



Northern Land Council

MEDIA RELEASE

Ngapa traditional owner Amy Lauder welcomes new legislation

3 March 2010

Muckaty Station traditional owner Amy Lauder has welcomed last week's tabling of the National Radioactive Waste Management Bill in Federal Parliament.

The bill, which will restore procedural fairness, will also ensure that the nomination of land at Muckaty Station, 120km north of Tennant Creek, is preserved as a possible site for a radioactive waste repository.

Ngapa Elder Ms Lauder today met with Federal Resources Minister Martin Ferguson in Darwin, reiterating her wish that Ngapa land at Muckaty Station be considered as a potential site for a nuclear waste repository.

She confirmed to Minister Ferguson that Ngapa traditional owners were united in their intention to nominate their land at Muckaty Station for consideration.

"The Ngapa traditional owners want to see this happen," she said.

"We are united in our wishes and want to see an economic future for our families."

Ms Lauder also discussed the environmental approval process with Minister Ferguson and was confident a radioactive waste repository would only be built on her traditional land at Muckaty Station if it passed this process.

"This will only happen if the science is right," she said.

"We are expecting a long and thorough environmental assessment to decide if our traditional Ngapa land is the right place for a radioactive waste management facility."

Northern Land Council (NLC) CEO Kim Hill also took part in today's discussions with Minister Ferguson.

"The NLC has represented traditional owners to the letter of the law on this issue," he said.

"The Ngapa people have taken a courageous stand in putting forward their traditional land for consideration as a potential site for a facility to house the nation's radioactive waste."