

From:

[Legal and Constitutional, Committee \(SEN\);](#)

Subject: submission Commonwealth Radioactive Waste Management Act [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

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Submission - Commonwealth Radioactive Waste Management Act - Muckaty

• **The Committee should travel to Muckaty**

It is essential that the Senate Committee pay due respects to the Traditional Owners on the front line, by travelling to Tennant Creek to take evidence from them directly. It is time once and for all to stop treating our indigenous people as insignificant second-class citizens!

• **A case for a remote dump has never been made**

The radioactive waste management debate in Australia has never looked at options other than remote waste dumps on Aboriginal land. The industry has never made the case that a remote shed is the best place for this material. Other options need to be seriously looked at that involve not moving nuclear waste around.

• **The bill is too authoritarian**

In choosing a site, the proposed bill overrides too much other legislation, Aboriginal heritage protections and private property rights of affected individuals regarding the dump site or its access route. The Commonwealth environmental legislation has almost no mechanisms for preventing the project from going ahead. This is absurd.

• **There is too much discretion in the hands of the Minister**

The Bill places enormous power in the hands of the Minister to assess whether or not the Muckaty site should go ahead. This is undemocratic. No information is given to how the assessment will be carried out – this information must be made clear and available to the public. The bill makes it clear that local people have no right of appeal. This is grossly unfair and undemocratic.

• **This is not the best way forward**

Nuclear waste should be moved as little as possible, and should be stored above ground close to the point of production, close to centres of nuclear expertise and infrastructure - not dumped far away on Aboriginal Land.

Julius & Felicity Timmerman