

## EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

### SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE - QUESTIONS ON NOTICE 2004-2005 ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING

**Outcome:** 3

**Output Group:** 3.2 – Assistance for Science Collaboration and Innovation

#### **DEST Question No. E873\_05**

Senator Crossin asked on 16 February 2005, EWRE Hansard page 52.

#### **Question:**

Can you tell me what Departmental resources and expenditure were associated with the site identification process and licensing application prior to that announcement with respect to South Australia, in particular?

#### **Answer:**

##### *DEST Staffing*

The national radioactive waste repository project became the responsibility of the Department of Education, Science and Training (DEST) on 26 November 2001. The Radioactive Waste Management Section within DEST had direct responsibility for managing the project. From 26 November 2001 until July 14 2004, an average of 3.8 ASL (average staffing level) within the Section worked on the project. It is estimated costs for these staff totalled \$1,183,000 between 26 November 2001 and 14 July 2004. The staff cost includes salaries, superannuation, office accommodation and equipment and administrative on-costs.

In addition to the Radioactive Waste Management Section, executive staff (the Branch Manager, Science and Technology Policy Branch, the Group Manager, Science Group and a Deputy Secretary) and staff from Procurement, Assurance and Legal Group were involved with the project. It is not possible to quantify the costs associated with these staff working on the repository project.

External legal advice from the Australian Government Solicitor cost \$235,560.

Officers from Radioactive Waste Management Section spent approximately \$100,000 (GST exclusive) on travel associated with the project.