

Study shows up antinuke support

PUBLIC response to the Government-funded study New Zealand After Nuclear War indicates most people support work aimed at prevention of such a disaster.

However, many people expressed reservations about the study and the idea of prevention or preparation work, arguing that thinking about the unthinkable would lead to passive acceptance of nuclear war's inevitability.

Issued on Friday by Environment Minister Geoffrey Palmer, the report on public submissions analyses 219 written submissions and views of 280 other people gathered either at public seminars or on radio talkback shows.

Five submissions say the study, issued by the Planning Council in August last year, was a waste of money.

But the majority of dissenters say the study's conclusion that New Zealand could survive a northern hemisphere nuclear war — albeit with severe economic and social disruption — could encourage an "ostrich-like" approach to world affairs.

Mr Palmer said by far the strongest response was the need for New Zealand to work for the prevention of nuclear war.

"The emphasis on prevention is entirely in line with the Government's strategy," he said.

*Dominion
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