Fisheries Minister Kon Vatskalis today urged the Federal Government to listen to the Amateur Fishermen’s Association of the Northern Territory (AFANT) and immediately abandon any plans for a nuclear dump at Fisher’s Ridge near Katherine.

Fisher’s Ridge is one of three Territory sites the Federal Government is considering for a nuclear waste dump. The other two sites are Mt Everard and Harts Range in Central Australia.

AFANT has written to the Federal Government asking them to scrap plans for a dump site at Fisher’s Ridge because of its environmental sensitivity.

“We don’t want any nuclear dump forced on Territorians but Fisher’s Ridge is obviously unsuitable,” Mr Vatskalis said.

“It is in an extremely sensitive area because it is on high ground between King River and Roper Creek. “As AFANT points out these waterways are headwater feeders for two of the Territory major rivers systems, the Roper and the Daly.

“The fact the Federal Government is even considering Fisher’s Ridge highlights the contempt they are showing to Territorians.

“The Federal Government lied to Territorians during the Federal election when they said there would be no nuclear dump in the Northern Territory.

“Now they are looking at a possible nuclear dump near the headwaters of the iconic Daly and Roper River systems.

“This just proves how badly flawed Canberra’s nuclear dump plan is and why a proposal for a repository anywhere in the Northern Territory has to be abandoned.”

Mr Vatskalis said the flawed nature of the plan and the extent of Canberra’s contempt toward Territorians also highlighted why the CLP has to direct its two federal representatives to strongly oppose the dump plan.

“Both our Federal CLP representatives have gone missing on this issue. It is time for them and the CLP to develop some backbone and stand up for Territorians,” Mr Vatskalis said.

Contact: Fred McCue 0401 119 792