



**Medical Association for Prevention of War
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DOCTORS TO RALLY AGAINST NUCLEAR WASTE DUMP AT MUCKATY

Tennant Creek, Thursday 21 May 2014: The Northern Territory (NT) branch of the Medical Association for Prevention of War (MAPW) is calling on concerned medical professionals and the public to attend the public rally against the proposed radioactive waste dump at Muckaty, in Tennant Creek, Central Australia, on Sunday 25th May 2014.

MAPW NT member, Dr Hilary Tyler said, "This rally is an opportunity for people to voice their strong opposition to the proposed Muckaty radioactive waste dump. MAPW will be at the rally because we believe there is no reason for this proposed dump to be built."

Furthermore, Dr Marcus Yip is critical about the justification for the proposed repository. "To say the dump is required for Australia's ongoing nuclear medicine needs is simply not true. Most medical radionuclides can be disposed of at the site of their production. In fact the provision of nuclear medical services is not dependent on an Australian nuclear reactor at all.

MAPW remains critical of the government's decision to impose a nuclear waste dump at Muckaty and believes the government's decision was based on political opportunism, rather than scientific and public health best practice criteria. Indeed, Muckaty was not identified as a preferred site in the NT as part of the original site selection process.

A federal court hearing challenging the legitimacy of consent by traditional owners will commence in Melbourne in June, along with the ongoing concerns by members of the Barkly Shire, highlights the lack of meaningful community consultation associated with the decision to site the dump at Muckaty.

MAPW NT supports an objective approach to managing Australia's radioactive waste. Dr Tyler concluded by saying. "The disposal of radioactive waste is a problem which has no solution. Radioactive waste management should not be based around short sighted and political expedient policy. We are calling for a national inquiry to determine what a best practice approach would be in dealing with these long lived and toxic substances. The current practise is appalling."

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For more information & interviews contact:

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NOTE TO EDITORS

The rally will take place at **12.00pm** on **Sunday 25th May 2014**

The rally will **start at the Northern Land Council** in **Tennant Creek** and will end at **Peko Park**

The marchers will be led by the **Muckaty Traditional Owners** joined by **supporters from all over Australia**

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