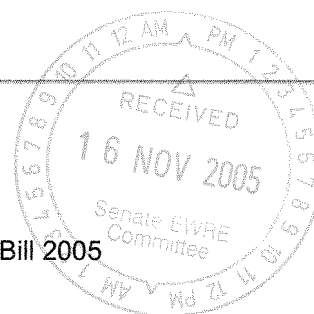


Jurjevic, Dijana (SEN)

From: Monica Nugent [mnugent@pnc.com.au]
Sent: Wednesday, 16 November 2005 7:46 PM
To: EET, Committee (SEN)
Subject: Inquiry into Commonwealth Radioactive Waste Management Bill 2005



Senator Judith Troeth

*The Chair - Senate Employment, Workplace Relations and Education Committee
 Inquiry into Commonwealth Radioactive Waste Management Bill 2005*

I wish to make a submission to the Inquiry into the Commonwealth Radioactive Waste Management Bill 2005. I am very concerned about the way this legislation is being developed. In particular, it does not appear to be the case that there is a need for such urgency for it to be passed.

I am extremely concerned that there has been no consultation with the NT government or community, traditional Aboriginal landowners or those on the proposed transport routes. The transportation and "disposal" of nuclear waste is of great concern to me as I do not believe there is any adequately safe way of transporting or disposing of nuclear waste.

I studied the campaign against the Jabiluka uranium mine in detail as it formed the basis of my PhD thesis (completed through the School of Science & Technology Studies at the University of NSW in 2002). It disturbs me very much to observe that the federal Government does not appear to have learnt anything from that example of the need to consult with the Aboriginal landowners and the community in general. I had hoped that the Government would heed the advice from the United Nations about the importance of respecting Aboriginal human rights in regard to consulting and negotiating such important issues as the use of their traditional lands as nuclear waste dumps.

It is my belief that good public policy can only be developed via adequate, inclusive community consultation and negotiation, but it is apparent that this Government is determined to impose this legislation irrespective of what the community wants. The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) maintains that such facilities require community consent. As a member of the IAEA, Australia has an obligation to fulfill this obligation, however this legislation is inconsistent with it. The brevity of the Inquiry period cannot allow the committee to adequately deal with the complexity of the issues involved. Such a short Inquiry can only be tokenistic and it is extremely insulting that the committee has not made any effort to go to the Northern Territory hear directly from the most affected community.

I am also extremely concerned that:

- *the 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. This is a matter of national*

significance and should be considered with much more attention to detail and broader community involvement.

- *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 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.*

In summary, I am strongly opposed to this Bill and I urge the members of the Australian Parliament to prevent it from becoming law.

Yours sincerely

Dr Monica Nugent

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