

McMahon, Rosalind (SEN)

From: d rovera [d.m.rovera@animail.net]
Sent: Friday, 18 November 2005 2:00 PM
To: EET, Committee (SEN)
Subject: ATTN: The Chair - Senator Judith Troeth RE: Inquiry into Commonwealth Radioactive Waste Management Bill 2005

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

Dear Senator,

I wish to make this submission to the Senate Committee and the Senate in relation to the proposed Commonwealth Radioactive Waste Management Bill 2005.

The mere fact of the existence of this legislation, the underlying Waste Dump agenda and the UNDERHANDED METHODS BEING EMPLOYED BY GOVERNMENT TO EFFECT LEGISLATION & FACILITATE PLANS THAT ARE NO REFLECTION OF & IN-FACT IN DIRECT CONFLICT WITH WHAT IS BEST FOR AUSTRALIANS are a clear attempt by the government to circumvent not only the wishes of the citizens of this country WHOM I WOULD LIKE YOU TO REMIND THE GOVERNMENT THEY ARE THERE TO SERVE, but also THE LAW AND SYSTEM SET IN PLACE TO ENSURE THE GOVERNMENT OBEYS THE WILL OF THE PEOPLE.

I consider the Commonwealth Radioactive Waste Management Bill 2005 to likely be unconstitutional and unlawful.

The government are blatantly contravening the role for which they are meant. The Senate has a responsibility to the citizens of this country to prevent government from such abuses of power.

The current attempt to undermine state and community authority and wishes is just one more abuse of power in what is becoming a constant barrage of abuses of power attempted by the federal government.

I ask the senate to ensure that this legislation is blocked.

I include below a list wherein EVERY POINT is a point a point I personally and strongly wish to make to the Senate Committee and Senate in my complete condemnation of the government and this Bill.

1. the federal government has failed to make any compelling case for the urgency of this legislation.
2. there has been no consultation with the NT government or community, traditional Aboriginal landowners or those on the proposed transport routes.
3. the overriding of existing provisions of federal and territory law that could hinder or delay the dump plan is a disturbing precedent that greatly undermines community confidence in the Commonwealth's actions on this issue - and its future intentions.
4. 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.

5. 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.
6. the Inquiry period is far too short to deal with the complexity of the issues involved and it is insulting that the committee has not bothered to travel to the NT to hear directly from the most affected community.
7. the claims about the need for the dump in order to maintain access to high quality nuclear medicine are wrong and are contradicted by senior medical professionals including the former head of medical research at the Lucas Heights nuclear facility - Professor Barry Allen.
8. the sites chosen for the NT dump were not selected through any scientific assessment.
9. all political parties in the NT are opposed to the imposition of the dump.
10. the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) maintains that such facilities require community consent and a reasonable degree of 'social license'. This legislation is inconsistent with this international obligation.
11. this legislation has been criticised by the Senate Scrutiny of Bills Committee for its adverse impacts 'on personal rights and liberties'.
12. the legislation is heavy handed and anti-democratic. It removes the ability of local, territory and state governments to adequately reflect the concerns and aspirations of the communities they represent.
13. good public policy is developed through negotiation and inclusion - not imposed by governments determined to get their way no matter what.

Additionally, I would like to submit that Australia is lucky to be largely free of the scourge of nuclear facilities and their associated waste.

Further to the above points, the federal government's proposal to fix circumstances such that they will be able to force the creation of a nuclear waste dump in Australia against the will of it's constituents is at odds with our obvious and well advised reluctance to contribute to the generation of such waste ourselves.

I entrust this submission to the Senate Committee and Senate and expect members of the senate and committee to uphold the interests of the public, regardless of pressure from a federal government clearly unwilling to similarly uphold such interests.

Sincerely,

D.M.Rovera