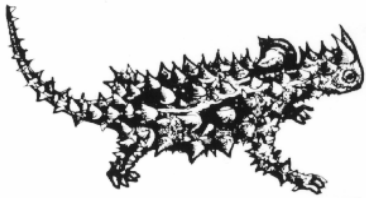


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Committee Secretary  
Senate Standing Committee on Environment, Communications and the Arts  
Committee  
Department of the Senate  
PO Box 6100  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600  
Australia

## **RE: Inquiry into the Commonwealth Radioactive Waste Management (Repeal and Consequential Amendment) Bill 2008**

The Arid Lands Environment Centre (ALEC) is opposed to a nuclear waste repository in the Northern Territory and supports the repeal of the Commonwealth Radioactive Waste Management Act (CRWMA) (2005).

The CRWMA is an unjust and undemocratic approach to radioactive waste management. It overrides Northern Territory laws that prohibit the transport and storage of these radioactive materials. The CRWMA allows for the imposition of a radioactive waste repository without consultation or consent from Traditional Owners, affected communities or the NT Government. The CRWMA demonstrates a disregard for residents and communities of the NT and appears to be a political decision rather than one based on science.

Prior to the 2007 election, Senators Kim Carr and Trish Crossin stated clearly that the ALP would repeal the CRWMA if elected. It is a national Labor Party platform to repeal the CRWMA. It has been eleven months and Prime Minister Kevin Rudd's commitment to keeping all election promises must include repealing the CRWMA.

The newly elected Labor Government promised transparency and accountability. Labor party politicians have described the CRWMA as 'sordid', 'shameful' and 'arrogant'. The Labor Government has a responsibility to repeal the CRWMA and engage a democratic approach to radioactive waste management in Australia.

Kind regards  
Jimmy Cocking  
Coordinator  
Arid Lands Environment Centre

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