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**THE HON MARTIN FERGUSON AM MP****MINISTER FOR RESOURCES AND ENERGY
MINISTER FOR TOURISM**PO BOX 6022
PARLIAMENT HOUSE
CANBERRA ACT 2600Ms Dianne Stokes (Yapakurla)
c/- Tennant Creek Post Office
TENNANT CREEK NT 0860

22 JUL 2008

Dear Ms Stokes

Thank you for your letter of 22 April 2008, received in my office on 27 June, concerning the possible use of land on Muckaty Station for a radioactive waste management facility.

I am informed by the Northern Land Council (NLC) that, prior to the nomination of Ngapa land as a potential waste facility site, the NLC provided opportunities for all traditional owners to express their views. This included meetings on Muckaty Station and at Renner Springs. Representatives from all Muckaty traditional owner groups attended these meetings.

The presence of representatives from all groups is confirmed by officials from the Department of Resources, Energy and Tourism who were present at these meetings.

I am currently considering an appropriate way forward to achieve a comprehensive, national approach to radioactive waste management. No decisions on radioactive waste management will be taken by me or the Australian Government without appropriate consultation.

In particular, no decision has been made regarding the use of land on Muckaty Station for a waste facility. I have noted the various views of the Muckaty traditional owner groups and will consider them all in developing the Government's radioactive waste management strategy.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Ferguson'.

Martin Ferguson