The Territory Government will not accept any recommendation by the Commonwealth that an intermediate level radioactive waste dump should be built in the Territory.

Commenting after suggestions this morning that the Commonwealth was considering the Territory as the location for an intermediate level waste dump, Dr Burns said that the Territory would not be accepting any decision by the Commonwealth to house nuclear waste in the NT.

"I am also surprised at the extraordinary statements from the Federal Member for Solomon, David Tollner, who said this morning that he supports the idea that such a waste dump should be located in the Territory.

"The question of nuclear waste is one for Australia as a whole, and the Commonwealth has failed to seek any form of consensus on this matter," Dr Burns said.

"I understand that the Commonwealth discussed this matter with the Territory Government in the early 1990’s, but that since that time there have been no further discussions about the potential for a waste dump to be located here.

"The Territory simply will not accept any decision to house waste here.

"We believe that the issue of how to deal with nuclear waste is one of great concern for the nation, however the solution will not come in the form of heavy-handed decisions made unilaterally by the Commonwealth," Dr Burns said.

"While we are prepared to participate in a national process to deal with the matter, the Territory will not become a default waste zone for the rest of Australia."