Minister for the Environment Marion Scrymgour today urged all Territorians to get behind a petition to stop the Commonwealth Government using the Territory as a nuclear waste dumping ground.

The Commonwealth Government announced on Friday that one of three sites in the Northern Territory will be used as a Nuclear Waste Dump – Fishers Ridge, 40km east of Katherine; Hart’s Range, 200km north-east of Alice Springs, and Mt Everard, 42 km north west of Alice Springs.

“Not only has the Commonwealth lied to Territorians, but the CLP Opposition has basically helped give this green light to their Canberra mates by last year labelling our anti-nuclear dump legislation as a ‘meaningless political stunt’.

“They effectively told Canberra that they could simply overturn our Legislation should they wish – and now I ask the CLP to direct its Federal members to oppose this plan. The CLP is yet to do this.

“The people of Alice Springs, Katherine and indeed all Territorians deserve better than this. They have had no consultation with them whatsoever and are well within their rights to be concerned.”

Ms Scrymgour said last year the NT Government introduced historic legislation to Parliament banning such a dump being placed in the Territory.

“While the CLP were busy knocking this legislation and opening the door for the Federal Government to go-ahead – the NT Government was making the strongest possible statement on behalf of all Territorians.

“And we are doing that again today by asking Territorians to sign this position asking the Commonwealth Government to honour its promise to not locate a nuclear dump in the Territory.

“The petition asks the Commonwealth Government not to overturn the Territory’s legislation banning the transport and disposal of nuclear waste in the Territory. It also asks the CLP’s Dave Tollner and Nigel Scullion to stand up for the Territory and oppose the dump – and if necessary cross the floor in Parliament.”

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