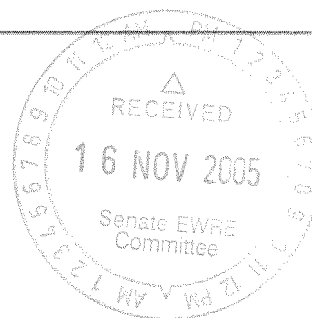


Jurjevic, Dijana (SEN)

From: samm sunners [longsummer2000@hotmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, 16 November 2005 1:34 PM
To: EET, Committee (SEN)
Subject: FW: Nuclear waste dump Inquiry submission Ms S Sunners



The Chair - Senator Judith Troeth
Senate Employment, Workplace Relations and Education Committee
Inquiry into Commonwealth Radioactive Waste Management Bill 2005
Submission to the Senate Committee inquiry into the NT waste dump

The introduction of legislation into Federal parliament that would prevent the NT government or the community from doing anything to 'hinder or delay' the construction of a nuclear waste dump is not following due process of democratic governance.

The time allowed for the public to be informed is insufficient, and a one day hearing in Canberra is insufficient. There is no compelling case for the urgency of this legislation. The overriding of existing provisions of federal and territory law that could hinder or delay the dump plan is a disturbing precedent that greatly undermines community confidence in the Commonwealth's actions on the dump issue - and the future intentions to go all things nuclear without community consultation.

The EIS must include a psychological impact statement, that considers what affect nuclear issues has on all human life animal life and planet life.

The federal government earlier gave an "absolute categorical assurance" to the NT that there would be no nuclear dump imposed. This legislation is in complete conflict with this earlier promise.

The Inquiry period is far too short to deal with the complexity of the issues involved and it is insulting that the committee has not bothered to travel to the NT to hear directly from the most affected community.

The claims about the need for the dump in order to maintain access to high quality nuclear medicine are wrong and are contradicted by senior medical professionals including the former head of medical research at the Lucas Heights nuclear facility - Professor Barry Allen.

The sites chosen for the NT dump were not selected through any scientific assessment.

All political parties in the NT are opposed to the imposition of the dump.

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) maintains that such facilities require community consent and a reasonable degree of 'social license'. This legislation is inconsistent with this international obligation.

- This legislation has been criticised by the Senate Scrutiny of Bills Committee for its adverse impacts 'on personal rights and liberties'.
- The legislation is heavy handed and anti-democratic. It removes the ability of local, territory and state governments to adequately reflect the concerns and aspirations of the communities they represent.
- Good public policy is developed through negotiation and inclusion - not imposed by governments determined to get their way no matter what.

A dump promotes poor practice at the site of production of the nuclear waste.

A dump is a terrorist target.

We must find a solution to our imminent energy crisis and green house gas warming, nuclear is not the solution. We must invest in renewable sustainable energy, whilst promoting careful consumption, then we do not have to consider nuclear.

Yours for a nuclear free future
s sunners