

**From:**  
**To:** [Legal and Constitutional, Committee \(SEN\);](#)  
**Subject:** Commonwealth Radioactive Waste Management Act Repeal  
**Date:** Friday, 5 March 2010 11:58:23 AM

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Dear Ms Crossin,

I am writing to express my concerns regarding the Government's plans to repeal the Commonwealth Radioactive Waste Management Act.

It has been brought to my attention that the most likely location for a national radioactive waste dump will be Muckaty Station in the Northern Territory. My understanding of the repeal legislation is that it is more coercive than the bill it will be replacing, overriding any state and territory laws which may hinder site selection (section 11) while also ignoring the interests of both the indigenous and of the environment (section 12). I also understand that Section 13 of the bill will eliminate the property rights of individuals who happen to reside in the path of the dump and its access corridors. Surely this is a gross violation of the rights of landowners, a step backwards in the Government's efforts to reconcile with the indigenous population and a dreadful tragedy for our environment.

I believe it is vitally important that the Senate Committee travel to Tennant Creek to take evidence from the Traditional Land Owners who will be most directly affected if this is to go ahead. I would also be interested to hear of other options for dump sites which are not on remote aboriginal land. To my knowledge there has been no case stating that the best place for this waste material is on remote land. So without a case being made for it, one can only assume that the Government

is looking for the cheapest way to deal with the situation, never mind that it is ethically and morally wrong. The information I have accessed states that nuclear waste should be moved as little as possible and that storage should be above ground and close to the point of production, centres of nuclear expertise and infrastructure. This does NOT sound like Muckaty Station.

Thank you for taking the time to consider these points.

Sincerely,

Malinda Swain