

Media notification

April 9, 2010

Muckaty Traditional Owners to appear at Senate Inquiry in Darwin

Aboriginal Traditional Owners from the Muckaty Land Trust will appear at a Senate Inquiry hearing in Darwin on Monday April 12 to speak against the federal government's new law that seeks to impose a radioactive waste dump on the NT – the National Radioactive Waste Management (NRWM) Bill.

The group is travelling from Tennant Creek and surrounding communities and comprises representatives from clan groups with strong cultural affiliations to Muckaty, the only site now under consideration for the radioactive waste facility.

Senior Elders maintain that the consultation and nomination process for the radioactive dump was inadequate and sidelined the majority of Traditional Owners. The government's approach to the waste dump is inconsistent with both ALP promises before the last federal election and international industry practice.

Last week the group instructed human rights lawyers to explore challenging the legislation and also held a well attended rally in Tennant Creek on Easter Saturday.

The NRWM Bill is also strongly opposed by the NT Government, the ACTU and Unions NT and national public health, student and environment groups.

A rally will be held prior to the Senate Committee hearing outside the NT Parliament at midday. Speakers include:

Muckaty Traditional Owners
Senator Scott Ludlam
Minister Gerry McCarthy
ACTU Indigenous Committee chairperson Kara Touchie
CEPU NT organiser Trevor Gauld

NATIONAL EVENTS

To coincide with the Darwin hearing, and as part of a growing national campaign, support rallies will be held on Monday April 12 in Sydney, Melbourne, Perth, Alice Springs, Hobart, Brisbane, Canberra and Adelaide.

PUBLIC MEETING

Sunday 5-7pm Charles Darwin University Outdoor Ampitheatre. Muckaty Traditional Owners will speak alongside Larrakia Nations representative Donna Jackson and Rebecca Bear Wingfield, one of the Aboriginal women who successfully stopped a nuclear dump in SA. Event includes screening of the newly produced "Muckaty Voices" DVD.

For information, to arrange interviews with Muckaty Traditional Owners or source images contact: Natalie Wasley 0429 900 774