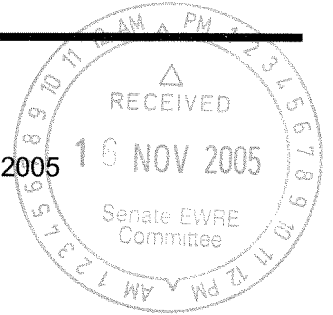


Jurjevic, Dijana (SEN)

From: Kath Raymond [aurelia_kr@optusnet.com.au]
Sent: Wednesday, 16 November 2005 10:19 AM
To: EET, Committee (SEN)
Subject: Inquiry into Commonwealth Radioactive Waste Management Bill 2005



To the Chair, Senator Judith Troeth, Senate Employment, Workplace Relations and Education Committee,

I am confused at the apparent urgency with which this Bill is being pushed through. There seems to be no compelling case for this urgency, except perhaps an attempt to make it difficult for the public and stakeholders to have their say. The duration of the enquiry is too short to deal with all the complex issues, particularly considering it will not travel to the NT to hear from those most affected. However, I do wish to have my say on this important matter.

I am concerned for the NT government and community, the traditional Indigenous landowners and those unfortunate people on proposed transport routes, who have not been consulted with, despite the fact that they will be greatly affected by this.

I am also concerned about the overriding of the power and existing provisions of a territory government to "hinder or delay", as this sets a dangerous and disturbing precedent undermining the power of the states and territories and undermines our confidence in the Commonwealth, both now and in the future. All political parties in the NT are opposed to this dump. This is especially disturbing given the fact that the federal government assured the NT government that no nuclear dump would be imposed on them. How are we to trust the federal government's word?

I am also deeply worried that what will start off as a low-to-moderate radioactive dump may be turned into an international radioactive waste dump that holds highly radioactive waste from all over the world. Radioactivity lasts a long time, longer than we can conceive of. We would be foisting high levels of radioactivity on NT citizens for untold generations to come, obviously without their input. In addition, the sites chosen for this dump have not been selected through any scientific assessment.

It seems wrong to foist a radioactive waste dump on a territory of Australia that unanimously is against it, especially when the reason touted for its necessity is blatantly false. There is no need for a radioactive waste dump to maintain quality nuclear medicine, and this is backed up by statements by senior medical professionals, including Professor Barry Allen who was the former head of medical research at the Lucas Heights nuclear facility!

I ask that this Bill is scrapped immediately, unequivocally. It is incredibly unfair and detrimental to the Australian community.

Thank you for your time.