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Committee Secretary, Senate Legal and Constitutional Committee
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Re: Inquiry - National Radioactive Waste Management Bill 2010

“The focus of the current inquiry will be on legal and constitutional matters, including issues relating to procedural fairness and the Bill's impacts on, and interaction with, state and territory legislation”.

This submission rejects the nuclear waste dump concept

The issues surrounding the transport and storage of nuclear waste have never been solved despite more than half a century of trying. This submission rejects the concept of siting a nuclear waste dump anywhere before it can be proven without any doubt that it will never escape, leak, dissipate into the air, soil, or water or rock; that human error will not intervene for the centuries that will pass before the waste can be safe toward living things; that no vandalism, theft, terrorism, stupidity or accident will befall it during transport and storage; and that no future government or other group will disinter the waste for any purpose.

Radioactive waste, if it must be produced for peaceful purposes, should not be transported; and should be stored close to its production site and to nuclear expertise and infrastructure.

The Bill is not fair

To site the most dangerous waste devised by humans in a location supposedly agreed to by its current owners and inhabitants, incidentally well away from centres of non-Aboriginal habitation, arrogantly continues the injustice the late-comers to this continent have perpetrated on the original inhabitants of 50,000 years.

Why has the radioactive waste management debate in Australia never looked at options other than remote waste dumps on Aboriginal land?

What about private property rights and access?

This Bill is dangerous

It is highly dangerous to place so much power in the hands of one Minister or Ministers to decide on a proposal which will abrogate the human rights of the owners and inhabitants and potentially ruin environmental values – the Bill overrides Commonwealth environmental and Aboriginal heritage protections.

Margery Street