

To: [Legal and Constitutional, Committee \(SEN\);](#)
Subject: the National Radioactive Waste Management Bill
Date: Monday, 8 March 2010 11:53:43 PM

Julie Dennett,
Committee Secretary,
Senate Legal and Constitutional Committee,
Parliament House, Canberra, ACT, 2600.

Dear Julie Dennett,

I wish to make some comments about the National Radioactive Waste Management Bill.

- Nuclear waste is hazardous material and any transport of it should be minimised. In addition to a storage facility, there needs to be nuclear technology infrastructure on hand to be able to manage the site, and to deal with any emergencies that might arise. The obvious site to consider is Lucas Heights where most of the waste is generated. Has there been a thorough study to demonstrate the unsuitability of Lucas Heights as a storage site. I am unaware of any such study.
- Has the Senate Committee travelled to the Northern Territory and discussed the proposed location at Muckaty with the Ngapa Traditional Owners? I understand that many of them oppose this location.
- If this is the case, does not this bill violate the Aboriginal Land Rights Act which requires the full and informed consent of all Traditional Owners and affected people?
- The proposed bill attempts to consolidate power in the hands of the Minister to make decisions about the siting of the waste dump while ignoring established rights for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection and Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation. As far as I am aware there has been no thorough study demonstrating why this is necessary or desirable. There is no

mechanism for an appeal process indicated in the bill.

- It appears that this bill is not constructed on the basis of sound health, safety, environmental, engineering, and scientific arguments, but is based on a determination of a site on Aboriginal land in the Northern Territory because they do not have sufficient political power to oppose it.

Sincerely,

George Dale Hess