

Committee secretary  
Senate Standing Committee on Environment, Communications  
and the Arts  
PO Box 6100  
Parliament House  
Canberra  
Act 2600



31/10/08

Dear Sir/Madam, I want to make a submission Senate Standing committee on Environment, Communications and the Arts, Inquiry Commonwealth Radioactive Waste Management Repeal Bill 2008.

The Australian Labor Government, promised to repeal the Commonwealth Radioactive Waste Management Act (CRWMA). Because the (CRWMA) allows the dump to be imposed on Northern Territory without consultation or consent from Traditional Owners, affected communities or the Northern Territory Government. ~~The (CRWMA) overrides~~

The (CRWMA) overrides Territory laws that prohibit transport and storage of these radioactive materials in the Northern Territory.

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

The (CRWMA) prevents 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.

The International trends highlight the need for community involvement and consent in decisions about locating nuclear facilities. Australia should step into line with these international standards.

None of the sites currently under assessment for the dump were shortlisted in the national study to find a national radioactive dump site (~~completed~~ completed in 1997). The sites in the Northern Territory were clearly chosen for political, convenience, not scientific reasons.

It is national Labor Party platform to repeal the (CRWMA). Eleven months since the last Federal election there has been no indication that this will occur.

Two Senate members, senators Kim Carr and Trish Crossin, gave clear statements before the election. On September 27 2007 the ALP would repeal the (CRWMA) if elected. The Prime Minister Kevin Rudd committed to keeping all election promises, and this one must also be followed through.

The Labor Government should not just continue to roll out the Howard Liberal Government plan to impose a dump on Northern Territory. Before the last Federal election the Labor party politicians called this very legislation 'sordid', 'shameful' and 'arrogant'. This is the time for a democratic to radioactive waste management.

Yours sincerely

Nick Pastalatzis