Emu should be cleaned up to a state that is fit for continuous habitation by Aboriginal people living in their traditional lifestyle.
2. Contaminated material which results from such a clean-up should be removed from the area and safely disposed of.

However the traditional owners are aware that the ground area contaminated by plutonium above the level of 5 m.Sv (with the exception of the ploughed areas) includes approximately 300 square kilometres of foliage and land north of Taranaki. They take the view that whilst it may be technically and environmentally feasible to remove the topsoil from this land and revegetate it;

- (a) the removal of topsoil from this area of land would involve a level of environmental interference which would be unacceptable to the Maralinga community - given the current cleanup technology;
- (b) the cost of the removal of the topsoil and its revegetation would, in present terms, probably be prohibitive.

Thus the Maralinga people are prepared to accept that it may be appropriate to fence the plumes of contamination north of Taranaki at the 5 m.Sv limit provided that:

- (a) the nature and standard of fencing around this plume area is that it is a 6 foot mesh fence (with appropriate means of allowing egress by fauna) rather than a 3 strand wire "warning" fence referred to by the Technical Assessment Group.
- (b) the contaminated areas which lie outside of the abovementioned plume area (eg. TM100, Kuli, Dobo etc.) are cleaned up completely (by, where necessary, the removal of the topsoil) to a standard appropriate for continuous habitation by the traditional owners.
- (c) all burial pits containing contaminated material located outside the fenced plume area are buried within the fenced area or otherwise safely stabilized.
- (d) compensation is paid to the traditional owners of the Maralinga lands for:
  - the risk, detriment and disadvantage of living around 300 square kilometres of contaminated land for the next 240,000 years;
  - the loss of use and enjoyment of that land in perpetuity;
  - having to ensure that all persons with traditional interests in the Maralinga lands, their visits and their descendants are kept aware of the contamination and the consequent dangers.

The level of such compensation must be sufficient to provide the Maralinga people with an independent economic base which would enable them to inhabit the Maralinga lands (and, if desired, at places well away from Maralinga Village) on the basis of complete economic independence. The community is currently taking advice on the amount of compensation which would achieve this.

Some of the broader issues arising from the clean-up are complex and require further discussion by the community. Accordingly the community does not yet have a final position on them. These include:

- (a) the question of transfer of title of section 400 to Maralinga Tjarutja
- (b) the question of possible transfer of contaminated Maralinga Tjarutja freehold land back to Commonwealth control.
- (c) the question of the transfer of Maralinga Village and its facilities to Maralinga Tjarutja
- (d) how surveillance of the fenced area should be performed
- (e) the location of roads through and adjoining Maralinga Village.
- (f) the possible provision of services and technology to the community for Maralinga Village.

Some of these questions may be incapable of resolution before the cleanup is finalised and may, effectively, require a detailed environmental impact assessment of the cleanup. Further, certain aspects of the cleanup will require assessment as the cleanup proceeds ( eg whether in situ vitrification is the appropriate mode of pit stabilisation).

It will thus be necessary for Maralinga Tjarutja to have continuing consultation and involvement in the cleanup as it proceeds.

#### B. Emu

Maralinga Tjarutja has had discussions with officers of your Government and with Des Davey, the convener of the TAG, in relation to the appropriate level of clean-up for Emu. In view of the recency of those discussions I am not in a position to intimate the views of Maralinga Tjarutja on the appropriate clean-up of Emu beyond saying that the community wishes Emu to be cleaned up to a level where it is safe for continuous habitation by the traditional owners and such that the area of land containing and surrounding Emu which is presently excised from the land grant should be transferred to Maralinga Tjarutja.

Maralinga Tjarutja believes that for the protection of sites on the lands between Maralinga and Emu, and because of the general undesirability of open access to the former test sites, the road linking Maralinga and Emu should be removed from the Second Schedule to the Land Rights Act and public entry should not be granted as of right to use that road. Maralinga Tjarutja would be prepared to enter

into an agreement with the Commonwealth granting it and its contractors and agents access to the road for the purpose of the cleanup and surveillance of the test sites.

The attitude of the traditional owners to the TAG Report and the cleanup is pragmatic and realistic. It must not be forgotten that the impact of the Maralinga test program and the ongoing Yalata experience have already taken a heavy social toll on the former Ooldea people. There is a responsibility on all of us to ensure that everything is done that can be done to reverse the current rather hopeless and tragic situation at Yalata. A realistic cleanup and compensation package will be a step in that process.

Maralinga Tjarutja proposes to indicate the position of the traditional owners to the Australian and British Government as soon as possible and asks that you support its position.

Yours faithfully

*A Barton AM*

Archie Barton  
Administrator.



THE PREMIER  
OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

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May, 1991

The Hon. R.J.L. Hawke, A.C., M.P.,  
Prime Minister,  
Parliament House,  
CANBERRA, A.C.T., 2600

The South Australian Government is now in a position formally to advise you of its response to the Technical Assessment Group (TAG) Report on the clean up options for the former British Test Sites at Maralinga and Emu.

I wish to commend your Government on the extensive studies that have been carried out to determine the nature and extent of contamination of the area, the potential effects of that contamination on human habitation, particularly in relation to the traditional life styles of the owners of the land, and the options and indicative costings for a clean up program for Maralinga.

I express the appreciation of my Government for the opportunity for State Government officials to be kept advised on the progress of the TAG Studies and the implications of the findings of these for Governments and the Maralinga Tjarutja through the Consultative Committee structure.

In relation to Emu only one rehabilitation option has been suggested, and I request a continuation of discussions on possible clean up options for this area in line with the Technical Assessment Group's terms of reference.

While South Australia has consistently taken the view that a total clean up of Maralinga and Emu is desirable, we accept that this position may not be technically or environmentally feasible. We also acknowledge the prohibitive cost of a total clean up. We would therefore support adoption of a clean up option which would ensure that potential radiation exposures are controlled to an acceptable level of risk.

The TAG Report based its assessment of risk on the annual dose received by Aborigines continuously occupying the area and maintaining a semi-traditional lifestyle. It considered that the contamination contour corresponding to an annual dose of 5 millisieverts (5mSv) represents the borderline of acceptable risk. The South Australian Government regards this as reasonable in view of the low occupancy expected in the contaminated areas.



The 5mSv contour can therefore be used to delineate the areas beyond which no remedial action is necessary in regard to surface contamination.

In our view the risk associated with the inner Taranaki area, which was previously ploughed by the British in Operation Brumby, is unacceptably high and the contaminated soil in this area must either be treated to remove the plutonium or be removed and buried.

The remaining unploughed areas (to the 5mSv contour) will require fencing or some form of delineation to discourage protracted occupancy.

In addition, all currently buried contamination (in numbered and unnumbered pits) will require treatment by appropriate technology.

In summary, then, the minimum level of clean up acceptable to this government would include:

- . the removal/burial/treatment of contaminated soil from the ploughed areas around Taranaki;
- . the stabilisation of pits at Taranaki, TM101, Tietkins Plain, Wewak, Airstrip Cemetery and other numbered pits by appropriate technology;
- . the exhumation/burial of DC/RB pit;
- . the sorting/burial/treatment of unnumbered pits;
- . appropriate treatment of the Marcoo pit (to be identified);
- . the delineation/fencing and surveillance/policing of untreated (plume) areas;
- . the adoption of an appropriate clean up option for Emu (to be identified).

My Ministers and I have met with representatives of the Maralinga Tjarutja and have been advised that the South Australian position, as expressed above, accords with the view which they will formally present to your government.

In advocating the above level of clean up, South Australia recognises that an area between 120 and 480 square kilometres of land would need to be fenced or delineated to discourage protracted habitation. The Maralinga Tjarutja believe that they should be compensated for the loss to themselves and their heirs of full use of this land in perpetuity. The South Australian Government supports this position.

South Australia wishes to emphasise the disadvantage experienced by the Maralinga Tjarutja at the time of, and subsequent to, the atomic test program. The social and kinship fabric of their society was broken down by the forced removal from their traditional lands, with devastating effect.



My Government will support the Commonwealth in every way it can to ensure that the U.K. Government fully meets its moral and financial responsibilities for the clean up of Maralinga and Emu lands. However, regardless of the outcome of such negotiations, South Australia calls for the highest level clean up of the lands technically, environmentally and financially feasible so that as much of the area as possible is restored for the benefit of all Australians.

Yours sincerely,

(J.C. Bannon)

