

**Jurjevic, Dijana (SEN)**

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**From:** michael kokinos [koko4ht@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, 17 November 2005 5:26 PM  
**To:** EET, Committee (SEN)  
**Subject:** radioactive waste facility

Email of letter, a signed copy is in the mail:

Heather Kokinos  
President  
Dragonflies Playgroup  
19 Heron Cres  
Katherine NT 0850



16 November 2005

Mr John Carter  
Secretary  
Senate Employment, Workplace Relations &  
Education Committee  
Suite SG 52  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Mr. Carter

On behalf of the Dragonflies Playgroup, I have enclosed a submission in regards to review by the federal government's radioactive waste management facility – the Commonwealth Radioactive Waste Management Bill, 2005.

The playgroup has 15 members with children aged between 4 months to 5 years. We enjoy living in Katherine with the almost pristine environment especially along the waterways and many of our activities encompass these places such as the Low Level and Knott's Crossing, within the Katherine River. As parents we are particularly concerned about the Commonwealth Government building a potentially hazardous waste management facility in close proximity to the township of Katherine and the underwater reservoir system, where our children play and drink the water. We have concern not only for our children but also the future generations, as this waste is hazardous for a very long time. The following details outline some of our concerns and needs to be taken into consideration by the Employment, Workplace Relations and Education Committee.

Please consider our succinct submission and we look forward to a response from the committee.

I will send a signed hard copy by mail to the above address.

Yours Sincerely,

Heather Kokinos

#### Submission

Opposition to the Commonwealth Radioactive Waste Management Bill 2005, particularly pertaining to Schedule 1 – Site 3 – Fishers Ridge (NT Portion 3260 delineated on Survey Plan S86/252

<sum> Nuclear waste material whether classified as intermediate, long term intermediate or high level is toxic for millions of years and this facility will store long-lived toxic waste. No-one can guarantee safe transport, disposal and storage of such long lived radioactive waste. The current arrangements for the storage of the low-level waste generated in the Northern Territory and within Australia is safe and responsible and meets the national and international standards. Why invent a potential problem when one does not exist at this time.

<sum> "Spent fuel waste from Lucas Heights accounts for less than 1% of the volume of waste intended for the NT waste dump, but it accounts for over 99% of the radioactivity of the total waste. One gram of this spent fuel waste contains more radioactivity than all the other waste put together. In all, there will be about 25 cubic metres of this highly radioactive spent fuel waste." (Environmental Centre, NT, N.D.)

<sum> Nuclear waste poses a serious danger to humans and the environment for many thousands of years. A range of terminal and debilitating medical conditions have been directly linked to exposure to nuclear waste. Safety of people and the environment is the most outstanding concern with what appears as to no consideration to the geomorphology of Fishers Ridge. Taking into account the close proximity to the region's Tindal, Ooloo and Jinkuckin aquifer system. To consider having a low to medium level waste in close proximity to the township of Katherine and the underwater reservoirs, will pose a danger to humans and the environment. When the Commonwealth Government committee looked at potential sites across Australia and on offshore islands over a ten year period, eight suitable sites were identified, none of which were located in the Northern Territory, have these more suitable sites been further investigated?

<sum> A number of prosperous industries including tourism, agriculture, fishing and primary industries encompass the Katherine Region, promoted as pristine and untouched. If a nuclear waste management facility is built in the Katherine area, this will facilitate the demise of these industries and the infrastructure that surrounds them. We envisage that there will no longer be a promising thriving regional community and thus no employment or future prospects for our children.

#### References