

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. E475_06

Senator Crossin provided in writing.

Question:

Is ARPANSA responsible for the safety guidelines for waste being transported? If so what conditions need to be satisfied before any transportation can happen?

Who would transport it and what conditions would they need to meet?

Answer:

Radioactive Waste Management – Waste Transport

ARPANSA publishes the *Code of Practice for the Safe Transport of Radioactive Material (2001)* ('the transport code'), which contains safety criteria for the transport of all radioactive material, including waste. As a prescribed code under the *Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Regulations 1999*, it is expected that ARPANSA will use the criteria in the transport code in determining whether to authorise radioactive waste transport and what conditions, if any, would need to be met.

The Department of Education, Science and Training (DEST) anticipates that radioactive waste will be transported by contractors engaged for the purpose. In selecting a contractor, an ability to comply with any special conditions imposed by ARPANSA will be a requirement.