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From: Bernardine.Atkinson@cdu.edu.au [mailto:Bernardine.Atkinson@cdu.edu.au]
Sent: Friday, 18 November 2005 2:14 PM
To: Quinn, Julianne (D. Tollner, MP)
Subject: Submission rtp the senate re the nuclear waste disposal facility for the Territory

Dear Julieanne, could you please forward this to the Senate enquiry. I believe submissions are due today. The nt.gov .au site does not accept my submission.
Cheerio from Bernardine Atkinson

I believe the Senate is acting most responsibly.

All States and Territories must dispose of their nuclear waste. For the Territory to do so on behalf of other States provides an opportunity to generate significant wealth, independent of Federal handouts and further burdening the public purse. There is also a technological imperative. Australia must become up-to-date with all aspect of nuclear technology, not to do so fulfils the Keating philosophical bequest of Australia becoming the 'banana republic'. Our neighbours are very busily engaged in pursuing the nuclear power generating option: not to keep abreast of the technology is irresponsible, both for protecting future prosperity and for defence purposes. We need a scientific and defence community alert to all potential hazards, uses and options associated with nuclear power, especially as generation iv reactors can use the plutonium generated in situ, and substantially reduce the waste disposal problem. Also, rather than being the city that runs on kerosene or gas, both of which continue to contribute to CO2 build-up (and free-oxygen depletion), nuclear power is a very sensible, clean and sustainable alternative. Bio-fuels are nonsensical, as are natural gases when we consider the escalating CO2 build-up. Co2 build-up, coupled with the world losing or having degraded 80% of our forests is the cause of climate change, which is going to become much worse in the near future. Bio-fuels take food out of people's mouths and they are a main contributor to the destruction of the Amazon rainforest which is now shown to contribute to El Nino and dreadful droughts in Australia. Biomass through tree-planting can help with Co2 sequestration as well as generate phenomenal wealth for the Territory if it is done strategically. Why is the Territory Government not organising strategic tree planting on the scale required? The Commoner Principle needs to be implemented: that is a target of one-third of the land surface to be planted for maximising biomass and utilitarian benefit (honey, oils, flowers, cabinet timbers, fuel wood, shelter/shade/water retention and so forth, with a 10% tithe for wildlife, Atkinson 2005: my M.Phil and PhD research results ahead of publication). The Territory is in an ideal position to use its uranium and water to generate power and from that to generate hydrogen gas, the fuel for future heavy-, long-distance and air/sea transport. We could supply all of Australia's needs. I have been appalled by the ignorance of politicians in advocating 'no nuclear' and can only conclude that they are both ill-informed and ignorant of the reality of nuclear power for both its benefits and the real consequences of our nation not implementing this technology when biosphere degradation requires co-operative endeavour from all political leaders, not electorate manipulative scaremongering and party-affiliated divisive tactics. Sincere, long-sighted leadership is required on this issue and I look forward to a positive acceptance of waste disposal and nuclear energy generation manifesting in the near future.