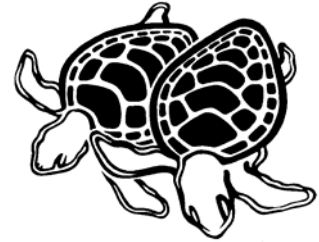


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29 October 2008

Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committee on Environment, Communications and the Arts
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Canberra ACT 2600
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Re: Senate Inquiry into the *Commonwealth Radioactive Waste Management (Repeal and Consequential Amendment) Bill 2008*

The Environment Centre of the NT (ECNT) welcomes the opportunity to make submissions to the Senate Inquiry into the *Commonwealth Radioactive Waste Management (Repeal and Consequential Amendment) Bill 2008*.

Prior to the last federal election, the Labor party made a commitment to repeal the CRWMA, having called it 'sordid', 'shameful' and 'arrogant' and having adopted a policy calling for its repeal and the withdrawal of Muckaty as a potential nuclear dump site.

It is a sad fact that 11 months after the Federal election, Labor has made no moves to keep this election promise. The commitment to repeal the CRWMA was based on a range of important issues, none of which have changed in the past year. These include that the CRWMA:

- allows the dump to be imposed on the NT without consultation or consent from Traditional Owners, affected communities or the NT Government;
- overrides Territory laws that prohibit transport and storage of these radioactive materials in the NT;
- explicitly removes all rights to "procedural fairness" and remove rights of appeal under the Administrative Decisions (Judicial Review) Act;
- prevents 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.

International standards for the management and siting of nuclear facilities highlight the need for community involvement and consent in decisions making. Australia should step into line with these international standards.

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.

Territorians remain opposed to the imposition of a nuclear waste dump on the NT. ECNT urges the Senate to support this bill.

Sincerely,

Emma King
Acting Coordinator

Protecting NaTure since 1983

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