McMahon, Rosalind (SEN)

From: carly franklyn [carlysf@hotmail.com]
Sent: Friday, 18 November 2005 4:26 PM
To: EET, Committee (SEN)
Subject: Opposition to the Commonwealth Nuclear Waste Management Bill 2005

SUBMISSION

RE- OPPOSITION TO THE COMMONWEALTH NUCLEAR WASTE

MANAGEMENT BILL 2005

FROM-

Carly S Franklyn (NT resident)

PERTAINING TO SCHEDULE 1 SITE 3 FISHERS RIDGE (NT

portion 3260 on survey plan S86/252)

Nuclear waste has become an environmental key issue

internationally. Throughout the world we are seeing

the negative environmental and social impact of the

nuclear industry and some of the world's biggest

catastrophes. The only way to deal with
nuclear waste

- a harmful substance with a total life of thousands

to millions of years - is to avoid its production.

In Australia where we have the economy to invest in

leading scientific and medical research, there is no

viable
reason to spend 300+ million dollars on a new

nuclear reactor. In fact the senate select committee

itself concluded there is ' no compelling' reason for

a new reactor to be built.

With no nuclear reactor in this country we will simply have little to none nuclear waste. The management of nuclear waste therefore would be limited to the past production from Lucas Heights and minimal ongoing medical waste. Of which can be easily and "safely"(claims made by ANTSO) stored at Lucas Heights.

I strongly oppose the Australian Government's move to replace the current nuclear reactor, and express extreme concern on transportation of any nuclear waste within Australia. I oppose any national (international?) nuclear dump site in the Northern Territory with Fishers Ridge near Katherine being the most inappropriate site in the whole of Australia.

Firstly there is no such thing as SAFE storage of nuclear waste, nor is there any SAFE way to transport it. And with regard to these points if nuclear waste is moved (by, land, sea or air) away from its place of production, Australians are at risk.

The government has chosen three sites already in the NT based purely on political reasons, with as yet no environment impact studies. Fishers Ridge is within 40km from the township of Katherine, a population of

approx 10000, with many aboriginal communities and a RAAF community even closer to the proposed site. There has been no public consultation on this matter and the residents of Katherine and the whole Northern Territory are being treated by the Federal Government with such disregard that our voices are not worth that of other Australians.

Fishers Ridge contains highly productive aquifers and ground water, with the extreme rainfall of the 'wet season' must not even be considered as a possible nuclear dump site. This location is also near the water catchment areas for the King River (which flows into the Katherine/Daly River) and the Roper River. Both river systems being important in tourism, agriculture, pastoral and fishing industries. Not only is this site subject to the monsoonal flooding of the wet season but seismic tremors are common.

The Northern Territory has an annual income of $40 million through tourism alone. The transportation of nuclear waste (spent fuel rods being of the highest level of radioactive waste) creates a risk not only to those traveling within the NT but to all road users from Lucas Heights to the proposed site. The NT is proud of being known for the vast pristine landscape, clean water, clean air. A national nuclear dump site of Australia will severely harm this reputation.

By transporting ANY nuclear waste from Lucas Heights, Australia will breach the international standards for best practice on nuclear waste, placing all townships from Sydney to Katherine at immediate risk. These townships (assuming road being the mode of transportation since the federal government has deemed flight to expensive) the whole route must be adequately equipped with emergency equipment and trained persons to deal with a nuclear waste accident. Again this points to the possible health risks to a broader public and also the COSTS involved, when compared to keeping waste at the site of production.

The Federal Government has not considered the adverse effects on the environment, tourism, agriculture, pastoral, economy, and most importantly the health of Australians, when proposing the transportation of waste from Lucas Heights, and the replacement of the nuclear reactor. Communities have not been consulted, Aboriginal land owners have not been consulted, emergency and fire services Australia wide have not been consulted, agriculturalists and pastoralists have not been consulted, and the community of the Northern Territory HAS NOT BEEN CONSULTED!

The Federal Government must prevent further nuclear waste production in this country and the world, by

immediately rejecting the replacement of the nuclear reactor. The Federal Government must make the decision that all waste produced at Lucas Heights be contained at Lucas Heights and guarantee that no international nuclear waste is accepted into Australia. The Northern Territory does not want a nuclear dump site.