

I am aware that there have been previous opportunities to consider environmental and other issues relating to radioactive waste management in Australia and that the focus of the National Radioactive Waste Management Bill 2010 Inquiry is on legal and constitutional matters, including issues relating to procedural fairness and the Bill's impacts on, and interaction with, state and territory legislation but I feel compelled to raise the following points which are my concerns as a Northern Territory resident (born in Darwin) regarding the proposal for a nuclear waste storage facility at the Muckaty site:

The National Radioactive Waste Management Bill 2010 Inquiry hearing is not being held in Tennant Creek, or Alice Springs in proximity to the affected region and affected people. These people will be forced to journey to Darwin or Canberra or make alternative arrangements to be heard.

Muckaty is situated in an earthquake-prone area of the Northern Territory.

Potential for leaks into the air and water table and danger to humans, animals, plants and the surrounding environment.

Serious implications of transporting hazardous waste through cities and towns throughout Australia and the Northern Territory along the Stuart Highway to reach the waste facility and planned future transportation to Muckaty of highly radioactive waste from the reprocessing of spent research reactor fuel that Australia has sent overseas in previous decades via ships docking in Darwin port.

The fact that current government seems determined to push ahead with Muckaty despite strong objections from environmental and indigenous groups, the NT government and Labor federal MPs from the Territory and Territory residents who object to the dump being imposed on the Territory.

Potential for ongoing disputes and social implications for indigenous groups in the area who are not in overwhelming support for the establishment of the waste dump and their representation.

What appears to be lack of procedural fairness and rights to those traditional owners opposed to the Muckaty 'nomination.'

Apparent disdain in regard to the people of the Northern Territory with federal Labour overriding the NT's nuclear waste transport legislation, environmental laws and heritage laws.

Lack of agreed scientific evidence clearly determining Muckaty as the most appropriate site Australia wide to locate a nuclear waste facility.