

---

Monday, March 15 2010

To whom it may concern,

I write with concern regarding the proposed nomination of Muckaty Station (Warlmanpa Land Trust) as Australia's national nuclear waste facility. As a resident of Tennant Creek I am more than worried about this proposal. There are a number of the reasons why I have concerns, namely:

- The proposed site's location in an area of known seismic activity (1988 being the most recent date of shifting);
- 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 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 and water sources. This area is laced with underground aquifers supplying water to indigenous populations, to outback towns and numerous stations from Muckaty Station down to Tennant Creek and beyond.
- 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 to 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 great distance away from where a nuclear scientist would choose to live!)

I hope that the Senate takes this submission and this issue seriously, and I hope that this Government installs a proper scientific, transparent and accountable process, as it promised at the last election.

