

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. E132_06

Senator Carr provided in writing.

Question:

How much has DEST and other departments spent on identifying locations and any other preparatory and background work since 14 July 2004 when the PM announced that offshore and onshore Commonwealth land would be considered? (DEST said on 16 Feb. that "\$2.115 million is available for proceeding with the Commonwealth radioactive waste management facility announced by the Prime Minister on 14 July 2004.")

Answer:

Commonwealth Radioactive Waste Management Facility

DEST is the only Department to receive funding specifically for establishment of the Commonwealth Radioactive Waste Management Facility. Funding of \$2.115m for 2004-05 was provided via the Radioactive Waste Management item in Outcome 3.2 of the DEST Administered Appropriations.

As at 1 June 2005, about \$13,200 has been spent on the project by DEST from this item. In addition, DEST has sought legal advice from the Australian Government Solicitor to the value of \$27,838.

Other Departments have funded background work and advice from within their existing resources.