

30 October 2008

To the Senate Standing Committee on Environment, Communications and the Arts
Re: Senate Inquiry into Commonwealth Radioactive Waste Management (Repeal and
Consequential Amendment) Bill 2008

I strongly support the repeal of the Commonwealth Radioactive Waste Management Act (CRWMA) 2005/06 which allows a nuclear waste dump to be imposed on the Northern Territory.

In 2006 I stood on one of the sites potentially designated for the nuclear waste dump in the Northern Territory and I spoke with Aboriginal people who were living on that land. They spoke of politicians who said that the nuclear waste dump site was in 'the middle of nowhere'. They spoke of deals being made for basic services in return for land. They spoke of their fear of their land being contaminated and the subsequent health affects.

The CRWMA must be repealed because:

- It is immoral that we are potentially contaminating the land where people live with a mutagenic and tetragenic substance.
- It is unsafe that nuclear waste may be spilled during transportation over the great distances involved.
- The CRWMA is undemocratic. It doesn't require consent from the Northern Territory Government or affected communities including Traditional Owners.
- The CRWMA is legally dangerous because
 - a) it overrides Northern Territory laws that make storage and transport of these radioactive materials illegal
 - b) it removes rights of appeal under the Administrative Decisions (Judicial Review) Act
 - c) it excludes the Native Title Act 1993 from operating and
 - d) it interferes with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection Act
- Senators Carr and Crossin gave clear statements that a Rudd government would repeal the CRWMA.

Thankyou very much
Liz Denborough

