

Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Industry Portfolio
Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearing 2013-14
21 November 2013

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY

TOPIC: Muckaty Station

REFERENCE: Written Question – Senator Peris

QUESTION No.: SI-192

The Minister is aware the opinions are very divided amongst traditional owners in relation to the location of the proposed nuclear waste facility on Muckaty Station.

1. Is the Government still committed to locating the facility on Muckaty Station?
2. Is the Government willing to consider any other alternatives?
3. Will the Government release all scientific materials, reports and data that claims Muckaty Station is the most suitable location for the location of a nuclear waste facility?
4. Will the Minister release all correspondence between the Northern Land Council and the Federal Government regarding the agreement to locate the Nuclear Waste facility on Muckaty Station?
5. Will the Minister agree to meet the opponents of the Muckaty Waste Dump on behalf of the Federal Government and formally engage with their concerns?

ANSWER

1. The Government continues to consider the site nominated in 2007 at Muckaty Station as a potential site. This is required under the *National Radioactive Waste Management Act 2012* (the Act).
2. Yes. The Act provides that additional volunteer sites can be considered by the Government.
3. Assessments on the suitability of Muckaty Station for a radioactive waste management facility are publically available at:
www.industry.gov.au/resource/RadioactiveWaste/RadioactivewastemanagementinAustralia/CommonwealthRadioactiveWasteManagementAct2005/Pages/default.aspx

The ultimate suitability of a site for the facility will be determined by environmental considerations under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Act 1999* and siting approvals by the regulator; the Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency.

4. Correspondence was released following the outcome of a Freedom of Information decision on 28 May 2010.

A précis of the anthropological report was also tabled in the Senate on 15 March 2010.

Legal issues relating to the 2007 nomination are presently the subject of Federal Court proceedings.

5. The Minister is committed to consulting all relevant parties. The Department also continues to engage stakeholders on this issue and formally address their concerns.