

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Resources, Energy and Tourism Portfolio

Budget Estimates 2008-09

2 June 2008

Question: **BR-11**
Topic: **Radioactive Waste Management**
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Senator Milne asked:

Senator MILNE—I understand, Senator Carr, you made a pre-election commitment that the Commonwealth Radioactive Waste Management Act would be repealed if Labor was elected. Can you tell me when it will be repealed?

Senator Carr—I will leave that question to the officers.

Mr Hartwell—That matter is under consideration.

Senator MILNE—It is under consideration in the department. What instructions do you have?

Mr Hartwell—The government has that under consideration.

Senator MILNE—I am at a loss to understand that. The Prime Minister has said that every election commitment will be fulfilled to the last letter. And it was to repeal the Commonwealth Radioactive Waste Management Act. Let me put it another way. Has any work been done—

Senator Carr—What I can say to you is that the government is committed to implement its election promises. The government has been in office for six months and I do not believe it is reasonable to expect that all election promises will be implemented at the same time.

Senator MILNE—That is absolutely right. I can understand that, but I am asking whether this one is going to be upheld. Will this act be repealed and, if so, when?

Senator Carr—That is a matter that I will have to take on notice. The relevant Minister has carriage for the implementation of this area of policy.

Senator MILNE—Again, people are going to be very interested in that one, as you can well imagine.

Answer:

This matter remains under consideration by the Government.