

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE - QUESTIONS ON NOTICE 2005-2006 ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING

Outcome: 3

Output Group: 3.2 – Assistance for collaboration and innovation.

DEST Question No. E1040_06

Senator Stephens provided in writing.

Question:

On 27/11/05, Brendan Nelson said that he and Ian Macfarlane had taken a \$1 million proposal to the PM on prospects of a nuclear power industry.

“What I'm proposing is that the Australian Academy of Science and our learned academies in humanities and social science collectively, at a cost of just under \$1 million, conduct a full examination throughout Australia. Such a study would take in the geological, environmental, physical, social science and all other aspects of the prospects of a nuclear power industry.”
(Sunday Show, 27/11/05)

Did DEST know about this announcement beforehand? What assistance did DEST provide in the lead-up to this announcement, including advice and briefings? Has DEST provided any advice since the announcement to Dr Nelson or the current Minister? Please provide dates.

Answer:

Did DEST know about this announcement beforehand?

DEST was aware of the action taken by the Minister but had no foreknowledge of his public announcement.

What assistance did DEST provide in the lead-up to this announcement, including advice and briefings?

DEST was involved with the Department of Industry, Tourism and Resources in providing advice to both Ministers on the proposal from the two academies.

Has DEST provided any advice since the announcement to Dr Nelson or the current Minister? Please provide dates

Yes.