

Firstly thanks to Senator Scott Ludlam for introducing this bill.

Prior to last years election the Rudd Labour party clearly stated it was their intention to repeal the Commonwealth Radioactive Waste Management Act. As did many people, I applauded the Labour Party for this stand and I believe it was a strong factor in influencing voting at the election.

Since the election however the Labour government has chosen to continue the flawed process and questionable practices of their predecessors regarding the waste dump. As a participant in the speaking tour *From the Heart, For the Heartland* I was present at several meetings in Canberra with Labor MPs including Senators Carr, Snowden and Macklin.... they stressed that if elected the CRWMA would be repealed providing no contractual agreements had been entered into. This, it was explained, meant major construction, not roads, fencing etc. It did not mean waiting for the Parsons Brinkerhoff report on the four sites.

It is both frustrating and disappointing that the Rudd government has altered their position on the federal radioactive waste dump, they also appear to be embracing the culture of secrecy and exclusion that so often occurs with the nuclear industry. There has been no information given back to affected communities, no attempt at dialogue with the public and formal requests for information have gone unanswered.

The Lucas Heights Reactor is prepared to up grade waste storage facilities on site. Build a facility there that will accommodate present waste and the reprocessed rods due to return from France. Then I believe the reactor should be closed. It is not necessary for health needs of Australians as has been well documented. After touring the facility my impression is that it is for the commercial overseas market and research in expanding the nuclear industry, not the cancer treatment politicians have stressed to the public.

We heard on that tour how generous the government funding was to Lucas Heights compared to the amount CSIRO had allocated. Considering the CSIRO tries to develop truly green and renewable energy resources, I hope that has changed with the government.

Since the NT waste dump was first proposed Australia has become a member of the Global Nuclear Energy Partnership. This has increased the likelihood of pressure being put on Australia to host an international radioactive waste dump. Pro-nuclear companies back the railway running through the NT and the increase in NT uranium mining adds to concerns.

I ask the committee to recommend repealing the CRWMA. I also urge the Federal government to consider all the points on radioactive waste passed at the 2007 ALP national conference before going further with any part of the nuclear industry.

With regards
Vina Hornsby