

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. E491_06 – Final

Senator Crossin provided in writing.

Question:

Clearly the site selection process under this Bill, and any remaining role for the EPBC Act, does not accommodate the Federal Government experience in previous site selection for the “National Repository” which considered dozens of sites and excluded many sites due to cultural heritage and safety reasons. To what significant degree is the remaining EPBC Act environmental assessment and EIS compromised by being constrained to a particular site?

Answer:

Commonwealth Radioactive Waste Management Facility

Assessment of the Facility as required under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) will not be compromised by the selection of a particular site. It will apply in full to the selected site.

A Facility cannot be constructed or commence operations without meeting all relevant assessment and approval provisions of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.