

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

RE: Submission to Senate Inquiry into Commonwealth Radioactive Waste Management (Repeal and Consequential Amendment) Bill 2008

Dear folks,

I am a health professional, and most concerned at the proposition of the siting of a radioactive waste dump in the Northern Territory. I consider this a public health issue of the highest order. When the previous federal government passed the law to override the rights of the Northern Territory government on this matter, they based that decision on an erroneous assumption akin to Terra Nullius. This was exemplified in a statement by Julie Bishop. Contrary to that premise, people do actually live out there in the bush, and they have a right to decide whether they want to host whatever. If you decide not to pass this bill of repeal and amendment, history can only write that you have upheld that ancient colonial notion of Terra Nullius.

Yours sincerely,
Leonard J Aronsten
Allied Health Coordinator
Ngaanyatjarra Health Service