

To: [Legal and Constitutional, Committee \(SEN\);](#)
Subject: National radioactive waste Mx bill 2010
Date: Sunday, 7 March 2010 11:00:00 AM

Submission to the senate enquiry for the above proposed bill.

I am very concerned about the proposed National radioactive waste management Bill 2010, this bill goes further in continuing the current paradigms; Waste is someone else's problem and out of site is out of mind, and that the rights of the private owners of land and the rights of the environment are not in the interests of the nation.

Nuclear waste is not suited to transport to remote locations where the means or skills to deal with the waste and complications that may arise from such an undertaking are lacking. The travel distances required for experts and equipment to traverse to deal with accidents/leaks would almost in my opinion guarantee significant environmental pollution and the possibility of indigenous people losing access to large areas of their land.

The Australian government has no expertise in such management of waste and private industry to date has not shown its ability to put public/environmental safety above its commercial interest.

It also is in my opinion that waste should be dealt with where it is produced and that the cost of that should be paid for by those that had a financial benefit in its production (Major mining corporations, Australian government, power generating operations in the countries of use and their governments.)

It is not in the long term best interest of others (especially the environment) that are likely to be exposed in a catastrophe, however remote; To have nuclear waste traversing their land and oceans. This alone should make the Australian government behave as responsible global citizens and reverse the mind set and; Refuse to take in others waste no matter how sizeable the cash incentive. This would ultimately expose the true costs of nuclear energy.

Waste generated here in Australia should also be dealt with in the same manner, close to the site of production and where experts, equipment and infrastructure are readily available.

The proposed bill's ability to overpower environmental protection acts and indigenous heritage protection acts speaks volumes of how unwilling governments are to truly recognise the national importance of both interests. The Senate enquiry must visit Muckaty Station (a proposed site) and speak directly with the owners, you must see the site and acknowledge its environmental and cultural importance not assume that arid lands are

secondary in importance to non-indigenous owned arable lands.
We must all recognise the rights of people living in remote locations. Not to allow their homes to become dumping grounds of everybody else's waste because it is the easiest political solution and pays well.

I can only repeat my opposition to the above bill, and ask the enquiry committee to recommend major amendments that change the paradigms that have led us to this position.

Yours faithfully,

Dr Tracey Nixon