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Sent: Wednesday, 16 November 2005 11:07 PM
To: EET, Committee (SEN)
Subject: NT waste dump



The Chair - Senator Judith Troeth

*Senate Employment, Workplace Relations and Education Committee *

Inquiry into Commonwealth Radioactive Waste Management Bill 2005

I am writing to make a submission in objection to the federal governments proposed "nuclear dump" in the Northern Territory. I outline my objections below.

*The idea of putting a nuclear dump in the N.T. or anywhere else in Australia without consultation with the owners/occupiers of the lands and surrounding areas or the routes through which the wastes are to be carried is striking a blow at the very fundamentals of democracy. We are talking about hazardous material with an extremely long life. Our politicians should ask themselves whether they would like it at parliament house or perhaps in their children's backyard. Or childrens, childrens, childrens!! Remember this stuff has a half-life of around at least 8000 generations. From B.C. to now 100 times over!!! *

*Now as politicians it's easy to be short sighted as the main for you is probably winning the next election or making a fist full of cash, but remember other people actually care. *

O.K. if you were planing on spending as much money as the Swedish in getting rid of your waste it may be slightly more acceptable. But you aren't. More of a "she'll be right mate" aussie sort of attitude. Spend more money on advertising and convince everybody this safe and economical for the next 250,000 years. Yer right. Der.

*To go on with the myriads of reasons/recommendations why this decision is undemocratic would only repeat what many others have already said. *

*It does however appear that the expansion of the Lucas Heights Reactor (and the consequent increase in waste) and the intention to enrich uranium will ultimately lead to Australia joining the nuclear arms race. *

Furthermore with the large amounts of Uranium being exported to China and the rapidly expanding Chinese Nuclear weapons program it seems even more likely that Australia will desire nuclear weapons for defence in the future.

You may laugh but it is true that those countries that have the bomb rule. Do you really think the coalition of the willing would have invaded Iraq had it had a large nuclear arsenal? Not on your life!!

Australia as a country with the largest natural reserves of uranium should be responsible and leave uranium in the ground and become nuclear free. Downers idea of safeguarding Australian Uranium is a joke. And as Professor Barry Allen says we don't need nuclear reactors for medicine.

Sorry if my writing seems rather crass, uncivilised and over simplified, but I was trying to put it in a language that the average politician might relate to. I often see segments from parliament. They're a jolly rude bunch mostly.

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