

Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committee on Environment, Communications and the Arts
Department of the Senate PO Box 6100 Parliament House Canberra ACT 2600

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Dear Senators

How do I begin to express my complete disappointment that the Australian Labor Party has not yet repealed the Commonwealth Radioactive Waste Management Act (CRWMA)? This contradicts clear statements made by Senators Kim Carr and Trish Crossin before the last federal election that they would repeal the CRWMA if elected. So, what happened? What happened to Prime Minister Rudd's commitment to keeping all election promises? Has this slipped off the radar and collective conscience of our elected representatives? Have I wasted my vote?

Are you not concerned that this Act overrides existing Northern Territory (NT) laws that prohibit the transport and storage of radioactive materials in the NT? It denies input from the community, Traditional Owners and the NT Government - which contravenes international standards on decision making about locating nuclear facilities. (Shame Australia - lagging behind the rest of the world). The complete arrogance of this law and its implications and any continued support of it, reflects the arrogance and ignorance of those who created it. Is the NT an easy target? A push-over for the Federal Government? Show that you have some integrity by voting for the Commonwealth Radioactive Waste Management Act (Repeal and Consequential Amendment) Bill 2008.

Have you ever been to the places nominated as potential radioactive dump sites? Are you aware that none of the sites currently under assessment were even shortlisted in a 1997 national study to find a scientifically and logistically suitable site for a national radioactive waste dump? So why can the CRWMA override these findings? Where is the sense in that? Vote for the Repeal and Consequential Amendment Bill 2008 and inject some common sense into parliament.

I write as an Alice Springs resident. An average person who is disappointed with the Government I voted for, and concerned about the future of the region and Territory I choose to live in. Respect the people directly affected by the CRWMA legislation and vote for the Commonwealth Radioactive Waste Management Act (Repeal and Consequential Amendment) Bill 2008. I can't vote - so I'm asking you to do it for me.

Sincerely,
Nicky Schonkala