

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. E471_06

Senator Crossin provided in writing.

Question:

In information sheets provided by DEST at the public information sessions in the NT said low elevation was a problem with island sites. Why is low elevation a problem and would this also rule out coastal land in cyclone prone areas?

Answer:

Commonwealth Radioactive Waste Management Facility – Siting Criteria

Low elevation in a coastal environment is undesirable due to the potential for extreme climatic conditions, for example cyclones, tidal surges and associated flooding events. While a storage facility in such circumstances may be designed against extreme climatic conditions, it significantly adds to the expense of constructing the facility.