

McMahon, Rosalind (SEN)

From: simone siracusa [simsiracusa@yahoo.com]
Sent: Saturday, 19 November 2005 3:59 PM
To: EET, Committee (SEN)
Subject: To Senator Judith Roeth: Submission into waste management bill

Dear Senators,

I am writing to you about the Commonwealth Radioactive waste management bill.

My strong concerns about the bill include lack of democratic processes and the effects of that. I also have strong concerns about the construction of a radioactive waste dump.

The radioactive waste management bill appears to be solely for the purpose of quashing any dissent to the construction of a radioactive waste dump in the Northern Territory. A 'democratic' government should not be passing legislation just so it can get its own way over a particular issue. A government that professes to adhere to democratic processes and then proposes this bill is cynical.

According to activists there has been a lack of consultation both about the waste management bill and the siting of the dump itself. Again this disregard for people, your voters, is worrying and wrong.

My concerns with the construction of a radioactive waste dump are that such a facility is very dangerous and unhealthy in the short and very long-term to both people and the environment. Who is going to look after this dump, not just in the next 10 years but in the thousands to come?

There has apparently been no scientific assessments done yet of the proposed sites. If this is correct, this is a shocking and scary oversight. It makes me wonder if this government cares at all about this country and its inhabitants. I am left with very little confidence in the decision-makers.

I have spent some time in the Northern Territory but live in Melbourne. Whilst the submissions of those more directly affected should be read with perhaps more urgency I believe a submission from elsewhere in Australia, or the world is valid. In a world where environmental problems have far and wide-ranging consequences for the whole earth, I believe my submission is important. Once this dump is constructed the ground is laid for the construction of dumps elsewhere in Australia. What happens to food and other products grown and manufactured near the waste dump and then transported to the rest of the world? We live in an interconnected, global, if you like, world. A radioactive waste dump concerns everyone.

Yours sincerely,

Simone Siracusa