

Economics

National Radioactive Waste Management Amendment (Site Specification, Community Fund and Other Measures) Bill 2020 [Provisions] – 30 June 2020

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Defence

Topic: Senate Economics Legislation Committee - 13 July 2020 – Q9 - Explosives facilities at Woomera, Aviation risk assessments - Brockman

Question reference number: 9

Senator/Member: Slade Brockman

Type of question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 31 July 2020

Question:

In relation to explosives facilities at or near Woomera air base, what aviation impact and/or risk/safety assessments have been done? Please provide copies of final documentation to the Committee.

Answer:

No direct assessments of explosive facilities at or near RAAF Base Woomera have been undertaken to examine their survivability in the event of an aviation mishap. However, these risks are considered during both the siting process for such facilities and as part of the estate planning process.

Management of the risk of flight over or near sensitive areas such as explosives facilities is conducted by operational commanders and is subject to a range of considerations, including the type of flight being conducted and weather.

Risks are reduced so far as reasonably practicable in accordance with the requirements of the Workplace Health and Safety Act. The effective management of risk is an integral part of all Defence activities and this includes the requirement to eliminate risks to health and safety so far as is reasonably practicable (SFARP). Given the risk controls in place, the risk of an ADF aviation mishap in the vicinity of explosives facilities is considered to be very low.