

Experts urge government to remove radioactive waste in Nelson Parade

TWO highly respected environmentalists urged the state government to remove the toxic waste in Nelson Parade, Hunters Hill during a public meeting in Woolwich last Sunday morning.

Around forty residents attended the Weil Park meeting where the former CEO of the Environmental Planning Authority Barry Buffier and state environmental consultant Dr Bill Ryall both expressed concern at a Property NSW preferred option to bury the waste on site and under concrete.

Mayor Mark Bennett and former Mayor Richard Quinn also expressed concern about burying the waste on site, as did Nelson Parade Action Group President Philippa Clark.

Mr Quinn has been a strong critic of the state government's refusal to move the waste to the Kemps Creek storage facility, which he claims is because Kemps Creek is in the marginal western Sydney elector-

been ruled out for political reasons," Ms Clark said. "The second preferred option is for the material to be sent to a newly developed facility which is due to commence operations in nine months or to send to a suitable temporary storage location."

Doctor Ryall has been a site auditor on a number of major sites that have required decontamination and warned of traffic and other problems that could impact on Woolwich if the waste burial option goes ahead.

"He emphasised that the local community should not underestimate the size of this job which is the reverse of the cell construction project," Ms Clark said.

"Approvals would be required combined

spent 11 years fighting governments to act on the 2008 Parliamentary Inquiry, which recommended the full removal of all contamination.

"Under the Property NSW option the proposed cells will be Australia's first and only radioactive storage in a residential street," she said.

"No examples of this concept can be found overseas."

In response to claims the action group had no feasible plan for waste removal, Ms Clark suggested a "dig and go" approach whereby the radioactive material be immediately removed to existing suitable storage locations.

She also urged local residents to keep fighting.

"The Kellys Bush Battlers would be hor-



ate of Mulgoa where voters would resent waste for the "silver tail" municipality of Hunters Hill being dumped on their turf.

Mr Buffier blasted the waste burial proposal as "the fourth best option" and Dr Ryall said Property NSW has no idea how much radioactive material will require encapsulation.

The option favoured by Mr Buffier is to send the waste to the Kemp's Creek storage facility.

"This position has

with all the issues of traffic, noise, parking, dust control and general construction issues.

"He also addressed another important issue of whether these storage cells could be decommissioned or dismantled in the future so that the material can be removed for transfer to a licensed storage facility."

The Nelson Parade Action Group purports to represent 75 per cent of Hunters Hill residents and has

rified by what is happening and we should follow their example and fight to protect our heritage and environment".

Submissions for and against the Property NSW proposal close this Friday and Ms Clark urged concerned residents to phone the Action Group on 0408 415 677 for advice about lodging a submission.

"A repeating theme during discussion was that the encapsulation proposal has many contradictions and

Political Damage – former Hunters Hill Mayor Richard Quinn accused the state government of political motives for not moving the toxic waste in Hunters Hill to Western Sydney. He is pictured speaking at Sunday's public meeting in Weil Park in Woolwich on Sunday where he was joined by the former CEO of the Environmental Planning Authority Barry Buffier, state environmental consultant Dr Bill Ryall and Nelson Parade Action Group President Philippa Clark. TWT on-the-spot PHOTO

significant errors and omissions," she said.

"Importantly, the Property NSW document makes no attempt to address the social issues impacting the residents of Nelson Parade and the community that will not be resolved by the radioactive material remaining onsite."



HUNTER'S HILL COUNCIL NOTIFICATION OF DEVELOPMENT CONSENTS

In accordance with s101 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act, 1979 and Clause 124 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulations 2000 the following Development Consents have been approved by Council for May - June