

Additional Information for House of Representatives Standing Committee on Petitions

ACTING CHAIR—Is it written down anywhere who has responsibility for what, and could you supply that to the committee?

The Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts (DEWHA) administers the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*. This includes conducting the environmental impact assessment for the proposed expansion of the Olympic Dam mine. This assessment would look at relevant factors including the potential impacts of radon gas.

The Department of Resources, Energy and Tourism (RET) administers export controls for uranium under the *Customs (Prohibited Exports) Regulations 1958*. RET also has policy responsibility for resources issues, including in relation to uranium and radioactive waste issues.

Mr SIMPKINS—Can the department offer any advice to petitioners who may want to raise concerns or track progress of the proposed expansion and is there a centralised information-gathering point or method to keep up with progress?

Ms Barton—There are, I guess, two things. One would be the BHP Billiton dedicated website to the Olympic Dam expansion, which we can give you the details on. The other is putting in public submissions as part of that EIS process—that is what it is for—and continue to be informed.

The Olympic Dam expansion EIS website established by BHP Billiton's environmental advisers to provide information to the public is at:
<http://www.olympicdameis.com/>

Information on the progress of the environmental assessment for the Olympic Dam expansion is available from the DEWHA website at:
http://www.environment.gov.au/cgi-bin/epbc/epbc_ap.pl?name=current_referral_detail&proposal_id=2270 .

More general information on the environmental assessment process under the EPBC Act is at: <http://www.environment.gov.au/epbc/index.html> .