

## **Senate Standing Committee on Economics**

### **ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

Resources, Energy and Tourism Portfolio  
Supplementary Budget Senate Estimates  
21 October 2009

**Question:** SR-1  
**Topic:** Radioactive Waste  
**Proof Hansard Page:** written

#### **Senator Ludlam asked:**

1. Why has the Minister not formally responded to the recommendations of the 2008 Senate Inquiry into the repeal of the CRMWA? When can we expect to see this response?
2. Can you confirm if the Minister has received correspondence from members of the Muckaty Land Trust dated 8 May 2009 expressing deep concerns over any federal moves for a radioactive waste facility at this site and seeking an on country meeting with the Minister?
3. Has the Minister responded to this letter? If not, why not – surely this is an important matter and these are key stakeholders: why the delay?
4. Has the Minister/Department sought any internal or external advice in relation to the issues raised in this correspondence?
5. Has the Minister/Department sought the advice or comment of the Northern Land Council (NLC) in relation to this letter or the issues it addresses?
6. Has the Minister/Department had any discussions or correspondence with the NLC in relation to advancing an Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUA) in the Muckaty region? If so what is the status of these discussions/correspondence and who has been involved?
7. Can the Department clarify the view outlined by the Minister/Minister's office that there will be no consultation with Aboriginal communities on the siting of any federal radioactive waste facility before the selection of a site. Is this the case?
8. Do you consider this approach consistent with international best practice in relation to community consultation, engagement and consent?
9. Can you provide details on the proposed consultation model to be used in relation to the site selection process?
10. What internal/ external advice has been sought or received in relation to communications, public relations and stakeholder and perception management issues in relation to the federal radioactive waste management strategy and the proposed federal facility?
11. Can you provide details on the approach to be adopted?
12. What companies, agencies or departments have assisted in informing the government's approach in this area?

#### **Answers:**

1. The 2008 Senate Inquiry into the repeal of the CRMWA is currently under consideration by the Government. A response will be provided once a decision has been made.
2. Yes.

3. Minister Ferguson's office has responded, advising that the Minister would meet with the Muckaty Land Trust at a convenient time when he is next in the region.
4. No.
5. NLC was made aware of the correspondence consistent with its statutory responsibilities.
6. No.
7. Neither the Minister nor the Minister's Office has outlined such a view. The Minister and the Minister's Office have always said that all relevant parties would be consulted before a decision is made.
8. See above.
9. The consultation model is under consideration by the Government.
10. This matter is under consideration by the Government.
11. As above.
12. As above.