

Jurjevic, Dijana (SEN)

From: Shelley Davis [mm@krta.com.au]
Sent: Thursday, 17 November 2005 5:03 PM
To: EET, Committee (SEN)
Cc: chiefminister.nt@nt.gov.au
Subject: Letter of Opposition - Nuclear Waste Site

Good Afternoon,

Please find attached letter for your consideration.

Kind regards,

Shelley Davis

Marketing Manager
Katherine Region Tourist Association

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Mr. John Carter
Secretary
Senate Employment, Workplace Relations and Education Committee
Suite SG52
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Thursday 17th November, 2005

Dear Mr. Carter,

RE: LETTER OF OPPOSITION

The Katherine Region Tourist Association (KRTA) is dismayed to hear of the Federal Governments proposal to locate a Nuclear Waste facility within our region.

The Katherine Region, like most of the Northern Territory, relies almost entirely on nature and cultural based experiences as the platform for our Tourism products. Supporting this is our carefully fostered image of being a clean green destination, and the KRTA believes a proposed Nuclear Waste Repository would significantly undermine this image.

Furthermore, 73% of visitors to our region belong to the drive market, and travel on the very roads the same waste would be transported. In this remote part of Australia, as there are often no alternative travel routes, the perception of our visitors regarding the safety of such travel could lead to them abandoning plans to travel through our region and thus negatively impact on our tourism economy.

Although the integrity of the facility has been expounded by the Federal Government, any potential breach of this integrity or the security of the site poses great concern to our Members. Fishers Ridge is located adjacent to the headwaters of the King River – a major tributary to the Katherine River upon which so many of our Membership base their livelihood. This site is also in close proximity to the Tindal, Ooloo and Jinduckin water aquifers from which so much of our region draws our water supplies.

Tourism is everybody's business and benefits the community as a whole. In 2004/05, Tourism contributed \$1.2billion to the Northern Territory's economy. Tourism is more important to the NT than for any other state or territory in Australia, accounting for 4.9% of Gross State Product in 2003/04. The KRTA questions the sensitivity of the Federal Government's decision and its apparent disregard for the Tourism Industry.

On behalf of our Members, I urge you to take our position into consideration and am happy to be contacted at any time regarding this matter.

Yours sincerely,

(no signature due to electronic transmission)

RICK MURRAY
Deputy Chairman
Katherine Region Tourist Association

cc: Clare Martin – Chief Minister