



Australian Government
Department of the Environment
Supervising Scientist

Ms Jeanette Radcliffe
Secretary
Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Ms Radcliffe

I refer to your letter of 30 June 2015 inviting the Supervising Scientist to make a submission to the Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee's inquiry into the Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Amendment Bill 2015.

The position of Supervising Scientist for the Alligator Rivers Region was established under the *Alligator Rivers Region (Environment Protection) Act 1978*. The Supervising Scientist is responsible for overseeing the regulation and environmental management of existing and former uranium mines in the Alligator Rivers Region of the Northern Territory to ensure such arrangements are technically appropriate, adequate and based on the best available science. The Supervising Scientist also undertakes scientific research into, and monitoring of, the environmental effects of uranium mining to ensure the ongoing protection of the surrounding environment, including Kakadu National Park. With a knowledge base derived from over 30 years of scientific research and monitoring, the Supervising Scientist also advises other relevant Commonwealth and State government agencies in relation to environmental impact assessment processes for proposed uranium mining developments.

I support the proposed amendments to the *Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Act 1998* on the basis they will provide an enhanced contemporary framework for Australian Government regulation of Commonwealth controlled nuclear facilities and radiation sources. I also note and support the proposed widening of monitoring and enforcement provisions and changes to the current licensing regime to enable the Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency to directly regulate remediation activities involving contaminated legacy sites.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a submission to the Committee.

Yours sincerely

Richard McAllister
Supervising Scientist
Science Division
10 July 2015