

## Jurjevic, Dijana (SEN)

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**From:** Kate Costigan [kate.costigan@jcu.edu.au]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 16 November 2005 12:57 PM  
**To:** EET, Committee (SEN)  
**Subject:** Radioactive Waste Management Bill

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

Dear Judith Troeth,

RE: THE COMMONWEALTH RADIOACTIVE WASTE MANAGEMENT BILL 2005

I am greatly concerned that the Federal Government has failed to make any compelling case for the urgency of this legislation. There has been no consultation with the NT Government or community, traditional Aboriginal landowners or those on the proposed transport routes. 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. The claims about the need for the dump in order to maintain access to high quality nuclear medicine are erroneous and are contradicted by senior medical professionals including the former head of medical research at the Lucas Heights nuclear facility - Professor Barry Allen. The sites chosen for the NT dump were not selected through any scientific assessment. 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. This legislation has been criticised by the Senate Scrutiny of Bills Committee for its adverse impacts 'on personal rights and liberties'.

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

Sincerely,

Kate Costigan

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