

Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committee on Environment, Communications and the Arts
Department of the Senate
Parliament House
Canberra ACT

Submission to the Senate Inquiry into Commonwealth Radioactive Waste Management (Repeal and Consequential Amendment) Bill 2008

I believe that the Government should repeal the Commonwealth Radioactive Waste Management Act (CRWMA) for the following reasons;

Prior to the last federal election, the ALP made an election promise that they would repeal this legislation if elected – no date Mr Rudd is yet to deliver on this election promise.

This legislation is undemocratic because it allows the dump to be imposed on the NT without consent from the Traditional Owners, affected communities or the NT Government. In addition the CRWMA prevents the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection Act 1984 from having effect during the investigation of potential dumps sites. It also completely ignores the Native Title Act 1993.

This legislation is also undemocratic because the CRWMA overrides Territory laws that prohibit transport and storage of radioactive materials in the NT.

In regard to the locating of any nuclear facilities it is important that the community is involved in the decisions as to their locations because these facilities are very long lived and these communities are going to have to bear the consequences of such decisions long after the politicians of the day are gone. Australia should step into line with international standards by ensuring community involvement in the decision making process.

Australians expect a democratic approach to radioactive waste and I urge you to ensure that this happens.

Thank you for the opportunity to express my views and I await the outcome with interest.

Sincerely

Dawn Jecks