

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. E651_06 - Final

Senator Wong provided in writing.

Question:

Does DEST believe that there are no land rights or native title issues over the three sites? What basis does DEST have for its assertions? Please provide details of any investigations or legal advice undertaken to verify this.

Answer:

Commonwealth Radioactive Waste Management Facility

The Department has taken expert advice on these issues. The Commonwealth asserts that native title does not exist over the three Defence sites in the Northern Territory identified for further investigation for a Commonwealth Radioactive Waste Management Facility, by virtue of the freehold interest in the land held by the Commonwealth.

There are no native title claims over any of the sites. The Native Title Tribunal can confirm this.