

Ms Julie Dennett
Committee Secretary
Senate Legal and Constitutional Committee
PO Box 6100 Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600 Australia

12th March 2010

Submission against the National Radioactive Waste Management Bill and a Nuclear Waste Dump at Muckaty Station, NT.

As local residents of Tennant Creek, we make this submission to the Senate Inquiry into the National Radioactive Waste Management Bill. We believe that due process has not occurred in the recent developments regarding Muckaty Station being the only remaining proposed site for a nuclear waste dump in Australia. It is our belief that the selection of this site is not based on evidence, as a case for a remote dump has never been made. And that the toxic and dangerous nature of nuclear waste means it should have minimal transportation and be stored at centres with existing specialised staff, security and infrastructure.

We believe there has been a lack of true consultation with all traditional owners of this land, neighbouring Aboriginal communities and local residents in relation to the selection of this site, and as such we are against this bill which allows for a nuclear waste dump to be proposed at Muckaty Station. As local residents, it is also a real concern that the bill does not allow a right of appeal by the local community if the proposal for Muckaty station as a dump site goes ahead. We also believe that as a developed nation, we should be ashamed by the fact that this site has fallen on the heads of the most marginalised and disadvantaged population in Australia, becoming yet another example of this Government's abuse of power in regards to its responsibilities to Indigenous peoples.

We believe a thorough anthropological survey of the site based on evidence from numerous sources, along with comprehensive community consultations, needs to be undertaken on this proposed nuclear waste dump site. Furthermore, a comprehensive environmental assessment must be undertaken to determine whether a nuclear waste dump will impact on local threatened flora, fauna, water courses and biodiversity. In particular consideration of the bilby population that exists in north Calumtigpa (Muckaty region) as recorded by Central Land Council rangers. We ask that you please consider the long lasting environmental and social ramifications when reviewing this bill.

With regards,

Ms Kristina Vine & Mr Stephen Green
Residents of Tennant Creek
Northern Territory, Australia