

Dear Committee Secretary: Senate Standing Committee on Environment, Communications and the Arts

I, Dr. Tom Keaney support and urge the repeal of The Commonwealth Radioactive Management Act (CRWMA) 2005 and the associated Amendment Bill of 2006.

It can not be forgotten that whist in opposition, the Australian Labor Party promised to repeal the CRWMA. This promise has become an obligation with their election to government, in 2007.

The CRWMA over rides NT laws prohibiting transport and storage of federal nuclear waste. The legislation undermines the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection Act 1984, and the Native Title Act 1993.

Amendments passed in 2006 to the CRWMA over ride Aboriginal Land Rights Act procedures requiring informed consent from all affected people and groups, for the nomination, acquisition or use of Aboriginal land for a radioactive waste repository.

Best practice in radioactive waste management supports storage of radioactive material at or near the site of production, where the risks associated with transportation are minimized.

The transport of various grades of radioactive waste (inherent for any proposed remote repositories), pose unacceptable risks to public health and the environment.

For all of the above reasons the CRWMA 2005, and the associated Amendment Bill 2006 ought to be repealed. As a concerned member of the community, I wholly support the repeal of the mentioned Bills.

Yours Sincerely  
Dr. Tom Keaney (BA/ AS, BN, MB/BS)