

Subject: Submission re: National Radioactive Waste Management Bill (NRWMB)
Date: Thursday, 11 March 2010 2:17:51 PM

Dear Senate Committee

FORMAL SUBMISSION: National Radioactive Waste Management Bill (NRWMB)

I would like to present my opposition to this proposed legislation. I would also like to oppose the Muckaty Waste dump site which goes hand in hand with this proposed legislation.

I don't know how you could consider passing such a bill. It is full of inequality and allows the Federal Government to basically come in and do whatever they like.

The NRWMB is designed so that rights of Traditional Owners of the land are stomped on! This is wrong as they are the ones that have lived there for many generations- it is their home and/ or a place they would like to travel and stay with their children and grand children. It is everyone's responsibility to keep it safe and clean.

The nomination of the Muckaty site by the Northern Land Council was highly controversial and is strongly contested by many Traditional Owners. It is absolutely necessary that these people are fully consulted. This has not been done so far. It is important that the Senate Committee visit the Muckaty area and proposed site and speak to the traditional owners. They do not want the dump polluting their pristine land. You might think there is nothing out there, that it is barren and lifeless however this is far from the truth. The area is environmentally significant and more importantly this is these people's HOME!

If the proper environmental and social assessment processes are done this area would not be selected as a suitable site. The *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection Act 1984* and the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* are two valid and important Acts. This proposed legislation removes the validity of these Acts- ignores them, basically exempts them. The proposed NRWMB has been cleverly designed like this because if these Acts were to apply, the site would clearly deem unsuitable.

Please visit the Traditional owners of this land and speak with them on their land. Please do not let the NRWMB proceed as a piece of legislation. It skips too many important legal processes that were put in place for a reason! The Government should not have the right to exempt themselves from these processes. If anyone else did it they would be prosecuted because it is clearly wrong.

Uranium tailings i.e waste are dangerous, highly toxic and this poses a massive problem when considering storage and waste disposal. I don't think there is any safe

way of doing this but the safest way would be to store it above ground where it can be monitored, not just burying below ground and forgetting it. The Muckaty site is not a suitable site for uranium waste disposal on social and environmental grounds. Please do not let this bill be legislated as it will give the Government the rights to ignore these concerns.

Thankyou for your time. I look forward to your response either by email or by post.

Regards
Sue Tillman

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