

TO:

Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committee on Environment, Communications and
the Arts
Department of the Senate
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FROM:

Ms Judith Cullity,

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The Government should repeal the CRWMA because:

1. The CRWMA allows the dump to be imposed on the NT without consultation or consent from Traditional Owners, affected communities or the NT Government.
2. The CRWMA overrides Territory laws that prohibit transport and storage of these radioactive materials in the NT.
3. The CRWMA explicitly remove all rights to "procedural fairness" and remove rights of appeal under the Administrative Decisions (Judicial Review) Act.
4. The CRWMA prevent the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection Act 1984 from having effect during investigation of potential dump sites, and excludes the Native Title Act 1993 from operating at all.
5. International trends highlight the need for community involvement and consent in decisions about locating nuclear facilities. Australia should step into line with these international standards.

6. None of the sites currently under assessment for the dump were shortlisted in the national study to find a national radioactive dump site (completed in 1997). The sites in the NT were clearly chosen for political, not scientific reasons.

7. It is national Labor Party platform to repeal the CRWMA. Eleven months since the election there has been no indication that this will occur.

8. Senators Kim Carr and Trish Crossin gave clear statements before the election on September 27, 2008 that the ALP would repeal the CRWMA if elected. Prime Minister Kevin Rudd committed to keeping all election promises, and this one must also be followed through.

9. Labor should not just continue to roll out the Howard government plan to impose a dump on the NT. Before the election, Labor party politicians called the this very legislation 'sordid', 'shameful' and 'arrogant'.

It is time for a democratic approach to radioactive waste management