Chief Minister Clare Martin said the Federal Government decision to steamroll the Territory on a nuclear dump had shown conclusively the utter contempt which they hold for Territorians and Territory laws.

“Canberra today abused its powers in the worst possible way and has ridden roughshod over the Territory because we are not a state. This is a truly dark day for the rights of Territorians,” Ms Martin said.

The Territory’s Legislative Assembly today moved an extraordinary motion that condemned the Federal Government’s outrageous legislation and called on Federal Parliament to vote against it.

“It is important we let the Federal Government know the full depth of Territory opposition to both a nuclear dump and this kind of treatment.

“No one else wants this waste, so they are forcing it on the Territory because they can. This is political bullying at its worst and there is absolutely no excuse for it.

“Last year John Howard assured us ‘The rights of Territorians will be no less respected than the rights of Australians in other parts of the country. We’re not going to treat the Territory in a disrespectful fashion.’

“And for the CLP’s Federal representatives to stand up like the Dodgy Brothers with some half-baked medical argument shows they are nothing but Canberra poodles who will do anything the Federal Coalition asks of them. To suggest you can’t have nuclear medicine without a waste dump is disgusting.

“This is not about medical waste, it’s about spent fuel rods from France being dumped in the Territory.

Ms Martin said today’s unannounced introduction of the dumps bills into Federal Parliament shows what a farce the so-called assessment process of the three sites earmarked for a Territory dump really is.

“There was never going to be a proper scientific assessment process, the Federal Government was always planned to force this dump on us. And we will continue to work toward blocking this legislation in the Senate.”

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