



Frome Electorate Office

Hon Geoff Brock MP, Member for Frome



NEWS RELEASE – GROWING OUR REGIONAL COMMUNITIES

Independent Member for Frome Geoff Brock is calling for a fair share of projected revenue flowing from a potential nuclear waste storage facility to be set aside for SA's regional communities.

Mr Brock has written to Premier Jay Weatherill outlining his proposal ahead of tomorrow's public release of the SA Nuclear Fuel Cycle Royal Commission's findings on the management, storage and disposal of nuclear radioactive waste.

The Royal Commission has indicated in its tentative findings that the facility has the potential to generate \$5 billion a year in revenue for the State over the first 30 years of operation and \$2 billion a year beyond that.

Our regions are the lifeblood of this State.

If a storage facility is to be located in regional South Australia, the regions must have a fair share of the potential revenue windfall.

For example, a fair share of not less than 10% of the projected \$5 billion a year would potentially see \$500 million flowing into our regions annually.

That would be a real game changer for our regional communities.

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Such funding would empower our regional communities and go a long way in ensuring regional families have the opportunity to prosper and remain in our local towns and cities or on the land.

For example, imagine the impact the extra dedicated funding would have on local services for our regions – schools, hospitals, roads, water, electricity and communications to name just a few.

This funding must be in addition to the existing annual regional funding provisions across government

Personally, I have an open mind about such a facility and where it could be located in our State with safety as a paramount consideration.

I'll also listen to locals as I continue to travel around our State to personally hear their views as we debate the pros and cons of building such a facility in South Australia.

It's a discussion worth having.

I'm a fierce advocate for our regions.

We know our regions already contribute about \$25.5 billion to the State's economy and produce about half of our merchandise exports with just 29 per cent of the population.

My proposal is about generating new investment and re-investment to benefit not just our regions, but ultimately the whole of our State.

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It's about building new and redeveloping existing public regional infrastructure, as well as achieving long term structural change in our regional communities.

It's also about providing a positive future for regional families, their communities and for future generations to come.

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