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Submission on the National Radioactive Waste Management Bill 2010

Storing nuclear waste at Muckaty, on land belonging to the Ngapa Traditional Owners, is not acceptable.

Having met Ngapa Traditional Owners of the proposed nuclear waste storage site at Muckaty, I am aware that the dump site is strongly contested by them.

Being a migrant from Germany, I know that underground storage of nuclear waste at several sites across that country is highly problematic. Radioactive wastes are a chemical hazard of a most volatile and extremely long term kind. The control of the health hazards over the long life span of the radiation cannot be guaranteed by anybody setting up the waste storage now.

To prevent accidents, nuclear waste should be moved as little as possible. Therefore the so called low level waste currently stored at Lucas Heights should remain there.

I am extremely concerned that a storage facility for low level nuclear waste on Aboriginal land in Australia will be turned into an international medium and high level radioactive dump by stealth. The only way to prevent this happening is to prevent a nuclear waste dump in Muckaty and on other sites in Central Australia.

It is essential that the Senate Committee should travel to Tennant Creek to take evidence directly from the Traditional Owners of the proposed site at Muckaty.