

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

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**AGENCY/DEPARTMENT:** DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY AND SCIENCE

**TOPIC:** National Radioactive Waste Management Facility

**REFERENCE:** Question on Notice (Hansard, 4 June 2015, page 17)

**QUESTION No.:** BI-31

**Senator LUDLAM:** Just finally, on notice, can you explain to us the operations of the proposed community benefit fund—whatever you can provide for us. I have used up enough time. Given that the Commonwealth and the host jurisdiction are proposed to be exempt from facility use fees, please just give us the estimated amount of annual income or contribution to the proposed fund—at least orders of magnitude at this early stage for what we would be looking at.

**Ms Beauchamp:** I will take that on notice.

**Senator LUDLAM:** Much appreciated.

**ANSWER**

*National Radioactive Waste Management Act 2012* (the Act) specifies the establishment of a National Repository Capital Contribution Fund (the Fund). The purpose of the Fund is to direct fees collected from users of the facility toward enhanced public services and/or infrastructure in the State or Territory in which the facility is located.

The Fund must be credited with \$10 million by the Commonwealth prior to commencement of operations at the facility.

All users of the national facility, other than the Commonwealth and the state or territory hosting the facility, are required to pay a Capital Contribution Fee into the Fund. The design and quantum of the Fee will be considered as part of the financial and operational aspects of the facility in a Detailed Business Case to be completed in 2016.

The Fund can be administered in two ways:

- by the Minister, on advice of a committee chaired by the Premier or Chief Minister of the relevant State or Territory in which the facility is located and comprising three other persons resident in that State or Territory with expertise in education, infrastructure and health respectively; or
- the Commonwealth establishes a committee comprising three persons with expertise in education, infrastructure and health resident in the relevant State or Territory, whose function is to advise the Minister on administration of the Fund by the Minister.