

Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Department Industry, Innovation and Science
2019 - 2020 Supplementary Budget Estimates
24 October 2019

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND SCIENCE

TOPIC: Cost of Radioactive Waste Facility process

REFERENCE: Question on Notice (Hansard, 24 October 2019, Page 121)

QUESTION No.: SI-34

Senator PATRICK: Thank you, that's good. What is the total amount the Commonwealth has spent so far in this process?

Senator Canavan: I think the figure we usually use is the costs, broadly, since the establishment of the current act. Like I said, we've be going for decades trying to find this. That is around \$30 million to \$40 million.

Ms Reinhardt: We'd have to take that on notice.

ANSWER

The Government has been working to find a suitable site to establish a disposal facility for Low Level Waste and temporarily store Intermediate Level Waste for over 30 years. Once established, the Facility will be a significant piece of national infrastructure that will support Australia's nuclear medicine industry, which one in two Australians rely on in their lifetime.

Expenditure from July 2014 to 31 October 2019 totals \$54,860,000. The term of funding above aligns with the current site selection process under the *National Radioactive Waste Management Facility Act 2012*, commencing with preparations ahead of the national call for voluntary nominations in December 2014.