



[PREFACE

The Nuclear Fuel Cycle Royal Commission was established by the South Australian Government on 19 March 2015 to undertake an independent and comprehensive investigation into the potential for increasing South Australia's participation in the nuclear fuel cycle, specifically in four areas of activity:

- expanded exploration, extraction and milling of minerals containing radioactive materials
- the further processing of minerals and the processing and manufacture of materials containing radioactive and nuclear substances
- the use of nuclear fuels for electricity generation
- the establishment of facilities for the storage and disposal of radioactive and nuclear waste.

In each of these areas, the Commission was required to examine and report by 6 May 2016 on the feasibility, viability, risks and opportunities associated with a potential expansion of the nuclear fuel cycle from the perspectives of the environment, the economy and the community, including regional, remote and Aboriginal communities.

The Commission committed to conducting an independent, evidence-based process that was open and transparent. From the outset, its focus was on understanding facts and not accepting perceptions.

The Commission's process was independent of government, industry and lobby groups. It was conducted by a dedicated group supported by external expertise engaged by the Commission.

At the outset, the Commission produced Issues Papers inviting submissions on the associated risks and opportunities of each of the activities in the cycle.

In response to the Issues Papers, the Commission received as evidence more than 250 submissions from a wide range of individuals and organisations in the private, public and not-for profit sectors.

In its public sessions conducted from September 2015, the Commission heard oral evidence from 132 expert witnesses from Australia and overseas, which was streamed live on the internet.

It also conducted its own research, in Australia and overseas. As part of considering the commercial viability and economic impacts of potential nuclear activities specific to South Australia, the Commission engaged organisations with the expertise and experience to undertake detailed assessments.

Internationally, the Commission held meetings and site inspections at nuclear fuel cycle facilities and with experts in Asia, Canada, Europe, the United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, and United States of America.

The major elements of this evidence were drawn together in the Commission's Tentative Findings, which were published on 15 February 2016, with an invitation for responses to better inform this report. About 170 responses that directly addressed the contents of the Tentative Findings were received.

In conducting an open and transparent process, and to encourage participation in its activities as the inquiry proceeded, the Commission engaged widely with the South Australian community, including five rounds of community information sessions in regional, remote and Aboriginal communities.

The Commission's approach has produced a large volume of information, which supports the reasoning and findings in this report. The submissions, public session videos and transcripts, financial assessment reports and Tentative Findings responses are published on the Commission's website, www.nuclearrc.sa.gov.au

This report represents both an end and a beginning: the culmination of the Commission's work, but the start of consideration by South Australians as to whether they want to increase the state's participation in the nuclear fuel cycle.