

**SUBMISSION TO SENATE COMMITTEE PRESIDING OVER THE INQUIRY
INTO THE COMMONWEALTH RADIOACTIVE WASTE MANAGEMENT
(REPEAL AND CONSEQUENTIAL AMENDMENT) BILL 2008**

As Australian citizens with a responsibility to our children, grandchildren and also to our wider community, we now call on all Senators on this committee to ensure the Federal Government honours its pre-election promise to repeal the Commonwealth Radioactive Waste Management Act (CRWMA).

This promise must be honoured as it is impossible for any Government to guarantee the health, safety and wellbeing of communities and environment. It is unethical, irresponsible and short-sighted to establish a radioactive waste dump anywhere unless there is 100% agreement. It is on the public record that many Traditional Owners and other people in areas which would be affected by such a dump want and are obligated to protect not only health, safety and wellbeing of their families & communities but also to protect the environment. Such views cannot be excluded from the decision-making process simply by giving more weight to opinions/views held by certain groups with vested interests.

The NT Government and much of the NT population have expressed their opposition to a waste dump and their stance should be appreciated and respected by all involved in the decision making process.

The negative impact of such a dump on country and community seven generations hence needs to be considered as without doing so it means a legacy worse than Maralinga could be attributed to the current Government and others supporting the waste dump.

Since European settlement of this country just over 200 years ago, many First Nations' people have fought to protect country, environment, community but Governments of various persuasions have chosen to ignore and even ridicule concerns raised as it stood in the way of "progress". The results of this "progress" are clearly visible now and it is time to make responsible decisions before it is too late. Failure to do so will hasten the demise of this once pristine country's environment, its people and our rapidly declining wildlife.

We wish to express our unequivocal support to Senator Scott Ludlam (Australian Greens) in his efforts by way of putting forward a new Bill to the Senate to repeal the CRWMA and place our faith in the Senate to act in a responsible and appropriate manner as our future and the future of generations will be influenced by your decision.

Each and every one of us has a responsibility to this country and indeed the entire planet and its population to ensure we make no further unnecessary contribution towards its degradation.

Cheryl and Keith Kaulfuss