

McMahon, Rosalind (SEN)

From: All @ Optusnet [bazra@twot.com.au]
Sent: Friday, 18 November 2005 3:06 PM
To: EET, Committee (SEN)
Subject: SUBMISSION; waste not wanted nor dump

The Chair - Senator Judith Troeth
 Senate Employment, Workplace Relations and Education Committee
 Inquiry into Commonwealth Radioactive Waste Management Bill 2005

18 November 2005

re: **Commonwealth Radioactive Waste Management Bill 2005 and Commonwealth Radioactive Waste Management (Related Amendment) Bill 2005**

Dear Senator

It has come to my attention that the government is, as on so many fronts, attempting to railroad legislation without much consideration for public concerns.

In particular, " The purpose of the bill is to **put beyond doubt the Commonwealth's power to do all things necessary** for or incidental to the selection of specified Commonwealth land as a site **for, and the establishment and operation of, a radioactive waste management facility**. Firstly, this is not a platform that this liberal government was voted in under. There has been very little public debate about this matter which has, traditionally, been unwanted by all but the greediest and dumbest of Australian citizens. The federal government has failed to make any compelling case for the urgency of this legislation; it is merely imposing unfair and unwanted legislation upon the citizens who so foolishly listened to the last set of pre-election lies (and all of us who saw through the lies and voted for anything but the 'coalition').

There has been no consultation with the NT government or community, traditional Aboriginal landowners or those on the proposed transport routes. Remember Maralinga? Many Aboriginal (and other) people do. Most worryingly, the federal legislation would allow the proposed NT waste dump to be turned into an international radioactive waste dump housing highly radioactive materials from all around the world - effectively forever. Does that sound like an intelligent use of Australian land?

Likewise, the federal government earlier gave 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, something which is bound to, eventually, meld with other notorious lies promulgated by this government, in particular 'children overboard' and 'WMDs in Iraq'. This is bound to further erode public confidence in our elected officials.

Just as in the pathetic lead time to discuss 'anti-terror' laws, the Inquiry period is far too short to deal with the complexity of the issues involved. It is insulting, but illustrative, that the committee has not bothered to travel to the NT to hear directly from the most affected community.

Apparently, even the claims about the need for the dump, in order to maintain access to *high quality nuclear medicine*, are wrong and contradicted by senior medical professionals - including the former head of medical research at the Lucas Heights nuclear facility, Professor Barry Allen. Nuclear medicine itself is unclear not nuclear. And, likewise, apparently all political parties in the NT are opposed to the imposition of the dump.

Even the famed International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), home of this year's **Nobel Peace Prize** winner, maintains that such facilities require community consent and a reasonable degree of '**social license**'. This legislation is inconsistent with this international obligation; once again illustrating the autocratic style of this federal government. Good public policy is developed through negotiation and inclusion - not imposed by governments determined to get their way no matter what.

21/11/2005

I am wholeheartedly against the imposition of such a dump ANYWHERE in Australia, at least until such time as we can elect a government that cares a jot for its own citizens, rather than the super rich multinational corporate sector including other nation states.

As i have had so little time to prepare this submission it is not of a length or detail that would normally satisfy me. However, if the dump goes ahead anyway, i'll certainly be writing more.

kind regards (and submission authorised by)

barry parsons
managing editor


