

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. E484_06

Senator Crossin provided in writing.

Question:

Under the current Bill to legislate to impose a nuclear dump, what siting criteria does the Minister propose to base their siting decision for long lived wastes on? In the absence of publicly available formal regulatory based Siting Criteria, what informed appraisal or confidence can the public have in decision making under this Bill to impose a nuclear dump?

Answer:

Radioactive Waste Management – Radioactive Waste Store Siting Criteria

The *Radioactive Waste Management Bill 2005*, if passed by the Parliament, will not impose a radioactive waste management facility. The facility must still obtain necessary regulatory approvals from the Minister for the Environment and Heritage and the Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency.

The Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency (ARPANSA) has published the regulatory assessment guideline *Draft Criteria for the Siting of Controlled Facilities*. DEST expects that these criteria, which were published in April 1999, will be used by ARPANSA in assessing applications for siting licences.