

## 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. E476\_06**

Senator Crossin provided in writing.

#### **Question:**

Who would audit the emergency response plans of local emergency services in the areas waste would go through?

If local plans were found to be inadequate who would be responsible for upgrading them and bearing the cost?

#### **Answer:**

*Commonwealth Radioactive Waste Management Facility – Waste Transport*

The Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency (ARPANSA) is ultimately responsible for determining the adequacy or otherwise of the emergency response plan (which may or may not involve local emergency services) proposed for waste transport to the facility. On 26 September 2003, the CEO of ARPANSA, Dr John Loy, told the NSW Joint Select Committee into the Transportation and Storage of Nuclear Waste:

My role is about safety. I need to be satisfied that the transport can be undertaken safely, which means...that arrangements are in place to deal with any emergency contingency that might arise during the transport.

The responsibility for ensuring that emergency management plans that meet ARPANSA's requirements are in place will rest with the Australian Government licensee for the facility. These matters will need to be addressed as a precondition for obtaining relevant waste transport licences.