

To: [Legal and Constitutional, Committee \(SEN\);](#)
cc: [Snowdon, Warren \(MP\);](#)
Subject: National Radioactive Waste Management Bill 2010
Date: Monday, 15 March 2010 5:51:36 PM

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I am greatly disappointed with the decision of the Federal Government in general and Hon Martin Ferguson and Hon Warren Snowden in particular for allowing the Radioactive Waste Facility to go ahead at Muckaty Station north of Tennant Creek NT.

My social concerns are with the local Indigenous people who are saying NO to the Facility being placed on their land.

A decision was made by NLC and a small group of the Traditional Owners to allow the facility to go ahead.

I am also concerned that there appears to be a division developing between the Indigenous Traditional Owners. Those who have said yes and those who have said no. There does not appear to be consensus among the Traditional Owners.

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 is in itself disturbing. The NLC is a group supposedly advocating on behalf of all Aboriginal people in their area.

What I picked up from the public meeting in Tennant Creek on Wednesday 3rd March was a sense of betrayal and confusion by the Government and the Local Member. There appears to have been a turn around of policy with no explanation.

On the physical side of siting the Nuclear Waste Facility at Muckaty

I understand there are concerns about the seismic stability of the area (the most recent in 1988). This could be of future concern to all the people who reside in the area - Indigenous, pastoralists, and others who live in and travel through this area.

I humbly urge the 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.

Rev John Flaherty

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