

Louise Flaherty

15 March 2010

To whom it may concern,

I write with concerns regarding the proposed nomination of Muckaty Station (Warlmanpa Land Trust) as Australia's national nuclear waste facility. As a local resident of Tennant Creek I am extremely worried about this proposal. I have a number of concerns outlined below:

- The proposed site's location in an area of known seismic activity;
- The Northern Land Council's failure to consult with all Traditional Owners of the Warlmanpa Land Trust as to a decision on nominating a site;
- The resultant in-fighting caused by the Ngapa people's decision to speak on behalf of other group's country (there are other estate groups that require consultations);
- The unreliability of the Adelaide-Darwin railway line to transport waste (2 track washouts already in 2010);
- The potential damage to the reputation of the Barkly Tableland beef cattle industry should contamination occur at Muckaty Station (there are several pastoral leases in close proximity to Muckaty Station);
- The potential damage to the area's flora and fauna (the nationally endangered bilby *Macrotis lagotis* occurs in areas all around Muckaty Station);
- The potential contamination of Aboriginal people's traditional food sources;
- The Federal Government's ability to override various bills (e.g. Environmental, cultural heritage, NT transport) in order to nominate a site.

There are many other reasons why I am concerned about Muckaty's nomination and I think that this proposal needs serious consideration. And for that to happen I would suggest the following:

- A Senate Committee MUST travel to Tennant Creek and Muckaty Station to meet with locals and Traditional Owners to hear our/their concerns;
- Re-examine Muckaty's suitability to safely house nuclear waste;
- Propose a waste facility close to areas where there are highly-skilled physicists nearby (Muckaty Station is a long way away from where a nuclear scientist would choose to live!)

I hope that the Senate takes this submission and this issue seriously. It is not something you can take lightly.

Yours Sincerely,

Louise Flaherty