

## 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. E482\_06 & E645\_06**

Senator Crossin provided in writing.

#### **Question:**

Why does the “Request for Tender” not include nor acknowledge the Siting Criteria set down by the Fed Government’s National Store Advisory Committee for long lived wastes including the reprocessed nuclear wastes? What status do these previously accepted criteria have now?

If no longer accepted by the Commonwealth, why has this downgrade occurred, and on what advice is it based?

#### **Answer:**

##### *Commonwealth Radioactive Waste Management Facility – Request For Tender*

The National Store Advisory Committee’s (NSAC) site selection *considerations* were developed in the context of a national scale desktop study of Commonwealth land holdings. The aim was to narrow down the list of Commonwealth land holdings to those that would be subject to detailed field studies by excluding sites that, for example, had physical features that would increase the cost of constructing the facility in comparison to other sites or were remote from major transport routes.

Information relevant to the NSAC selection considerations will, as stipulated by specific requirements in the request for tender, be collected as part of the site characterisation studies for the Commonwealth Radioactive Waste Management Facility. This information will be used in deciding the preferred site for the facility and developing the final design of the long-lived intermediate level radioactive waste store.