

Media Release

March 24, 2010

Funding appeal: Support needed for Muckaty Traditional Owners to attend Senate Inquiry.

A public appeal is being launched to raise funds for Muckaty Traditional Owners to attend a Senate Inquiry hearing in Darwin on April 12.

The Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee is considering the recently tabled National Radioactive Waste Management Bill 2010, which identifies an area in the Muckaty Land Trust as the only site to be initially considered for a radioactive waste dump.

The Senate Inquiry has decided it will not take evidence in Tennant Creek, despite the town being home to many Muckaty Traditional Owners and concerned community members.

“Traditional Owners, Tennant residents and Barkly region pastoralists are extremely disappointed that the Senate Committee will not sit in Tennant Creek. The distance and cost to travel to Darwin makes it impossible for the majority of concerned people to attend the hearing,” said Natalie Wasley, Beyond Nuclear Initiative coordinator in Alice Springs.

“The Senate Committee offered to fund three people, but this does not allow for full representation from the affected family groups. Senior Muckaty people have asked me to appeal widely for financial help to allow more people to attend”.

“This appeal reflects wide felt community outrage about how the people of Muckaty are being treated on this matter,” said Clive Rosewarne from the NT Branch of the Public Health Association of Australia. “This Senate Committee is charged with examining the procedural fairness of the proposed legislation; it is a cruel irony that the Committee is effectively proposing to deny many Muckaty people the opportunity to voice their concerns in person”.

Contact: Natalie Wasley (BNI) 0429 900 774
Clive Rosewarne (PHAA) 08 8953 5703

Tax deductible donations can be made through the Arid Lands Environment Centre in Alice Springs. Please mark donations “Muckaty”.

Bank details: Bendigo Bank

Account name: ALEC Inc.

Account type: Gift Account

BSB: 633-000

Account number: 134358688

Please note: any excess funds raised will be used for future Muckaty campaign events.

