



Friends of the Earth Australia

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Alert, Alarmed and Active: German Farmers urge rural NSW to beware of nuclear waste transports

A delegation of farmers from the Gorleben region in Germany is set to visit communities along the federal governments proposed transport route for Australian nuclear waste next week in order to share the experiences and lessons of their campaign to stop the transport of high-level nuclear waste in Germany.

The farmers have travelled from Germany to tell about how these nuclear transports have affected their communities and environment. The transport of high level wastes from La Hague in France through Germany to a final disposal site near the former East German border has seen a massive community protest campaign since it began in 1989.

Local communities in Germany speak of concerns over the waste transports that are similar to those of many New South Wales transport route communities, including:

1. inadequate disaster management plans and resources
2. emergency services and local government authorities are not informed about the transports
3. the federal governments imposition of nuclear developments and facilities on unwilling communities

The German government now routinely declares a state of emergency during the periods of nuclear waste transport and mobilises tens of thousands of police in an attempt to stifle protest. Civil movements are restricted, curfews imposed and constitutional protections over-ridden in order to move the nuclear waste.

After the German farmers heard of the growing community campaign in Australia to stop the federal governments current plan to transport large volumes of nuclear waste from the Sydney nuclear reactor and to a burial site near Woomera in South Australia they decided to raise the money to fly to Australia to share their experience and show practical support to affected communities here.

The tour will begin in the Sutherland Shire - home to the ANSTO reactor, Australia's largest waste producer - on Monday March 8. The controversial Lucas Heights reactor is the source of around 90% of the nuclear waste planned for transport to the dump site.

The farmers will then travel the proposed transport route meeting with members of local communities and their representatives from the Blue Mountains to Broken Hill.

The itinerary for the tour is attached.

For more information on the tour or to arrange interviews or comment contact:

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A member of Friends of the Earth International

Friends of the Earth International's member groups, in 66 countries, campaign on the most urgent environmental and social issues of our day. Whilst simultaneously catalysing a shift towards a sustainable society, we campaign in Australia in Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Belgium, Benin, Brazil, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Croatia, Curacao, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, England/Wales/Northern Ireland, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Haiti, Hungary, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macedonia, Malaysia, Mali, Malta, Mauritius, Middle East, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Scotland, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Switzerland, Togo, Tunisia, Ukraine, United States, and Uruguay.

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