

Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Industry and Science Portfolio
2015-16 Budget Estimates
3 and 4 June 2015

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY AND SCIENCE

TOPIC: National Radioactive Waste Management Facility

REFERENCE: Question on Notice (Hansard, 4 June 2015, page 7)

QUESTION No.: BI-25

Senator KETTER: My next series of questions relates to radioactive waste storage. How much funding has been allocated to finding a site for the National Radioactive Waste Management Facility?

Mr Sheldrick: There was a budget allocation in 2014 for the overall project, and that allocation was \$22.6 million over three years. That was for the overall project, though. There are various elements of the project, including site identification and selection. There is also the development of the safety case, the business case, the engineering, the detailed business case work and lots of other aspects.

Senator KETTER: Could you take on notice the site allocation selection component of that?

CHAIR: I take it that there is a top line, which is the figure you have given, and there are all those line items broken up with various figures.

Mr Sheldrick: Yes. We would need to take that on notice.

ANSWER

The budget allocation in 2014-15 of \$22.6 million over three years included funding to conduct further site characterisation studies, continue Regional Consultative Committee, establish a Technical Advisory Group and develop a second stage business case in accordance with the Two Stage Approval Process for the Australian Government Construction Projects. This funding was provided on the basis that the Australian Government was progressing a site already identified in the Northern Territory which is now no longer under consideration.

The cost of the voluntary site identification process subsequently initiated in 2014 is being funded from the 2013-14 allocation. Expenditure committed to date on these activities amount to \$2.7 million. Additional future funding will include detailed site characterisation work and community engagement.