

Jurjevic, Dijana (SEN)

From: Paul Fogarty [paul@amberley.org.au]

Sent: Wednesday, 16 November 2005 12:40 PM

To: EET, Committee (SEN)

Subject: Submission to the Inquiry into Commonwealth Radioactive Waste Management Bill

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

Dear Senator Judith Troeth,

I am writing to express my opposition to the legislation for a Northern Territory waste dump.

I oppose this legislation because:

- * it is unnecessary. The federal government has failed to make any compelling case for the urgency of this legislation.

- * there hasn't been enough (if any) consultation with:

- i) the Northern Territory government or
- ii) the Northern Territory community,
- iii) the traditional Aboriginal landowners or
- iv) those on the proposed transport routes.

- * 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.**

- * 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. I do not want this in my country, and I believe that the Northern Territory community and the traditional owners of the land feel the same way.

- * 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.

- * 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.

- * all political parties in the NT are opposed to the imposition of the dump.

- * 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.

- * the legislation is heavy handed and **anti-democratic (this has become too common a theme for this Federal government)**. It removes the ability of local, territory and state governments to adequately reflect the concerns and aspirations of the communities they represent.

- * good public policy is developed through negotiation and inclusion - not imposed by governments determined to get their way no matter what.

Yours sincerely,

Paul Fogarty

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