Chief Minister Clare Martin said today the report by the Senate Committee into a proposed nuclear waste dump has confirmed the Territory’s position on the issue.

“The report confirms what we’ve been saying, and that is there was no science applied to the selection of the three Territory sites,” Ms Martin said.

“The report recommends that the States “urgently reconsider” their positions. This confirms the three Territory sites were not selected on the basis science, but on pure politics.

“We argued strongly before the committee that science, not politics should determine the location of a national waste dump.

“It is also interesting that the report makes absolutely no mention of the supposed link between nuclear medicine and the need for a waste dump. It just proves that was just a total furphy dreamt up by a desperate Nigel Scullion and his CLP mate Dave Tollner. We always said it was wrong to link the dump with medicine.

“In fact the CLP went missing in action because they couldn’t even manage a submission to the inquiry. This raises serious questions about both their capacity and judgement.

“The report also acknowledges that there was there no real consultation with the Territory community on the issue.

“It actually calls for a more “pro-active” approach in community consultation. Some consultation beforehand would have been a nice start. Instead of consultation, what we got a series of lies before the federal election claiming there were no plans for a nuclear waste dump in the Territory.

“We’ve said all along Canberra made a political decision to force the dump the Territory because we are a constitutionally weak jurisdiction and this report just confirms what we’ve been saying all along.

“Territorians will be watching closely when the Senate votes next week to see if the CLP’s Nigel Scullion has the courage to stand up for the Territory against Canberra. He admits no real science was applied in selection of the Territory sites, so he has a moral responsibility to vote against this purely political exercise.”

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