

## 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. E485\_06 & E646\_06**

Senator Crossin provided in writing.

#### **Question:**

Why does the “Request for Tender” fail to include or refer to any cultural or indigenous siting criteria or matters for consideration (other than the National Estate) on the 3 proposed sites? Are there any cultural or indigenous siting criteria being considered? Please provide details.

#### **Answer:**

*Commonwealth Radioactive Waste Management Facility – Request for Tender*

Cultural and indigenous issues have been excluded from the scope of work of the Request for Tender as the Department of Education, Science and Training (DEST) will address these issues separately. DEST will work with the indigenous communities in the regions of the three sites to ensure sacred sites, if any, are isolated from development.

DEST’s assessment of cultural and indigenous issues will be open to scrutiny as part of the assessment of the preferred site under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.