

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. E461_06

Senator Crossin asked on 2 November 2005, EWRE Hansard page 52.

Question:

Ms Borthwick – The process of identification of sites that we have entered into so far has looked at a broad range of criteria, including things like access to transport and available infrastructure – a range of more general issues around site location.

Senator Crossin – Can you specify what they are, please?

Ms Borthwick – I believe they were to do with things like transport access, availability of infrastructure and, as I think most of them are Defence owned land, current use of the land, Defence operational requirements and issues of that nature.

Senator Crossin – Do you have a specified list or some sort of criteria you can table for us or take on notice?

Ms Borthwick – We can certainly take it on notice and give you the broad scope of consideration.

Answer:

Commonwealth Radioactive Waste Management Facility – Siting Criteria

The primary considerations that resulted in the selection of the three possible sites in the Northern Territory were:

- area of land within the site potentially available for the Facility;
- compatibility with existing and potential future Commonwealth land use;
- proximity to transport infrastructure; and
- proximity to a population centre for provision of support services (eg maintenance and security staff).

Secondary considerations at this preliminary stage were:

- potential suitability for near-surface disposal;
- possibility of extreme weather events (eg cyclone); and
- site topography.