



FACT SHEET

Information for community members regarding safety of radiation facilities in residential areas

This fact sheet addresses some of the commonly asked questions and concerns regarding the safety of radiation facilities in residential areas.

Who approves radiation facilities?

The Radiological Council approves the design and construction of facilities, where radioactive materials or irradiating apparatus are used, manufactured or stored.

What is the approval process like?

Sites where radioactive materials or irradiating apparatus are used, manufactured or stored, require a registration under the *Radiation Safety Act 1975*.

The assessment of the design is an important component of the full safety assessment of the facility for both operators and members of the public.

The assessment of the design and each facility's operating rules require that operators and members of the public, must not be exposed to radiation levels in excess of statutory dose limits.

As a further precaution, dose constraints are also applied in the design process and these dose constraints are a fraction of the dose limits.

Other government or local government requirements for siting of commercial facilities will also apply.

Why are radiation facilities allowed in a residential area? Is there a risk to me?

Radiation facilities are not a risk to the general public. Council's design dose constraint is 50% of the public annual effective dose limit.

There are many different kinds of facilities that use radioactive substances or irradiating apparatuses. These include medical, dental and veterinary facilities which need to be in residential areas in order to provide their service.

Are there any nuclear waste sites in residential areas?

No, there are no nuclear waste or radioactive waste facilities in any residential areas. Sites for the disposal of nuclear or radioactive waste are carefully chosen in remote locations and go through stringent safety and approval processes.

Can I check the details of radiation facilities near me?

No. *The Radiation Safety Act 1975* precludes the release of specific information relating to any individual registered facility. This means that we cannot provide information about locations, equipment, staff members or licences of individuals.