The NT Government has introduced historic legislation into Parliament to ban a nuclear waste dump in the Territory Chief Minister, Clare Martin, said today.

Ms Martin said the legislation sends a clear message on behalf of Territorians that we will not accept a nuclear waste dump in the NT.

“The point of the legislation is simple - Territorians do not want nuclear waste transported across Australia and dumped in their back yard,” she said.

“The Territory was thrust into the spotlight earlier this year after the Federal Government abandoned plans to locate a dump in South Australia, and CLP Federal Member David Tollner said the NT had an ‘obligation’ to accept the waste.

“My Government strongly disputes that we have any ‘obligation’ to store Australia’s nuclear waste, especially as we produce less than 1 percent of it.

“We will fight any plan to locate it here and this legislation is the strongest possible action my Government can take.

“While the Federal Government has the power to overturn our laws, the Self Government Act makes it clear that the disposal and storage or hazardous wastes is the domain of the NT.

“I have written to the Prime Minister outlining the Territory’s opposition to a nuclear waste dump and the introduction of legislation further cements our resolve.”

Ms Martin also criticised the CLP Opposition’s attack on the legislation.

“The CLP Opposition has labelled this legislation a ‘meaningless political stunt’ because the Territory is not a State and the Federal Government can overturn it,” she said.

“These comments are ridiculous and very un-Territorian because the Federal Government has always been able overturn Territory legislation - does that mean the CLP Opposition thinks all Territory legislation has been meaningless?

“It’s disappointing that we have the CLP Opposition claiming this is a ‘meaningless stunt’ and the CLP Federal Member talking of an ‘obligation’ to accept a nuclear waste dump.”

Ms Martin said that the NT Government’s firm position against a nuclear waste dump in the Territory has been supported by many community groups.