

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Legislation Committee
Answers to questions on notice
Environment and Energy portfolio

Question No: 174
Hearing: Supplementary Budget Estimates
Outcome: Outcome 1
Program: Environment Standards Division (ESD)
Topic: Export of toxic waste to Finland – In country options
Hansard Page: n/a
Question Date: 31 October 2016
Question Type: Written

Senator Rhiannon, Lee asked:

Has the government investigated treating the waste at Botany or other sites in Australia? If yes please detail what was considered.

Answer:

The Australian Government reviewed the updated technical Independent Assessment Report, prepared by GHD, on the capability of all available technologies in Australia to treat the waste. The treatment facilities considered were Plascon (QLD and VIC), Hydrodec (NSW), Rennex (VIC), Toxfree (QLD) and Entech (WA).

The report found that no Australian facility has, or is likely to obtain, the necessary capacity and expertise to treat the waste, mainly because the commercial drivers are not in place to support the establishment of suitable treatment capacity in Australia. Furthermore, even if a suitable facility could be established, which is unlikely because of the commercial risks involved, the destruction of the HCB wastes in Australia would take 15 – 64 years to complete, depending on the technology.