

STATEMENT BY SENIOR NGAPA ELDER AMY LAUDER

**NOMINATION OF LAND AT MUCKATY STATION FOR COMMONWEALTH
RADIOACTIVE WASTE REPOSITORY**

25 May 2007

I AM A SENIOR ELDER OF THE NGAPA CLAN.

MY COUNTRY IS ON MUCKATY STATION.

WE WON OUR CLAIM BEFORE THE JUDGE IN 1995, AND ONLY THE NGAPA CLAN CAN MAKE DECISIONS FOR DEVELOPMENT ON OUR COUNTRY.

OTHER CLANS CAN SPEAK FOR THEIR COUNTRY – NOT OUR NGAPA COUNTRY.

WE HAVE MADE THIS DECISION FOR THREE REASONS.

FIRST, WE WANT TO CREATE A FUTURE FOR OUR CHILDREN WITH EDUCATION, JOBS AND FUNDS FOR OUR OUTSTATION AT MUCKATY STATION AND TRANSPORT.

SECONDLY, WE HAVE BEEN TO LUCAS HEIGHTS AND ACCEPT THAT THE WASTE FACILITY WILL BE SAFE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT.

THIRDLY, OUR DECISION WILL HELP ALL PEOPLE IN AUSTRALIA – BECAUSE ALL AUSTRALIANS BENEFIT FROM NUCLEAR MEDICINE WHICH SAVES LIVES.

Traditional owner defends stance on nuke dump site

– AMY LAUDER, TRADITIONAL OWNER, NGAPA CLAN
19/09/2008 11:06:00 AM
I AM a Ngapa clan traditional owner.

My country is on Muckaty Station which is Aboriginal land.

We won our land claim in 1995 and only the Ngapa clan can make decisions for development on our country. Other clans can speak for their country, not our Ngapa country.

Since 1995 traditional owners of Muckaty Station have supported development including the Alice Springs to Darwin railway, the gas pipeline, the haulage road for the Bootu Creek manganese mine and pastoral activity.

In 2007 the Northern Land Council (NLC) on our behalf nominated a site on Ngapa country on Muckaty Station for consideration as a Commonwealth repository for low level radioactive waste with an above ground store for intermediate level waste.

We made our decision regarding our country after carefully considering all issues at meetings with NLC and Commonwealth representatives during 2006 and 2007, which included three visits by groups of traditional owners to the nuclear research reactor at Lucas Heights in Sydney.

The Ngapa group's support was overwhelming, with substantial support by members of neighbouring Aboriginal groups.

Only a few noisy individuals in other groups have opposed our decision about our country.

These noisy people should speak for their own country, not ours. All Australians should visit the Lucas Heights facility.

They will learn, like us, that it safely delivers important benefits for all Australians.

This includes nuclear medicine which saves lives and research which underpins improvements in computing and for mobile phones.

Every day, every Australian uses these products and thus contributes to nuclear waste.

This means every Australian is responsible for finding a national solution to this national issue.

Our nomination of Ngapa country is our contribution to the nation.

In return we will be able to build a future for our children on country with education, jobs and funds from a \$12 million charitable trust.

The Commonwealth Resources Minister, Martin Ferguson, is rightly looking at all options and will soon announce the Government's position.

Provided that the environmental assessment is satisfactory, we will support the establishment of the radioactive waste facility on Ngapa country at Muckaty Station.

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