Jurjevic, Dijana (SEN)

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Sent: Wednesday, 16 November 2005 3:19 PM

To: EET, Committee (SEN)

Subject: NT Nuclear waste dump

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

I would like to make a submission in relation to the upcoming Senate Committee Inquiry regarding the legislation 'THE COMMONWEALTH RADIOACTIVE WASTE MANAGEMENT BILL 2005'

- I have a number of specific concerns as outlined below:
- * there has been no consultation with the NT government or community, traditional Aboriginal landowners or those on the proposed transport routes.
- * 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.
- * all political parties in the NT are opposed to the imposition of the dump.
- * 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.
- st the sites chosen for the NT dump were not selected through any scientific assessment.
- * 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.
- * IIt is unclear to me if 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.
- * 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.

Thankyou for your consideration of my issues, regards...