Attention Senator Judith Troeth

Dear Senator Troeth



As Chair of this Senate committee I wish to bring to your attention the concerns I have and wish to have them taken into consideration and passed on to those making the final decision as to where the most suitable site might be for a *nuclear waste dump*.

I believe that the Committee Secretary is John Carter (Ph. 02 62773520) and so I imagine that, you John will actually receive this email and I respectfully ask that each member of the committee receives a copy.

You might find that both Senators, Troeth and Crossin know of me and have met me personally on several occasions as I spent 6 years as a volunteer board of management member of *Australian Women in Agriculture Ltd*.

Currently I am President of the local Roper River Landcare Group Inc who are an active diverse membership group who are passionate about the on-going health and well-being of the Roper River catchment (some 80 000sqkms+) and it's environs as well as the people living and working in the catchment whilst they derive their living from and around it. Our Vision in our Roper River Catchment Natural Resource Management Plan "seeks to have a catchment that has vibRant cOmmunities and Productive sustainablE management of countRy."

I also am a Councillor on the Mataranka Community Government Council locally where we strive to "proudly provide an improved quality of life for Mataranka & district residents."

Family is foremost in all that I do in and for my rural communities and associated primary industries. All of my four, now adult children, live and work in the NT. Two of them are a crucial fulltime part of the family pastoral operation and company that we run on two properties in the Roper River catchment area. As a family Holistic Management Goal we aim to have and be **Healthy** in every aspect of the word - **Hearts**; Environment; Animals; Lifestyle; Trust; Homes; Yields.

So as we live and work with our environment every other day, I respectfully ask that you can ensure me that all due care and respect to us as locals will be taken into consideration when such massive decisions are made / taken as to where the best possible site is for such a location for this nuclear waste dump. To avoid unwarranted speculation, I think that we locals deserve the right to be well informed and visited so that we are not in the dark and ill-informed by hearsay about what is actually being proposed. All this hype about the Katherine site being one of three, is really hard to take seriously but what are our options? The site is in a very brittle area of the headwaters of the massive Roper River Catchment and with any hiccup has the potential to affect a vast pristine river catchment and the associated flora, fauna, businesses and lives of a small but very passionate and special section of your Australian population. The water catchment component seems to me, to make it very difficult to easily contain any mishap - quickly and effectively???

That our concerns are taken seriously, will be of great assurance. The time that we, in rural Australia spend in a voluntary capacity to enable us to maintain healthy, vibrant communities and environs, is rarely appreciated or taken into consideration

PLEASE give us that decency whilst you ensure that every aspect of healthy is considered before any final decision is made on a location - anywhere! Do you realize what time has already been spent in efforts singularly or in action groups to respond to media reports on the proposed sites??? It's massive and takes us off other priorities and we have no idea - if our efforts are for naught or not?? Can you understand that? Please try!!

WHEN that final decision has been made - can we then please be well informed of all the pros and cons so that we fully understand and can explain to ourselves and our loved ones - what and why this has to be!!

"Fear of the unknown is extremely real" "Seek first to understand" that's what I'm getting at Please see that we have the real facts that we need to understand and live with (and be proud of) the commitment that needs to be made somewhere. I fully appreciate that It has to go somewhere ... SO00000 IF it is here - don't exclude us (the locals) - get us on side by supplying the right facts/information and then let us move on together to ensure it happens in the best possible way. We can do it together!!!

Russell Trood, David Johnston, Trish Crossin, Anne McEwan, Lyn Allison, and Christine Milne - I wish you well in your endeavours and hope that this illustrates a little of the frustration and passion that I and others like me, have re such decisions that are made about "our backyard".

I'd appreciate hearing any updates as they come to hand. I have a large communication network through my associations over the years and in additions to those mentioned above, I am also an active member of the NT Cattlemen's Association (*Advancing and protecting the interests of cattle producers in the Northern Territory*), Katherine Regional Tourism Association, a Life Member of the Isolated Children's Parents' Association Cairns Radio Branch, a Course 9 Graduate and Life Member of the Australian Rural Leadership Network and a grandmother of two true-blue rural Aussies If our local Fisher's Ridge site is not "the one" - I still would like to think that what I have said here, can also help you all work better with the locals of any site proposed / selected. They will appreciate it for sure and it should prove a more positive win win for us all!!

Thanks for the opportunity and for your reading this far. With warmest regards
Clair O'Brien
For the O'Brien family

Mrs Clair O'Brien