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Submission to Senate Committee

I wish to make three main points.

1) The first is that it is a disgrace that the People of the NT are being treated as second class citizens in their own country. Of course the Aboriginal people of the NT already know what that is like, and as a result of this legislation they are reduced to the status of third class citizens.

The legislation should be repealed forthwith, but the longer term remedy must also be addressed. In my view that remedy is not Statehood, and we are only being offered second class Statehood.

Tasmania has 12 Senators, and a guaranteed 5 House of Representative seats.

Nothing like that is on the table for the Territory.

The best solution is not a new State, it is doing away with the States and having two tiers, a Federal Government, and regional governments based on sensible geopolitical boundaries, not historical accidents.

2) The second is that when dealing with toxic material, including Nuclear waste the transport component is the most hazardous. It makes sense to store and manage it as near as practical to the sources.

The main sources of this low and medium level waste are the major population centres of south-eastern Aus. An ideal central point for the storage would of course be the Australian Capital Territory.

What is the problem with that ? They assure us it is perfectly safe !

3) The third and last thing is the nature of this proposed facility. They assure us that it is only for low and medium level waste.

We don't believe them.

Once the facility is established the pressure to use it for high level waste will be irresistible. The moral and political pressure on Aus to "take back" the waste from our Uranium will be immense.

The rest of Australia, and the world, will see "the middle of nowhere" as the late unlamented Brendan Nelson put it, as an ideal place.

They need to realise that it is our home.

Again we need to look at the longer term solution, and part of that solution is to stop the nuclear cycle at the beginning.

Stop Uranium mining.

Stop the environmental disaster of Angela Pamela.

Stop the proposed "biggest hole in the ground in the world" at Roxby downs.

Alice is a Solar City.

Let us put our money where our mouth is and spend it on sensible Solar solutions.