

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE - QUESTIONS ON NOTICE 2007-2008 BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING

Outcome 5 – Science, Research and Innovation

DEST Question No. E068_08

Senator Crossin asked on 30 May 2007, EWRE Hansard page 86 & 88.

Question:

Senator CROSSIN—I want to ask about the compensation package. Is there a legal contract for the compensation package for the traditional owners if the site is used, or are the details of that still to be negotiated?

Ms Borthwick—We have a deed of agreement which has not yet been signed.

Senator CROSSIN—Is that able to be provided to this committee?

Ms Borthwick—I would have to take that on advice.

Mr Davoren—No; they are phased payments. Those phased payments would commence upon acceptance of a nomination.

Ms Borthwick—It would go into the trust to be managed by—

Senator CROSSIN—When I talk about administering the payments, I do not mean at your end; I mean at the other end.

Ms Borthwick—No; at the other end, it would be administered by the trust.

Senator CROSSIN—You will put it into the Muckaty Land Trust?

Mr Davoren—Into the charitable trust.

Senator CROSSIN—Which will be a new trust that will be set up?

Mr Davoren—That is right.

Senator CROSSIN—The signatories will be just the traditional owners?

Ms Borthwick—Again, that is detail on which I would like to seek agreement to make available to you.

Senator CROSSIN—Will the NLC be signatories to this trust?

Ms Borthwick—As I said, I would prefer to take some of the details on notice and get back to you once we have cleared that with the advice.

Answer:

Waste Facility

The Department is not in a position to consider release of the deed to the Committee at this time as it has not yet been concluded. DEST is discussing with the Northern Land Council whether it has any issues with release of the signed deed.