

To the Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committee on Environment, Communications and the Arts
Department of the Senate

I am writing to you in regards to the Senate Inquiry into the **Commonwealth Radioactive Waste Management (Repeal and Consequential Amendment) Bill 2008**.

This Bill has been proposed by the Australian Greens to repeal the legislation (Commonwealth Radioactive Waste Management Act- CRWMA 2005/06) that is enabling the federal radioactive waste dump to be forced on the Territory.

It is extremely important to me that I write in opposition to the undemocratic CRWMA legislation and Howard-era plan to force the dump on unwilling communities. The Australian Labour Party promised they would repeal the CRWMA if they were elected. It is time that the Labour Party keeps its promise - it has been eleven months since the election and there still has been no indication to repeal the CRWMA.

I completely object to the law that was created in 2005 to allow the federal government to force a radioactive waste dump on the Northern Territory without consultation or consent from Traditional Owners, affected communities or the NT Government. From the beginning of the proposed waste dump Traditional Owners, Central Land Council, the NT Government and people right across the Territory have said NO to the waste dump plan. These voices must be heard in Parliament.

The CRWMA overrides Territory laws that prohibit transport and storage of these radioactive materials in the NT. For safety reasons radioactive waste should be dealt with onsite and should not be transported throughout Australia endangering communities. Radioactive waste should not be above the law.

It is time for a democratic approach to radioactive waste management.

I vote for the repeal of the Commonwealth Radioactive Waste Management Bill 2008 and would like to see the introduction of the new Bill that Senator Scott Ludlam from the Australian Greens proposes.

Yours Sincerely
Marcus Atkinson