

Dear Senate Legal and Constitutional Committee,

I have become aware that Muckaty Station outside Tenant Creek is the likely destination of the new national radioactive waste dump. And whilst I understand it needs to go somewhere I would ask that you take the following points into account before making a final decision:

1. The traditional owners of Muckaty Station must be consulted, face to face - and their views need to be taken into account.
2. Often the best answer is not always the obvious answer - perhaps the solution to radioactive waste material does not involve a dump on aboriginal land.
3. In choosing a site, the proposed bill overrides all relevant state and territory legislation as well as overriding commonwealth environmental and Aboriginal heritage protections. It also overrides private property rights of affected individuals with regards the dump site or its access route. Once a site is chosen, it will be assessed under commonwealth environmental legislation which has almost no mechanisms for preventing the project from going ahead.
4. The Bill places enormous power in the hands of the Minister to assess whether or not the Muckaty site should go ahead. No information is given to how this assessment will be carried out, and the bill makes it clear that local people have no right of appeal.
5. 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.

Thank you for taking these points into account.

Kim Low