



Friends of the Earth Brisbane

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March 17, 2010

To: Senate Legal and Constitutional Committee
Attn: Julie Denett, Committee Secretary

Re: Changes to Waste Management Legislation and Proposed Waste dump at Muckaty Station.

Friends of the Earth Brisbane is greatly concerned at the government's repealing of the Commonwealth Radioactive Waste Management Act and its implementation of the National Radioactive Waste Management Bill. It is our opinion that the National Radioactive Waste Management Bill is as coercive and inequitable as the bill it replaces and effectively vetoes state, indigenous and environmental objections to any site that the Commonwealth government dictates.

We vehemently oppose any suggestion that a nuclear waste dump is an option on Australian soil. It is our opinion that radioactive waste should be stored in above ground dry storage at the site of production at the expense of the waste producer and in perpetuity. There has never been a case for the development of a radioactive waste dump in the centre of Australia.

The endeavour to impose a dump on a remote site and expect the public to sanction an "out of site out of mind" attitude is morally reprehensible. The bribing of indigenous owners with money for a waste dump on their land in order to compensate them for the services and infrastructure they need for a quality of life expected of all Australian is morally reprehensible. Furthermore, ongoing debate suggesting that Australia become a dumping ground for the world's nuclear waste is repugnant.

We oppose to all facets of the nuclear industry on ethical, environmental and human rights grounds.

Muckaty Traditional Owners have repeatedly and consistently voiced their opposition to waste dumping on their land. We have supported their petition against the dump proposal, which has been ignored for two years. In doing so, we have sent numerous letters to the Prime Minister's office and Martin Ferguson supporting the Muckaty people's call for government officials to meet them personally on their own land in fair and honest consultation.

We would like to express the strong anti-nuclear sentiment of people in our region

who are concerned about developments such as this. Brisbane was declared nuclear free in 1995 and Queensland has legislated against the building of a radioactive waste dump in our state. We do not view these matters lightly or as simply “not in my backyard (NIMBY) issues.

The proposal to establish a nuclear waste dump **anywhere** on Australian soil is tragically flawed and will be opposed unconditionally.

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