

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. E478_06

Senator Crossin provided in writing.

Question:

Would dirt roads such as the Plenty or Sandover Highways in the NT be viable to get to the Harts Range Site? Would road quality to a site therefore be a factor in choosing a site?

Answer:

Commonwealth Radioactive Waste Management Facility – Waste Transport

The consultant undertaking site characterisation studies on behalf of the Department of Education, Science and Training will be required to provide assessments of road, rail and sea transport options. This assessment will require analysis of any necessary infrastructure upgrades.

Advantages and disadvantages of the three sites in relation to transport, including the cost of any necessary infrastructure upgrades, will form part of the assessment of the suitability of the sites.

It is relevant to note that the Plenty Highway is sealed between the Harts Range site and the Stuart Highway.