

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Legal and Constitutional, Committee \(SEN\);](#)
Date: Sunday, 7 March 2010 5:48:43 PM

Att: Julie Dennett, Committee Secretary

Senate Legal and Constitutional Committee

Dear Ms Dennett

The Federal Government's announcement that it will repeal the Commonwealth Radioactive Waste Management Act but leave Muckaty Station outside Tennant Creek in the NT as the most likely target for the national radioactive waste dump is unsatisfactory, dangerous and dishonourable.

The repeal legislation is, if anything, more coercive and predatory than the bill it replaces and without full consideration of any other options which both respect the land, its traditional owners and the critical elements for safe radioactive waste disposal.

1. The Committee must travel to Muckaty

It is essential that the Senate Committee pay due respects to the Traditional Owners on the front line, by travelling to Tennant Creek to take evidence from them directly.

2. The case for a remote dump has never been made

The radioactive waste management debate in Australia has never looked at options other than remote waste dumps on Aboriginal land. The industry has never made the case that a remote shed is the best place for this material.

3. This bill is highly coercive

In choosing a site, the proposed bill overrides all relevant state and territory legislation as well as overriding commonwealth environmental and Aboriginal heritage protections. It also overrides private property rights of affected individuals with regards the dump site or its access route. Once a site is chosen, it will be assessed under commonwealth environmental legislation which has almost no mechanisms for preventing the project from going ahead.

4. All discretion in the hands of the Minister

The Bill places enormous power in the hands of the Minister to assess whether or not the Muckaty site should go ahead. No information is given to how this assessment will be carried out, and the bill makes it clear that local people have no right of appeal.

5. We must do better than this

Nuclear waste should be moved as little as possible, and should be stored above ground close to the point of production, close to centres of nuclear expertise and infrastructure.

Elizabeth Hamilton

