

I wish to publicly make the following submission to the Senate Inquiry into the Commonwealth Radioactive Waste Management (Repeal and Consequential Amendment) Bill 2008.

In the lead-up to the 2007 Federal Election there was a clear indication and commitment made by the Australian Labor Party that it would, if it were to gain power, repeal the Commonwealth Radioactive Waste Management Act (CRWMA 2005/06). Since then little action has been taken by Labor politicians who, in the 2007 election, were given a clear mandate by the national electorate to repeal this legislation.

In 2005 Labor party members in opposition voted against the legislation and the 2006 amendments, with Labor MPs describing the legislation as 'extreme', 'arrogant', 'heavy-handed', 'draconian', 'sorry', 'sordid', 'extraordinary' and 'profoundly shameful'. This shows a clear commitment to the repealing of this legislation, yet this has not yet occurred.

Many of those most affected by this justly branded 'draconian' legislation such as the Northern Territory Government, Traditional Owners and various other Northern Territory community groups and organisations have made numerous requests to the government to fulfil its promise to repeal this legislation rejected by the Australian public in the 2007 election.

This legislation makes a mockery of representative democracy and the legitimacy of the current Federal Government, it therefore must be repealed. It has been made clear that this legislation is a racist, unpopular and dangerous legacy of the Howard Government. Australians do not support nuclear waste dumps.

There should simply be no nuclear waste dumps in Australia. This fact has been identified and upheld by the Australian public and numerous representative organisations. This legislation allowing such dumps must be repealed as the Australian public, those to whom this government is accountable, have made clear.

Sincerely,

Rufus Coffield-Feith