

From:
To: [Legal and Constitutional, Committee \(SEN\);](#)
Subject: nuclear waste dump at Muckaty Station
Date: Friday, 5 March 2010 5:42:19 PM

Dear Senators

I have never been in favour of nuclear weapons, nuclear war or nuclear power stations. One of the main problems is disposing of nuclear waste, which has a very long half-life. Any dumps in "remote" Australia will most likely be on traditional lands of Aboriginal peoples where people may actually still be living.

The Senate Committee must pay due respects to the traditional owners by travelling to Tennant Creek to take evidence from them directly.

The proposed 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.

Australia looks more and more like becoming a police state. I thought that under the Howard government, but had hoped it would improved under a Labour government. There is too much 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.

Regards
Susan MacDougall