

Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> August 2007

Dear Senators,

**Northern Territory National Emergency Response Bill and others  
Howard's Nuclear Agenda and Aboriginal Land rights - Your Conscience.**

Regarding the following bills being debated in the Senate

Northern Territory National Emergency Response Bill 2007  
Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs and Other Legislation Amendment  
(Northern Territory National Emergency Response and Other Measures) Bill 2007  
Appropriation (Northern Territory National Emergency Response) Bill (No. 1) 2007-2008  
Appropriation (Northern Territory National Emergency Response) Bill (No. 2) 2007-2008

We are writing to you to implore you in the name of what is right and just, not to support Howard's push to abolish Aboriginal Land Rights that may be the result if these above bills are passed into legislation.

Please examine your consciences and do not lend your support and your good names to such an evil act.

Why is Howard pushing through legislation to take away hard won Aboriginal land Rights? The focus on sexual abuse in Aboriginal communities are the red herring offered to the public. There have been a number of reports and recommendations that have been ignored by the Federal Government from 1989 through to 2002. Howard's scheme targets only Aboriginal communities, despite the fact that non-Aboriginal men have been identified as being perpetrators and that sexual abuse, domestic violence and alcoholism is in crisis proportions in the wider Australian public. Howard has also omitted to mention the withdrawal of funding for vital services in remote communities and the lack of training and governance programs which would support self-determination. One of the crucial recommendations in the Anderson/Wild report which is being ignored was that "Aboriginal people be allowed to own their own policies to help find solutions and as part of that be allowed to accept the responsibility for them."

The real agenda, which was already underway, is Howard's policy, which sees Uranium Mining and The Nuclear Industry as the way forward for Australia. Minister Ian MacFarlane is already preparing plans to be put forward in September to overturn pre-existing laws, which prohibit the expansion of the Nuclear Power Industry.

What isn't widely acknowledged by the Government is the Global Energy Nuclear Partnership, which Howard has entered into. The crux of the partnership is that Australia will export enriched Uranium to countries which cannot afford this expensive process and in return, will become a Global Nuclear Waste Dump to take and store high-level nuclear waste.

Howard has achieved bi-partisan support for uranium mining, which has cleared the way for the rapid expansion and increase of existing mines. Mining companies have already applied for permits in The Northern Territory. Uranium mines may not seem to directly affect the majority of Australians, but the high incidence of cancers in the community near Jabiluka is something, which we need to be concerned about.

Supporting a rapidly expanding industry which is no longer abiding by non-proliferation treaties - India's nuclear bomb came from US supplied uranium - and which will be exporting enriched uranium throughout the world is morally reprehensible. the increase in reprocessing and enrichment sites will give terrorists greater access to fissile materials. it doesn't take much Plutonium to produce a Nagasaki style bomb.

There is no safe, full-proof solution to storing nuclear waste. By agreeing to become a repository to the world's nuclear waste we will be creating a horrible legacy for future generations.

By robbing Aboriginal people of their hard won and deserving Land Rights, only to pollute their Country further with radioactive waste is colluding with a morally corrupt Government.

Yours sincerely,  
Concerned Australian Citizens for Aboriginal Rights.

#### **SUBMITTORS**

Christine and Thomas Gleeson and Ronald Barrett

Janice Ruff

Jodie Wiggins

John Gavin

Frennie Beytagh

Marina Bridle

Jenny Haines