

## 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. E516\_05**

Senators Crossin and Carr asked on 16 February 2005, EWRE Hansard page 54.

#### **Question:**

When did DEST become aware of the decision announced by the Minister on 25 January to rule out a primary site on mainland Australia or Tasmania?

Was there a cabinet decision on the abandonment of the policy?

#### **Answer:**

*Announcement of 24 January 2005*

Rather than announcing a decision, the Minister's comments of 24 January 2005 expressed a preference for a location on a Commonwealth offshore territory, while indicating that Commonwealth land in mainland Australia was also under consideration.

It is inappropriate for DEST to answer whether there has been a Cabinet decision on the abandonment of the policy (which DEST presumes the Senators to mean the plan to establish a national low level radioactive waste repository near Woomera in South Australia), as to do so would involve revealing the deliberations of Cabinet.