



Premier of Queensland

For reply please quote: LJP/JN – TF/10/5170 –DOC/10/33327

16 APR 2010

Senator Trish Crossin
Chair
Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs

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Thank you for your letter of 3 March 2010 inviting the Queensland Government to make a submission to the Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs (the committee) Inquiry into the National Radioactive Waste Management Bill 2010 (the Bill).

I was concerned to note that the Bill deals with some very significant matters and would like to express my disappointment with the extremely limited consultation process that has occurred for the Bill. The original consultation period allowed by the committee was 12 days. I consider this timeframe is too short for any meaningful discussion on such an important matter. While the committee agreed to grant an extension for Queensland to make a submission, there has still been insufficient time for the Queensland Government to fully consider the detailed and complex issues that underpin the Bill to allow for a detailed and fully considered submission to the committee. I understand that most other state and territory jurisdictions are in a similar position, which is a matter of concern given the potential environmental and planning impacts for states and territories.

In general terms the Queensland Government holds a range of concerns about the proposed legislation including:

- the proposal to override state and territory legislation which fails to recognise the work already undertaken by jurisdictions to ensure a cohesive regulatory framework
- security risks which require further examination
- the apparent lack of scientific rationale for the proposals, and
- the potential environmental and planning impacts on any state or territory where such a site may be located and the limitations placed on any affected government to be involved in relevant decision-making processes.

We will continue to examine the proposed Bill and will consider options for raising further, more detailed concerns with the Commonwealth Government at a later date.

Yours sincerely



ANNA BLIGH MP
PREMIER OF QUEENSLAND

