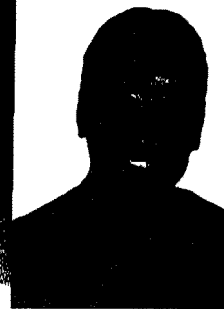


# Rob Knight MLA

Member for Daly

WORKING FOR OUR COMMUNITY



Att: Committee Secretary  
Senate Employment, Workplace Relations, & Education Committee

Email: [eet.sen@aph.gov.au](mailto:eet.sen@aph.gov.au)

By fax: 02 62775706

**RE: SUBMISION – COMMONWEALTH RADIOACTIVE WASTE  
MANAGEMENT BILL 2005**

Dear Syd,

I write to comment on the recent Commonwealth Radioactive Waste Management Bill 2005 introduced into the Federal Parliament.

This legislation has particular significance to me in regards to one of the proposed site for the radioactive waste repository, that being Fishers Ridge. This site is located near the Katherine Township where I live, and is situated within the Northern Territory Legislative Assembly electorate of Daly, which I am the member.

I would like to make the following comments in regards to the bill:

- **Selection process** – since the announcement by Minister Brendan Nelson back in July this year, we have learned more about the selection process. It has become clear that this process has been haphazard, unscientific, unaccountable, and inconsistent with due process. Despite several studies being undertaken by the Commonwealth over recent years, which identified favourable sites in other states, none were proposed in this legislation. None of the research actually identified and subsequently investigated the Mt Everard and Harts Range sites.
- **Fishers Ridge site** – the inclusion of this site in Schedule 1 of the bill is astounding and absolutely ridiculous. Of all the land in Australia, a group of departmental officials from the Commonwealth Department of Employment Science and Training outside of any scientific advise, identified a portion of land which sits atop of a huge aquifer which is some 200km long and upto 80 km wide. The site is also amongst lime stone country, and adjacent to



Moving the

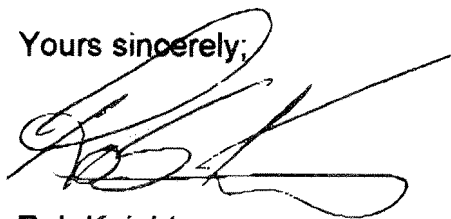
**Rob Knight MLA, Member for Daly**  
15 Katherine Terracc. Katherine NT 0850 • PO Box 1055 Katherine NT 0851

Page 1 of 3

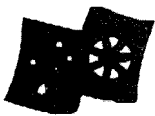
the headwaters of two major water ways, the Daly River and the Roper River. Most every commentator has derided this selection. A potential repository at this site will negatively effect local pastoralists, horticulturists, and tourism operations in the region. It baffles me why the Commonwealth would select this site. If the Commonwealth government so desperately seeks to have a repository, it will need to be issued with a license from APANSA; the Fishers Ridge site has so many geological, hydrology, economic, and social problems associated with it; it would be highly unlikely that APANSA would even consider it as an option. Apart from the resources of the Northern Territory Government's Natural Resources division, local Landcare and environmental groups have a growing history of collapses and formation of 'sink holes' in this region. These sink holes can take in an area of a couple of acres and fall to a depth of 10 metres. Whereas science was not used in the selection of the three sites, the issuing of the licenses will be and Fishers Ridge will stand out as unsuitable because of its geology and hydrology problems.

I would like to suggest to the Committee that they reconsider the inclusion of Schedule 1, and in particular Fishers Ridge.

Yours sincerely,



Rob Knight



Moving the

**Rob Knight MLA, Member for Daly**

15 Katherine Terrace, Katherine NT 0850 • PO Box 1055 Katherine NT 0851

Page 2 of 3