

Dear Committee,

I am an Alderman on Alice Springs Town Council (since 2004) and Vice President of the Local Government Association of the NT. This is my personal submission to the Enquiry, but it carries the weight of somebody who has consulted widely in the effected areas.

In 2005 Alice Springs Town Council resolved to oppose the siting of a radioactive waste dump in the NT because the decision was made on political grounds, not scientific.

At general meetings of the Local Government Association, many indigenous leaders have expressed concern about the possible impact of train derailments and trucking accidents causing spillage and contamination of the land. There was also a sense of being dumped on, once again, by a remote Federal Government.

Please understand that you must come to the region and take time to consult with local aboriginal people and the wider community about this. In my years as a local government representative I have learned much about Australia by listening to the views of aboriginal elders who see and understand very well the long term impacts on their country.

Internationally this decision will appear to be a racist decision based on exploiting the poorest people in our country. Dumping the most toxic substance known to man in an area where the most vulnerable people live is not the right thing to do. This would be seen as a morally and scientifically bad decision.

regards,
Jane Clark