

Stephen McMahon

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

[eca.sen@aph.gov.au](mailto:eca.sen@aph.gov.au)

Friday, 31 October 2008

**Re: Commonwealth Radioactive Waste Management (Repeal and  
Consequential Amendment) Bill 2008.**

Dear Senate Committee,

I urge the Senate Committee to support this Bill.

The CRWMA allows the dump to be imposed upon the NT without consultation or consent from Traditional Owners, affected communities or the NT Government.

The CRWMA explicitly removes all rights to “procedural fairness” and remove rights of appeal under the Administrative Decisions (Judicial Review) Act.

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.

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.

Repealing the CRWMA has been national Labor Party policy for 11 months without any action. Senators Carr and Crossin gave clear statements before the 2007 election that it would be repealed. Some Labor politicians called the legislation ‘sordid’, ‘shameful’ and ‘arrogant’.

Nuclear waste is a tremendously serious issue in itself. It should not be hidden away in the hope that nothing will go wrong. And it should never be assumed that such an irreversible and undemocratic act be imposed on our country’s most vulnerable people

If there was a clear message from the document, on the ABC screened a report last night. [The Intervention](#) clearly is is that the government must learn to stop imposing (problems and solutions). on

Consult the people. Show leadership and principle. Do not allow the promise of the Rudd Labor Government's apology to be an empty symbol of continued disregard and contempt for the Australia's indigenous people to assert their natural rights to health and environmental safety.

Yours Sincerely,

Stephen McMahon