

Radioactive Waste

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Types of Radioactive Waste

- High Level Waste – Defined by Heat Output – Australia has none
- **Intermediate Level Waste - store**
- **Low Level Waste – store or repository**
- Below Exemption Level – not considered radioactive from regulatory viewpoint

Low level waste

- Includes laboratory materials, discarded protective clothing.
- Sources include Hospitals, Universities, Laboratories.
- Internationally considered suitable for near-surface disposal
- Historically this material went into suburban landfill tips

Intermediate Level Waste

- Includes disused sealed sources, industrial gauges, waste from Lucas Heights reactors
- Not suitable for Near-surface disposal, facilities exist in several countries including USA, Finland, France

Why is the CRWMF needed?

- Waste is currently accumulating in many sites across Australia.
- Waste and disused sources that become orphaned cause unnecessary concern and use disproportionate resources. Health risks exist but are small.
- Failure to dispose of these materials represents a failure of good practice.