

## EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

### SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE - QUESTIONS ON NOTICE 2006-2007 SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING

**Outcome:** 3

**Output Group:** 3.2 – Assistance for collaboration and innovation

#### **DEST Question No. E554\_07**

Senator Crossin provided the following questions in writing.

#### **Question:**

What communications/public information materials and initiatives and polling are planned in relation to the waste facility project?

What budget allocation has been made for these and when are these expected to be implemented?

What agencies, consultants and contractors are involved in this work?

#### **Answer:**

##### *Communications/public information materials and initiatives*

The Department provides information on the proposed Commonwealth Radioactive Waste Management Facility and other radiation and radioactive waste management related matters to relevant stakeholders in the Northern Territory and any member of the public with an interest in these issues on an on-going basis. The following activities will continue to be carried out to assist the provision of information:

- Maintenance of a dedicated Website, 1800 information Hotline and an Email contact link to provide information to interested communities, organisations and individuals in the NT and other parts of Australia.
- Update and distribute hard copy project information kits to interested people or organisations. The kit provides information on the project proposal and general radiation and waste management related matters and includes a DVD with conceptual design information about the proposed facility. The information is also made available on the project website.
- DEST anticipates that further public information sessions will be scheduled at significant future milestone points in the project. Such as the submission of the technical report by Parsons Brinckerhoff.
- At other times, DEST officers may, subject to availability, attend meetings and provide information at the request of stakeholder organisations with an interest in the project. ANSTO and other experts may assist in this aspect.
- DEST wrote to the Central Land Council in December reiterating the offers made in August and September 2006 to meet with Council and traditional owners. The CLC has indicated that they are attempting to arrange a time towards the end of March 2007.
- No polling has been undertaken or is planned in relation to the Commonwealth Radioactive Waste Management Facility.

##### *Budget Allocation:*

The indicative budget for communications and information provisions is:

2006-07: \$511,000

2007-08: \$304,000

2008-09: \$311,000

Actual expenditure may vary depending on the extent of demand for information and materials.

*Agencies/consultants/contractors involved*

DEST is primarily responsible for managing the communications strategy. However, it draws on the expertise of other agencies/experts including ANSTO.