

## EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

### SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE - QUESTIONS ON NOTICE 2003-2004 SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING

**Outcome:** 3  
**Output Group:** 3.2 – Science

#### **DEST Question No. E663\_04**

Senator Stott-Despoja asked on 17 November 2003

#### **Question:**

Senator Minchin informed me in a letter dated August 20 2003 that “extensive consultation has taken place with affected parties during the site selection phase and prior to acquisition of the site”. Can you inform the committee who was involved in this extensive consultation, and how the community was advised of this process?

#### **Answer:**

##### *Community Consultation on the National Repository Project*

The extensive consultation which was conducted with potentially affected parties and the broader community during the site selection phase of the national repository project is outlined in Chapters 1 and 11 of the Main Report of the Environmental Impact Statement on the project. Consultation was undertaken in the region with key groups such as pastoralists, Aboriginal groups including those with native title claims and those with heritage interests in the area, and with members of a Regional Consultative Committee (RCC). The RCC was established to facilitate information exchange between the Commonwealth and stakeholders in the region. South Australian Government officials, pastoralists and relevant Aboriginal groups were represented on the committee. A committee of South Australian and Australian Government officials also met to discuss the national repository project.

Aboriginal groups with native title claims covering the national repository site (Kokatha, Barngarla and Kujani) were consulted in the context of negotiating an Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUA) to cover the repository site. Pastoralists on whose leases the sites referred for environmental assessment were located were consulted with respect to land acquisition issues.