



The Chair - Senator Judith Troeth
Senate Employment, Workplace Relations and Education Committee

Dear Senator Troeth

RE: Inquiry into Commonwealth Radioactive Waste Management Bill 2005

I am writing to express my concern regarding the 'commonwealth radioactive waste management bill 2005'. My concerns are as follows:

- The sites have been chosen purely because it is politically suitable and nothing to do with science.
- Its another example of treading on the minority so the majority can go about their daily lives without sacrifice.
- Out of sight out of mind for the majority of Australians. Measures to reduce waste will disappear and our beautiful land will become Australia's and the worlds dump forever.
- Other states manage to dodge the dump purely on the narrow margin of their political seats.
- The impact on our image as pure pristine land will disappear impacting on tourism.
- The federal government has failed to make any compelling case for the urgency of this legislation.
- There has been no consultation with the NT government or community, traditional Aboriginal landowners or those on the proposed transport routes.
- 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 this issue - and its future intentions.
- The federal legislation would 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.
- 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'.
- Good public policy is developed through negotiation and inclusion - not imposed by governments determined to get their way no matter what.

Yours sincerely
Mark McMillan