

29/10/08

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

I would like to support the repeal of the Commonwealth Radioactive Waste Management (Repeal and Consequential Amendment) Bill 2008, as proposed by Senator Scott Ludlum.

Muckaty Station to the north of Tennant Creek was selected as a site by the Northern Lands Council in 2006 when the Act was amended to overrule opposition from traditional owners affected by the waste facility. The Northern Lands Council receives a considerable income from mining royalties, and would receive further royalties from this venture.

Many Warlmampa people from Muckaty Station have told me about their despair in the possibility of having a nuclear waste facility located on their traditional land. These people are traditional owners, having been granted Muckaty Station under Land Rights Legislation.

The Tennant Creek area is a seismologically unstable area, having been affected by some of Australia's most powerful earthquakes, and therefore not a good place to site a nuclear waste facility.

An election promise was made by the ALP that, if elected, they would repeal the Commonwealth Radioactive Waste Management Act and not impose a waste dump upon unwilling communities in Australia.

The ALP also promised that a transparent discussion upon the subject would be entered into. As of this date, this has not occurred.

I do not want Australia to turn into a nuclear waste dump as may have been planned under the previous government. We do not need to continue mining uranium and should overturn the granting of new mining licences. Australia should investigate renewable energy sources and not become part of the unsafe nuclear cycle.

Yours Sincerely
Kristin Knorr