

Dear Madams/Sirs

[Chair: Senator Trish Crossin (ALP, Northern Territory)
Members: Senator Guy Barnett (Liberal, Tasmania),
Senator David Feeney (ALP, Victoria),
Senator Mary Jo Fisher (Liberal, South Australia)
Senator Scott Ludlam (Greens, Western Australia),
Senator Gavin Marshall (ALP Victoria)]

(Hey Trish, do you remember me? I am pretty sure that we met at a public meeting at the NTU [now CDU] in 2003. You can see my photo on the website that I have linked to below, if you are curious to try to remember. Face-to-face, you seemed like a politician who was really interested in what voters want. Please continue to be that kind of person.)

I just received an email from the Greens Party about this issue, and I totally agree with the points that they recommended me to make to you. I don't have time to rewrite this stuff in my own words, simply so that you respect human rights and respect nature. A decent government would do this stuff without us needing to tell them to do it!!! So I will simply copy and paste the ideas that the Greens gave me:

1. The Committee must travel to Muckaty

It is essential that the Senate Committee pay due respects to the Traditional Owners on the front line, by travelling to Tennant Creek to take evidence from them directly.

2. The case for a remote dump has never been made

The radioactive waste management debate in Australia has never looked at options other than remote waste dumps on Aboriginal land. The industry has never made the case that a remote shed is the best place for this material.

3. This bill is highly coercive

In choosing a site, the proposed bill overrides all relevant state and territory legislation as well as overriding commonwealth environmental and Aboriginal heritage protections. It also overrides private property rights of affected individuals with regards the dump site or its access route. Once a site is chosen, it will be assessed under commonwealth environmental legislation which has almost no mechanisms for preventing the project from going ahead.

4. All discretion in the hands of the Minister

The Bill places enormous power in the hands of the Minister to assess whether or not the Muckaty site should go ahead. No information is given to how this assessment will be carried out, and the bill makes it clear that local people have no right of appeal.

5. We must do better than this

Nuclear waste should be moved as little as possible, and should be stored above ground close to the point of production, close to centres of nuclear expertise and infrastructure.

Peace,

from Simon Ashworth Wood,

"Rise like lions after slumber,
in unvanquishable number.
Shake your chains to earth like dew,
which in sleep had fallen on you.
Ye are many, they are few."

- Shelley