

McMahon, Rosalind (SEN)

From: Karina Lauren Castan [klcas2@student.monash.edu]
Sent: Friday, 18 November 2005 4:37 PM
To: EET, Committee (SEN)
Subject: Opposition to Nucleur Waste Dump in NT

To The Chair - Senator Judith Troeth,
Senate Employment, Workplace Relations and Education Committee

RE: Inquiry into Commonwealth Radioactive Waste Management Bill 2005

I am writing as a concerned citizen who strongly opposes the Federal government's proposal to establish a low and intermediate level radioactive waste dump in the Northern Territory.

It is my understanding that all political parties in the NT are opposed to the imposition of the dump and there has been no consultation with the NT government, Aboriginal landowners, or the local people who live on the proposed transport route. The proposed legislation is un-democratic in that it removes the ability of local, territory and state governments to adequately reflect the concerns and aspirations of the communities they represent.

One of my major concerns is the lack of recognition and disrespect of Aboriginal Land Rights over the inadequate consultation with such groups over this major project. A nucleur waste dump can have seriously adverse impacts on the surrounding environment and people. This is further problematised by the fact that the sites chosen for the dump were not selected through any scientific assessment.

Previously, the Federal Government had promised 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.

Furthermore, the Inquiry period is far too short to deal with the complexity of the issues involved and it is insulting that the Senate committee has not endeavoured to travel to the NT to hear directly from the most affected communities.

Once more I strongly urge the government to reconsider this potentially dangerous and harmful proposal, which has not been allocated an adequate amount of time for discussion in the wider community and the Senate.

Sincerely,

Karina Castan