

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

This is to advise of our objection to the fact that as promised the ALP have not repealed the Commonwealth Radioactive Waste Management Act 2005 and as far as we can tell are still considering the development of one of the current sites identified by the Howard Government even though they said they would not proceed if no contracts have been entered into for those sites. My husband and I are residents of Katherine, a town about 40km from one of the chosen sites, Fisher's Ridge. This is of great concern to us as if placed on this site it has the potential to endanger pristine ground waters, and the Katherine and Daly Rivers downstream. This area can get rainfall of more than two metres in two months and that water falling on the area forms many springs on Aboriginal land and flows onto sites used for ecotourism. When Katherine flooded in April 2006, the margins of Fishers Ridge went under water, rendering the site totally inaccessible. Choosing this site in the first place is just ridiculous. If there were any leaks it would be one of the worst sites in Australia in terms of having an impact on ecosystems and an impact on an aquifer that is used for drinking and for other water uses. Barry Uttley owns the land surrounding Fishers Ridge. Sadly he lost his wife a year ago and wants to sell his property. But how can he do that with no decision being made about the site. No one has had the decency to contact Barry to [alleviate](#) his concern as to what is going to happen with the site.

We thought we lived in a democracy, and to think the powers that be think they can treat some Australians citizens differently just because they can is profoundly shameful. The new Federal Government should do what they said they would do, repeal the act and establish a process for identifying suitable sites that is scientific, transparent, accountable, fair and will allow access to appeal mechanisms.

Yours truly,  
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