

# Have your say

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## The Advertiser

### Wake up call to avoid party nightmare

IT is a parent's worst nightmare - hosting the school formal afterparty at their home that gets out of control with drunk guests and hundreds of uninvited gatecrashers.

We have all read horror stories of these events - due to the ease of communication with social media - that see over 500 people gatecrash the gathering.

The partygoers trash the house and upset the neighbourhood only until police are eventually called to sort it all out.

Parents trying to act responsibly by getting guests to sign "waivers" to limit alcohol consumption and outline the consequences of unacceptable behaviours of party guests have been dealt a blow with news the waivers are unlikely to provide any legal protection or standing.

They may even void insurance policies in the event of a drunken accident, lawyers have told *The Advertiser*.

It is a serious dilemma because all parents are keen for their children to have fun within a safe and legal environment but providing those

securities is not easy in the family home and even harder in larger venues including warehouses and open paddocks that are now being used for school formal events.

It will be a sobering thought for every parent that they could be exposing themselves to legal action just by hosting a party for their child.

And providing alcohol for underage children - even if you approve of them drinking - is a legal minefield according to experts.

Parents of a child that attends a party also need to take responsibility.

The tips from Encounter Youth - that provides education to schools on alcohol and drugs issues - and SA Police should go some way to assisting all parents about how to manage parties for children on the verge of adulthood.

Parents need to be formal about putting in place the ground rules for hosting or attending parties to ensure our teenagers can have fun in a safe environment without being exposed to complex legal rules and challenges.

### Vanuatu needs us

AUSTRALIA has responded as it does best to the desperate plight of close neighbour, Vanuatu, in the aftermath of the devastating Tropical Cyclone Pam.

The announcement by the Federal Government of \$5 million in initial emergency aid has been backed by everyday Australians donating to aid agencies.

The size of the disaster is still emerging but with news parts of the capital Port Vila, on Efate Island, has been virtually flattened, the expectation can be for far worse news from some of Vanuatu's 65 inhabited islands. The death toll is sure to mount.

The islands are popular with Australian holiday-makers and many have been caught up in the tragedy.

We will hear their stories in due course.

But when they all hopefully return home to the safety and comfort of Australia, the local communities of the Vanuatu archipelago will face months of suffering and years of rebuilding.

The urgent requirement to provide food, clean water and shelter to prevent disease outbreaks comes first.

All of us should consider, in whatever way we can, helping this stricken nation in its desperate hour of need.

### Morally obliged

GIVEN the risk to other communities in the world where nuclear waste is stored in less than safe geological settings, and the wider risk to the world if poorly stored and managed hazardous wastes escape into the environment, perhaps there is a moral obligation (as well as the obvious economic incentive) on South Australia to store these wastes in one of the safest geological settings in the world.

In other words, somewhere on the geologically stable Gawler Craton that underlies much of western SA.

As a seller of uranium, Australia also has an ethical obligation to ensure wastes are managed safely.

These obligations are linked to the global nature of environmental hazards, and to our membership of the global community.

Moreover, SA has a safe political environment, immune at the moment (and hopefully into the future) from political strife.

As an island continent, Australia has no land borders to protect. The remoteness of central South Australia would allow for the establishment of a secure zone for long-term storage of nuclear waste.

I have worked as a geologist in the uranium exploration sector both in Australia and offshore. However, I put forward these comments not from a uranium exploration or mining perspective, but from a viewpoint more concerned with the ethics of safe global waste disposal.

**STUART MCCALLUM,**  
Torrens Park.

### Long-term costs

THE Australian people, including South Australians, have rejected the dirty nuclear industry for decades.

Do we really have to revisit this issue at a time when clean renewable alternatives are at our fingertips?

Far from being cheap, the long-term costs of disposing of the highly dangerous waste is enormous, to be paid by future generations.

I say never, never - not for a few jobs and money for some.

**C. CATT,**  
Kensington Park.

### TEXT TALK

OUR politicians have spent (no doubt) millions of dollars trying to save a pair of convicted drug traffickers, while people are dying here because our hospital system is in free-fall. Work that out.

**HERB.**

SO Julie Bishop has offered to pay to keep the Bali 2 in jail for life. Does this mean she is paying

### Rescue our rep

OK, the growing consensus worldwide is that nuclear is the way forward and does reduce greenhouse gases.

So, Premier Jay Weatherill, you have started the ball rolling by establishing a Royal Commission to eventually tell us what most forward-thinking countries already know.

This is your golden opportunity to create a lasting legacy in your term of office, and become known as the "Father of Progress" in South Australia. You can lift South Australia's reputation from that of the "backward state".

It is, of course, possible that the Commission is a delaying tactic to be deployed while public opinion is being tested.

But you also risk the fact that the next premier will wrest this title from you.

The Commission can only conclude what is already known. What this state really needs now are positive signs that we can become a leader.

**PHIL DAY, Alberton.**

### Late converts

THE Premier's belated interest in all things nuclear is consistent with Labor's exploitation of any issue for political purposes.

Almost 40 years ago, Labor opposed the Olympic Dam mine, until maybe the past 10 years. These latter-day converts gave it the green light after it was built and had been producing for 20-plus years thanks to the Liberal Party of South Australia.

for this out of her pocket? She has not asked me, and I wonder if she has asked anyone else? If there are people who want to pay for this, by all means let those people pay for it.

**CLIFF.**

DOES slashing the pension to "wealthy retirees" also apply to politicians?

**RON ZERVAAS, Glenelg.**



And so it was with nuclear waste some 20 years ago, with state Labor agreeing to Labor in Canberra's decision to place the nuclear waste in central north-west of SA in a permanent nuclear waste repository with all the safety and stability of world-class standards.

I wrote at the time that it was an opportunity for SA to accept its responsibility on behalf of Australia, as the best and safest site in the nation, but of course was ridiculed and denigrated by the state Labor leadership of the day.

Indeed, the then Labor leadership brought a Supreme Court action against the site, preventing the construction of a safe facility.

This, although no action was taken to my knowledge to do anything about the existing waste, which remains in central north-west SA until this day, as well as radioactive waste I presume is still resting in North Terrace, Adelaide.

As usual, politics before principle or safety.

**BARRY WAKELIN,**  
Adelaide.

### Nuclear button

BY the end of the century it is possible to transition to a world that no longer uses carbon or uranium to generate energy. The risks and dangers associated with both carbon and uranium can be reduced and ultimately avoided.

In that timescale, solar, wind, tidal and other sustainable and low-risk technologies can be developed to supply energy for all.

This optimal outcome will need a year-by-year, decade-by-decade transition out of carbon and uranium. It will require a single-minded focus by nations and corporations.

Surely this is a better end-of-century aim than to have nuclear industry interests and others use South Australia's current economic troubles to expand the industry here?

The local jobs malaise can be tackled without pushing the nuclear button.

**STEWART SWEENEY,**  
North Adelaide.

### Debate a travesty

DAVID Penberthy is correct when he says "the debate in South Australia right now clearly isn't about the production of nuclear weapons" (*The Advertiser*, 13/3/15). This is because, thanks to the Premier and his mates in the nuclear industry, debate about such distasteful facts as nuclear weapons and the nuclear industry's disastrous past is being gagged by the terms of reference of the Royal Commission.

As the name implies, the farcical Royal Commission has all the hallmarks of an undemocratic device to put a fake seal of approval on a done deal within the reigning Labor-Liberal duopoly.

Just look at the pitiful parade of nuclear junkies appearing before various government committees and being thrust on the public through the commercial media. Some of these even have the gall to claim to not be pro-nuclear despite a history to the contrary.

This travesty of a debate doesn't alter the facts which, as has happened in the past two Queensland elections, are likely to bite devious politicians where it hurts most.

**DENNIS MATTHEWS,**  
Coromandel East.

### Safety first

AS a scientist I am puzzled by Geoff Russell's recent unwarranted attack on Craig Wilkins of the Conservation Council of SA over his safety concerns about the nuclear industry.

There is nothing wrong with asking for public safety to be put above private industry profits when evaluating the extreme risks of the nuclear industry. No insurance company will cover a nuclear power station, as the risks are considered too high.

Taxpayers have to subsidise and underwrite nuclear power stations; and taxpayers pay if an accident occurs.

Thank goodness for the Conservation Council's voice of reason.

**R. WOOD, Valley View.**