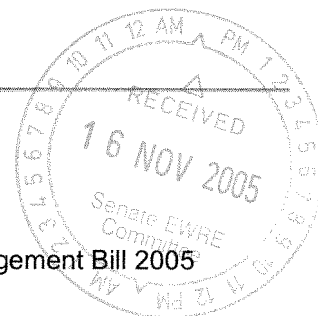


Jurjevic, Dijana (SEN)

From: Oonagh [oonaghs@iprimus.com.au]
Sent: Wednesday, 16 November 2005 12:04 PM
To: EET, Committee (SEN)
Subject: Submission to the Inquiry into Commonwealth Radioactive Waste Management Bill 2005



Senator Judith Troeth
Chairperson
Senate Employment, Workplace Relations and Education Committee
Inquiry into Commonwealth Radioactive Waste Management Bill 2005

Dear Senator Troeth,

I am writing to express my concern at the Commonwealth Radioactive Waste Management Bill 2005 on a number of grounds. Lack of consultation with the community and NT government, overriding of provisions of territory law and the nature and scope of the waste dump.

I find it appalling that there has been no recognition of traditional landowners by entering into a discussion about the suitability and availability of their land for this matter. For its maturity as a nation, Australia desperately needs to come to terms with its past by improving relations with its indigenous community not just in name but in deed. The commonwealths failure to do this demonstrates a total lack of dignity and compassion.

Further to this there has been no consultation with either the NT government or community at large, nor those on transport routes. The government's bullying with this legislation belies its concern that any consultation on this obviously highly controversial matter will produce long delays and possibly another negative result like they saw in SA. This is not the way to conduct good government. **The Federal government forgets that it is the servant of the people not the master.**

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) maintains that facilities of this kind require community consent and a reasonable degree of 'social license'. The Federal government has ignored this expert advice.

The commonwealth's overriding of provisions of federal and territory law is an abuse of power. Such overriding should only be allowed in a state of emergency not so the government can push the people around for its own gain.

I find it highly disturbing, that this federal legislation will allow the proposed NT waste dump to be turned into an international radioactive waste dump housing highly radioactive materials from all around the world - effectively forever. There is simply no need to take on toxic waste that is not ours. Such actions would suggest that the commonwealth is putting profit above sense. This is shortsighted and foolish.

I urge your inquiry to carefully consider these concerns and their long term implications.

Yours Sincerely,

16/11/2005

Oonagh Sherrard

16 November 2005