

Jurjevic, Dijana (SEN)

From: Roy Hayles [roydor@chariot.net.au]
Sent: Thursday, 17 November 2005 9:31 PM
To: EET, Committee (SEN)
Subject: Nuclear waste dump

For: The Chair-Senator Judith Troeth
Senate Employment, Workplace Relations & Education Committee
Inquiry into Commonwealth Radioactive Waste Management Bill.

Dear Senator

I wish to submit the following observations for consideration by your committee:

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

The overriding of existing provisions of federal territory law that could hinder or delay the dump plan is a disturbing precedent that greatly undermines community confidence in the Commonwealth's actions on this, & other, issues - & it's future intentions;

The federal government earlier gave an "absolute categorical assurance" to the NT that there would be no nuclear dump imposed. This legislation is in complete conflict with this earlier promise & calls into doubt a previous promise that dumping foreign nuclear waste in Australia would not be allowed;

The claims regarding the need for the dump in order to maintain access to high quality nuclear medicine are wrong & are contradicted by senior medical professionals including Professor Barry Allen, the former head of medical research at the Lucas Heights nuclear facility;

The International Atomic Energy Agency maintains that such facilities require community consent & a reasonable degree of "social license". This legislation is inconsistent with this international obligation;

This legislation has been criticised by the Senate Scrutiny of Bills Committee for it's adverse impacts "on personal rights & liberties";

The legislation is autocratic. It overrides the responsibility for local, territory & state governments to reflect the concerns & aspirations of the communities they (& the members of your Committee) are elected to represent.

Roy Hayles
