

Senator Judith Troeth
Senate Employment, Workplace Relations and Education Committee,
**INQUIRY INTO COMMONWEALTH RADIOACTIVE WASTE
MANAGEMENT BILL 2005.**



Please accept and give proper consideration to this submission from :

As a resident of Sutherland Shire for 77 years and a Sutherland Shire Councillor for 14 years I have been appalled at the most inappropriate siting of one of the worlds earliest nuclear research reactor at Lucas Heights, a location chosen for the benefit of the nuclear Scientists attached to the University of Sydney, without any consideration of the community which surrounded it.

I was even more appalled at the Government's decision that HIFAR, a redundant reactor design, which originally operated on 80% enriched fuel (capable of producing a nuclear weapon) was allowed to continue operation, despite many major Inquiries. HIFAR HAS STILL TO BE DECOMMISSIONED despite the lack of Inquiry into the costs and dangers associated with this process.

Valid concerns stated over 5 decades by the community and all levels of Government have been trivialized by the Australian Atomic Energy Commission (AAEC) and the culture of misleading assurances has been continued by the present ANSTO.

The Federal Government has failed to make any compelling case for the establishment of a larger nuclear reactor on the same site which will operate alongside the original reactor for some years ahead. THE MATTER OF THE CONTINUED PRODUCTION OF NUCLEAR WASTE HAS BEEN CONSTANTLY BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WHO IGNORED EXPERT OPINIONS AND THE RESULT OF PAST ERRORS OF JUDGEMENT.

- *There has been no consultation with the indigenous people of the Northern Territory, who will be affected by yet another inappropriate siting, ignoring the heritage matters as indeed was the case in Sutherland Shire in 1770.*
- *There has been no proper evaluation of security measures required to be realistically able to deal with present day monitoring requirements. Consider*

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the folly of the Lucas Heights Site situated in a heavily populated family suburb.

- *"absolute categorical assurance" to the N.T. that there would no nuclear waste dump imposed has the same zero credibility as the assurances to residents who purchased building blocks for young families in the boom property era of the seventies who were assured that the HIFAR REACTOR WOULD BE DECOMMISSIONED in 1984,1990,1999. They were misled and now have a greater burden to bear – including terrorist threats.*
- *Australians have never supported the expansion of the Nuclear Industry and*
- *The present Government was not given the mandate to change that policy of non-proliferation and expansion. If the energy debate is to continue in the same culture of secrecy and diminution of State Rights and individual Human Rights it will lose any remaining respect it may have in the Northern Territory.*

There can be no longer any excuse of ignorance about the effect of the continuing production of, what used to be more honestly defined as High level Nuclear Waste. The evidence of the outcome of previous hastily, political & ideological decisions without the support of the people, both indigenous and non-indigenous, is recorded from many previous inquiries.

There is also the question still unanswered about the International pressures.

Please be aware of our democratic and dedicated involvement in such a major issue.

YOURS FAITHFULLY

HAZEL WILSON.

H. Wilson
16/11/05