



Committee Secretary

Senate Standing Committee on Environment, Communications and the Arts

Department of the Senate

PO Box 6100

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

To whom it may concern,

This is a submission in complete support for the recent bill posted by Senator Scott Ludlam from the Australian Greens to repeal the CRWMA.

It is also a submission to the Senate Committee that this bill be addressed with the urgency that is necessary to address the racist, paternalistic and discriminatory legislation that was introduced by the Howard government in 2005-6.

The CRWMA allows the dump to be imposed on the NT without consultation or consent from Traditional owners, affected communities or the NT government.

The CRWMA overrides Territory laws that prohibit transport and storage of these radioactive materials in the NT.

The CRWMA explicitly removes all rights to 'procedural fairness' and removes rights to appeal under the Administrative Decisions (Judicial Review) Act.

The CRWMA prevents the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection Act 1984 from having effect during investigation of potential dump sites, and excludes the Native Title Act 1993 from operating at all.

International trends highlight the need for community involvement and consent in decisions about locating nuclear facilities. Australia should step into line with these international standards.

None of the sites currently under assessment for the dump were shortlisted in the national study to find a national radioactive dump site (completed in 1997). The sites in the NT were clearly chosen for political, not scientific reasons.

It is a national Labor Party platform to repeal the CRWMA. Eleven months since the election there has been no indication that this will occur.

Senators Kim Carr and Trish Crossin gave clear statements before the election on September 27, 2007 that the ALP would repeal the CRWMA if elected. Prime Minister Kevin Rudd committed to keeping all election promises, and this one must also be followed through.

Labor should not just continue to roll out the Howard government plan to impose a dump on the NT. Before the election, Labor party politicians called this very legislation 'sordid', 'shameful' and 'arrogant'.

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

I ask you what you would do, how you would respond if a government decided to dump radioactive waste in your backyard where it would drastically and dangerously effect your community and your family?

I ask you also to consider the considerable human rights violations that the CRWMA allows.

The Northern Territory may be considered the 'middle of nowhere' by the majority of white Australia and politicians, but the NT is not the middle of nowhere, it is the middle, and it is people's homes and lives, communities and culture.

Please consider this when you consider repealing the CRWMA.

It is time that communities in the Northern Territory are afforded at least a small amount of respect, at least to be consulted on issues that affect them.

Sincerely,

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