

15 March 2010

**Submission to the Senate Inquiry into the
National Radioactive Waste Management Bill 2010**

I would like to make some brief points regarding the above Bill and Inquiry.

In order to allow some procedural fairness, it is absolutely essential that this Inquiry physically goes to Tennant Creek, to allow people there to make submissions in person.

This Bill appears to be based on political expediency, not science or public safety. Legislation regarding radioactive waste management must be based on science first and foremost. The risks and long term consequences are far too serious to leave up to short term political pressures. The Northern Territory is an easy target for this difficult political issue, but I would suggest that Territorians have as much right to safety as residents of the east coast. This legislation should not override Territory legislation.

I note that previous scientific reports have not identified any sites in the Northern Territory to be suitable for radioactive waste storage. I believe storage on site at Lucas Heights is preferable, as it avoids the risks associated with transportation.

Yours sincerely,

Liisa Rusanen