

To: [Legal and Constitutional, Committee \(SEN\);](#)
Subject: Submission to Radioactive Waste Management Bill Inquiry
Date: Monday, 8 March 2010 6:40:22 PM

Dear Senators,

As a Territorian I am deeply concerned about the the Federal Government's recent Radioactive Waste Management Bill.

It is unfair for the Federal Government to impose this facility on the Territory, overriding our laws in the process and exempting the dump from Commonwealth Environment and Aboriginal Heritage legislation.

Very little of the waste to be dumped is even produced in the Territory - why dump it here? Surely Lucas Heights, where it is produced, is a better location - it solves the question of transporting the more radioactive and thus more dangerous waste if you deal with it where you made it.

Furthermore, there is no scientific reason to dump the waste remotely, the motivation is clearly political - the Government seems to think that there are no influential people in remote Central Australia to worry about upsetting. Well they are wrong.

The nomination process also seems problematic. Not even all the Ngapa clan members, let alone other surrounding Traditional Owners at Muckaty station approve of the plan. The Committee ought to travel to Muckaty and assess the legitimacy of the nomination process.

The reason given by some Ngapa clan members and the NLC for accepting the dump was a paltry \$12 million deal for education, jobs and roads. These are goods and services all Australians are entitled too - why should people have to accept a radioactive dump on their land to get what should be theirs by entitlement?

This legislation is deeply flawed. It gives far too much power to the Minister. Indeed it completely fails to satisfy the Rudd Governments election promise of repealing the Howard era legislation, which Labour said in opposition was so terrible. Instead it replaces it with something just as bad.

Let's go back to the drawing board and let Science and proper consultation decide where this waste ought to be stored.

Yours Sincerely,

Jess Abrahams

