

**Jurjevic, Dijana (SEN)**

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**From:** Jon Lamb [jjlamb8@hotmail.com]

**Sent:** Friday, 18 November 2005 11:54 AM

**To:** EET, Committee (SEN)

**Subject:** Submission to the Inquiry into Commonwealth Radioactive Waste Management Bill

To:

**The Chair - Senator Judith Troth**

**Senate Employment, Workplace Relations and Education Committee**

**Inquiry into Commonwealth Radioactive Waste Management Bill 2005**

**Submission to the Inquiry into Commonwealth Radioactive Waste Management Bill 2005**

To the Committee members,

I wish to state my firm opposition to the proposed Commonwealth Radioactive Waste Management Bill 2005. I believe the necessity for a waste dump for radioactive waste and materials is not warranted in the Northern Territory, or indeed anywhere in Australia. The proponents for such a waste dump have failed to provide any compelling or sound scientific rationale as to why a radioactive waste dump is necessary.

I also wish to state my concern over the contemptible and disdainful attitude expressed towards the opponents of the radioactive waste dump by members of the Federal Government. For such an important decision that affects the livelihood of so many people - now and into the future - surely there is the need for an open transparent process with as much broad public debate as possible. The fact that this Inquiry is so short in its duration is one measure of how stifled the democratic process on the Federal Governments decision has become.

Another measure is the Bill itself, which has been criticised by the Senate Scrutiny of Bills Committee for its adverse impacts 'on personal rights and liberties'.

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Furthermore I'm deeply disturbed by the accusations and emotional blackmail being used by members of the Federal Government. In particular, the misinformation about the nature and alleged need of the waste dump as stated by Mr David Tollner, Member for Solomon and Senator for the Northern Territory, Mr Nigel Scullion.

It is particular repugnant when inflammatory remarks are made such as those of Mr Scullion:

``People are still peddling to a fairly naive community, complete evil misinformation to make people so afraid - anybody that suggests that this is at all dangerous to anything it is entirely wrong" (*ABC News Online*, 8 November 2005). The suggestion here by Mr Scullion is that the Traditional Owners in Central Australia who have stated opposition to the radioactive waste dump are ``fairly naive" and don't understand the issue. It is a sad example of elected members to the Federal Parliament displaying patronising and neo-colonial attitudes.

At the centre of the claims of the Federal Government and representatives of ANSTO is that the radioactive waste dump is required so that waste generated at the Lucas Heights facility can be safely stored. They have argued that this facility is essential for the production of nuclear medicine for use in Australia.

However this has been disputed by leading medical professionals including the former head of medical research at the Lucas Heights nuclear facility, Professor Barry Allen.

Surely even the recently revealed alleged threat of some sort of planned terrorist attack on the Lucas Heights nuclear facility is another reason for it to be decommissioned immediately and the end for the supposed need for a radioactive waste dump.

The funds that Lucas Heights absorbs could be redirected to far more socially useful programs, whether it be the development of world-leading cyclotron technology or advanced medical treatments and compensation for those suffering from the impacts of uranium mining and the nuclear cycle - such as the Australian Defence Force personnel and Aboriginal people and lands affected by the atomic weapons test programs of the 1950's and 1960's. Or perhaps treatment and compensation for the ADF personnel serving in Iraq that will have been affected by radioactive poisoning from the depleted uranium weapons used in the war on the Iraqi people.

Thank you for the opportunity to make this submission.

Jon Lamb

18/11/2005

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