

I am so happy the Australian Greens introduced legislation to repeal the Howard Government's Commonwealth Radioactive Waste Management Act 2005.

Senator Scott Ludlam said “When it was introduced, the ALP described this legislation as, 'extreme, arrogant, heavy-handed, draconian, sorry, sordid, extraordinary and profoundly shameful. We agree. At the election that saw them into Government, the ALP supported repealing the legislation - it is time that they acted on that promise.”

It is my understanding that the original scientific study into the safest location for a nuclear rubbish dump was in WA or SA but not in the NT. It is extremely unfair that as we in the NT do not yet have State rights we are not treated equally with other Australians.

I live in the NT, have studied a little of our black history, seen the size of this continent and visited Lucas Heights. It is alarming that we worked so hard to defeat John Howard, only to find the ALP back peddling on their promises. How do I explain it to my very interested 5 year old son, (who helped hand out how to votes to give John Howard the sack). Do I tell him that Kevin lied?

I have met some of the Traditional Owners from Muckaty, lovely old ladies, politely adamant they do NOT want the dump. I have seen the lushness of Katherine in an ordinary wet and have heard how much wetter it gets when it floods. I know we white people cruelly and violently stole this continent from its first inhabitants and should now not add any poisonous substances in the vicinity of their country.

I have followed what goes on with the mining of uranium in the Alligator Rivers region (Kakadu) and know we already have leaking radioactive waste dumps in Kakadu. We do not need more!

I am aware that nuclear power is an extremely expensive method of boiling water; is clearly unsafe; is horridly calamitous in some places; cannot be separated from nuclear weapon production including “depleted uranium”; and produces vast amounts of incredibly hazardous rubbish, including greenhouse emissions. To build a nuclear waste repository is to encourage more of this insane technology that could well culminate in the extinction of all species everywhere!

It is my understanding that for Australia to build a nuclear waste repository in the desert is to announce to our mates that we have a dump out the back and all are welcome to it. We have after all signed all the pledges to share. It is easy to imagine the beckoning of economic benefits to gloss the smile of governmental acceptance. We in Darwin do not want to see endless shipments of nuclear waste coming through our ports and down our train line or track!

Instead, I implore you to repeal John Howard’s extreme, arrogant, heavy-handed, draconian, sorry, sordid, extraordinary and profoundly shameful Act.

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