

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

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

Outcome: 3

Output Group: 3.2 – Assistance for science collaboration and innovation

DEST Question No. E459_06

Senator Crossin asked on 2 November 2005, EWRE Hansard page 50 and Senator Wong provided in writing.

Question:

I would like an exact list of the exact location of each of the places where the Commonwealth low - or intermediate – level waste is stored in this country, the type of waste and exactly how much of that waste is in each of those locations.

Answer:

Location of Commonwealth Radioactive Waste

DEST's radioactive waste inventory data of 2001 indicated that the Commonwealth's low level radioactive waste of approximately 3600 cubic metres and intermediate level waste of approximately 400 cubic metres was stored at over 30 locations:

CSIRO:

- *Adelaide, SA*
- *Brisbane, QLD*
- *Canberra, ACT*
- *Clayton, VIC*
- *Geelong, VIC*
- *Griffith, NSW*
- *Hobart, TAS*
- *Lucas Heights, NSW*
- *Mt Gambier, SA*
- *North Ryde, NSW*
- *Parkville, VIC*
- *Prospect, NSW*
- *Woomera, SA**
- *Rockhampton, QLD*
- *St Lucia, QLD*
- *Townsville, QLD*

ARPANSA:

- *Yallambie, VIC*

ANSTO:

- *Lucas Heights, NSW*

Intermediate level waste arising from the overseas reprocessing of ANSTO's research reactor spent fuel:

- *Due to return to Australia from the UK and France between 2011 and 2015.*

Australian National University

- Acton, ACT

Department of Defence and the Armed Forces:

- *Bandiana, VIC*
- *RAAF Base Amberley, QLD*
- *RAAF Base Edinburgh, SA#*
- *DSTO Salisbury, SA#*
- *Wagga Wagga, NSW*
- *RAAF Base Williamstown, NSW*
- *RAAF Base Darwin, NT*
- *HMAS Penguin, NSW*
- *Nowra, NSW*
- *Broadmeadows, VIC*
- *Watsonia, VIC*
- *Woomera, SA**

*Some stores are doubled up (eg two at Woomera, but they are physically separate;
#RAAF Edinburgh and DSTO Salisbury are the same place).

As the above information is around 4 years old, it is possible that some of the information is out of date. ARPANSA, which has the regulatory responsibility for all Commonwealth radioactive waste, is expected to complete an audit of all Commonwealth radioactive waste by the middle of 2006.

It would be inappropriate for security reasons to reveal the exact location and the forms of waste items stored in each of the 30 locations.