**Wednesday 14th September 2016**

**MEDIA RELEASE**

**Opposing sides gather to guide nuclear Citizens’ Jury**

They might be poles apart in their views on South Australia’s role in the nuclear fuel cycle but some of the most influential industry and environmental leaders will come together to inform the State’s next Citizens’ Jury on the issue.

A range of key organisations in the nuclear debate are represented in a Stakeholder Reference Group (SRG) which met today ahead of the second nuclear Citizens’ Jury.

The Citizens’ Jury is a key stage of the state’s largest community consultation program on the Nuclear Fuel Cycle Royal Commission report. The jury will review community feedback in addition to finalising their own perspectives. They are charged with producing a report summarising community views for the State Government to consider in deciding the next steps.

Comprising 350 South Australians, the jury will sit across three weekends in October and November and work to answer the question:  *‘Under what circumstances, if any, could South Australia pursue the opportunity to store and dispose of nuclear waste from other countries?’*

Local company democracyCo has been appointed to run the next jury after successfully delivering the first one in June and July.

democracyCo Co-CEO Emily Jenke said the SRG had been established to ensure the Jury, believed to be one of the biggest Citizens’ Juries ever to be held, had access to balanced information and witnesses representing all perspectives on the issue.

“The Stakeholder Reference Group is crucial to the value, credibility and transparency of the Jury process,” Ms Jenke said. “A key role of the group is to develop a broad list of witnesses to ensure all views on the nuclear issue are expressed and that the information from those witnesses is presented in a balanced way.”

The SRG includes:

* Keith Thomas, Chief Executive SA Native Title Service
* Karina Lester – Chair, Yankunytatjara Native Title Aboriginal Corporation
* Nigel McBride, Chief Executive Business SA
* Peter Joy, Executive Chair Brand South Australia
* Craig Wilkins, Chief Executive Conservation Council
* Kyra Reznikov, Representative Committee for Adelaide
* Roman Orszanski, South Australian representative Friends of the Earth
* Jason Kuchel, Chief Executive SA Chamber Mines and Energy
* Joe Szakacs, Secretary SA Unions
* Professor Barbara Pocock, Mothers for a Sustainable South Australia
* Cecilia Woolford, Chair, Outback Communities Authority
* Rob Kerin, Executive Chairman Primary Producers SA and representing Regional Development SA

Representatives from the Australian Nuclear Science Technology Organisation, the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) and SA Health will also be on hand to help advise stakeholders. The SRG will ensure the witness list includes experts in medicine, science and technology so the Jury is fully informed to make its findings.

democracyCo co-CEO Emily Jenke said democracyCo was privileged to have the opportunity to deliver the upcoming Jury.

“We have the specific skills and knowledge to ensure this group, like the first nuclear Citizens’ Jury, receives all the support and guidance needed to deliberate in a safe, open and effective environment,” she said.

“Our role as independent and transparent facilitators is paramount, given the significance of this Citizens’ Jury in helping the Government come to a decision for all South Australians.”

The second Jury, now being recruited, was chosen through a random selection process and comprises most of the 50 members involved in the first Citizens’ Jury.

**The second Citizens’ Jury will meet over three weekends on the 8th/9th and 29th/30th October and 5th/6th November 2016.**

**For media inquiries please contact:**

*Danielle Gordon at The Press Gallery on 0401 696 853 or* danielle@thepressgallery.com.au

***Background***

*The first Citizens’ Jury of 50 people (facilitated by democracyCo) met, deliberated and produced a report in July 2016, ‘What parts of the Royal Commission Report do South Australians’ need to discuss’. This report was presented to the Premier and publicly released.*

*As part of a three month state-wide engagement process, the Nuclear Consultation and Response Agency is visiting over 100 sites across South Australia, including all major regional centres, more than 50 remote towns and Aboriginal communities, to encourage all South Australians to participate in this important conversation about the State’s future.* [*http://nuclear.yoursay.sa.gov.au/*](http://nuclear.yoursay.sa.gov.au/)

*The second Citizens’ Jury, with 350 Jurors, will consider the question: ‘Under what circumstances, if any, could South Australia pursue the opportunity to store and dispose of nuclear waste from other countries?’ The Jury will capture their deliberations in a report that will be provided to the Premier as a key input to the Government’s decision-making process.*