



Mayor's Office

Ref: GE1024

12 September 2005

The Honourable Dr Brendan Nelson MP
Minister for Education, Science and Technology
Suite 8, 12-16 Tryon Road
LINDFIELD NSW 2070

Dear Minister

RE: RADIOACTIVE WASTE FACILITY WITHIN NORTHERN TERRITORY

I write to express Council's opposition to the establishment of a radioactive waste facility in the Northern Territory.

Alice Springs Town Council is particularly disappointed that the Australian Government failed to liaise with the Alice Springs Town Council on this major issue. The first that Alice Springs Town Council knew of this initiative was when I heard an announcement on a local radio broadcast. The failure to consult is clearly not consistent with the recent undertaking made by the Prime Minister with the Australian Local Government Association President to ensure that the three levels of government worked closer together.

Despite Council's disappointment with the Australian Government, Council did permit the Department of Education, Science and Technology to hold an information stand in Council's foyer for a two hour session as requested by the Department. The session provided a very limited opportunity for our local community to seek advice and information from the experts from your Department. I suggest that you liaise with Senator Scullion, who without notice to Council, also attended the information session, on how outraged the residents of Alice Springs were about the lack of consultation by the Howard Government on this issue.

Alice Springs Town Council aims to work with all levels of government to support our vibrant and growing community. Whilst we may not always agree on all decisions, we request that the Australian government consults with Council on major issues recognising that our residents have a right to participate in decisions which affect them.

Yours sincerely

Fran Kilgariff
MAYOR