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**MEDICAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE PREVENTION OF  
WAR (NORTHERN TERRITORY BRANCH)**

**MAPW is the Australian affiliate of IPPNW**

International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War - Nobel Peace Prize recipient 1985  
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PO Box 3903, Alice Springs, NT 0871

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Dear Committee Secretary,  
Senate Standing Committee on Environment, Communications  
and the Arts

**The Medical Association for the Prevention of War (Northern Territory branch (MAPW(NT))) supports the repeal of the Commonwealth Radioactive Waste Management Act 2005 and the associated Amendment Bill of 2006.**

MAPW (NT) reminds the federal government that while in opposition, at the Australian Labor Party national conference in April 2007 they promised to repeal the CRWMA, and members of the ALP described the CRWMA as shameful.

The CRWMA overrides NT laws prohibiting transport and storage of federal nuclear waste. The legislation prevents the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection Act 1984 from having effect during investigation of potential dump sites, and it excludes the Native Title Act 1993 from operating. Procedural fairness is no longer an option with the suspension of the Judicial Review Act.

Amendments passed in 2006 to the CRWMA override Aboriginal Land Rights Act procedures requiring informed consent from all affected people and groups.

These amendments mean that neither

- Failure to consult with the traditional Aboriginal owners of the land, NOR
- Aboriginal owners not understanding the nature and effect of the nomination, NOR
- Failure for traditional Aboriginal owners to consent as a group to the nomination, NOR

- Failure for the Land Council to have consulted with any Aboriginal group that may be affected affect the validity of a nomination for the site for a radioactive waste dump.

MAPW strenuously opposes these legislative measures.

MAPW reiterates that world best practice in radioactive waste management supports storage at or near the site of production, where the risks of transportation are minimized, experts are already present, and systems already in place.

Furthermore international guidelines (IAEA 2002) state that broad public acceptance will enhance the likelihood of project approval, and that the process should be transparent. MAPW(NT) opposes any imposition of a radioactive waste dump on land where the surrounding communities do not agree to that site being selected.

**For all these reasons MAPW supports the repeal of the Commonwealth Radioactive Waste Management Act 2005 and the related Commonwealth Radioactive Waste Management Legislation Amendment Act 2006.**

Yours sincerely,



Dr Rosalie Schultz  
NT Branch Co-ordinator  
Authorized by NT Branch