

## 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. E470\_06**

Senator Crossin provided in writing.

#### **Question:**

What is gained by the reprocessing rather than storing them unprocessed at Lucas Heights?

#### **Answer:**

##### *Unreprocessed and Reprocessed Spent Fuels*

As has been on the public record since the publication of the Draft EIS for the OPAL reactor in 1998, unreprocessed aluminium-clad fuel such as that from the HIFAR reactor is prone to corrosion over time. Reprocessing of spent fuel results in the production of a highly stable waste form suitable for long term storage and eventual disposal.