

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE - QUESTIONS ON NOTICE 2004-2005 BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING

Outcome: 3

Output Group: 3.2 – Assistance for science collaboration and innovation.

DEST Question No. E117_06 & E123_06

Senator Carr asked on 1 June 2005, EWRE Hansard page 82.

Question:

Please provide a breakdown, over all relevant years, of how much money was spent by all Government agencies, including DEST, ARPANSA, and Department of Environment, on the process of setting up the nuclear waste dump in South Australia. Please include how much was spent in legal costs, the Environmental Impact Statement, staffing costs, license application and license administration costs as well all other costs associated with the South Australian site. How much did DEST or other agencies spend on a public relations campaign for its proposed nuclear waste dump in South Australia?

Answer:

National Radioactive Waste Repository

The National Radioactive Waste Repository project became the responsibility of the Department of Education, Science and Training (DEST) on 26 November 2001. Information for DEST is provided in the table below:

Category	2001/2002 \$	2002/2003 \$	2003/2004 \$	2004/2005 \$	Total \$
Legal Costs	26,783	57,941	284,347	3,723	372,794
Environmental Impact Assessment	325,848	907,504	307,566	-	1,540,918
ARPANSA License Application	-	-	400,000	-	400,000
ARPANSA licensing process	-	42,549	487,225	781,046	1,310,820
Costs associated with the SA site & site acquisition	-	451,590	97,927	5,021	554,537
Public communication and media monitoring	3,623	268,371	93,802	43,655	409,451
Estimated Staff Costs including travel	267,129	453,356	462,515	168,000	1,351,000

DEST does not hold complete information for the period prior to November 2001 or for other agencies, although Australian Government Solicitor legal costs and ARPANSA licence costs are included in the figures provided.