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Sent: Thursday, 17 November 2005 10:43 AM
To: EET, Committee (SEN)
Subject: Submission - Inquiry C'wealth Radioactive Waste Management Bill 2005

17 November 2005

Senator Judith Troeth
Chair
Senate Employment, Workplace Relations and Education Committee Inquiry into Commonwealth
Radioactive Waste Management Bill 2005



Dear Senator Troeth,

I am concerned that:

Despite the federal government having earlier given an "absolute categorical assurance" to the NT that there would be no nuclear dump imposed, the proposed legislation completely conflicts with this earlier promise.

I believe the proposed 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.

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) maintains that such facilities require community consent and a reasonable degree of 'social license'. However, there has been no consultation with the NT government or community, traditional Aboriginal landowners or those on the proposed transport routes, and all political parties in the NT are opposed to the imposition of the dump. This proposed legislation is therefore inconsistent with this international obligation.

And further that:

The federal government has failed to make any compelling case for the urgency of this legislation.

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.

I am also greatly concerned that the proposed legislation could 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.

Yours sincerely,