

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

Question No: 178
Hearing: Supplementary Budget Estimates
Outcome: Outcome 1
Program: Environment Standards Division (ESD)
Topic: Export of toxic waste to Finland – Local Solutions
Hansard Page: N/A
Question Date: 31 October 2016
Question Type: Written

Senator Rhiannon, Lee asked:

Has the government attempted to work with Orica to develop a local solution to safely destroy the waste? If yes what activities have been undertaken to achieve this and why was this approach abandoned? If no why was not attempt made to develop a local solution?

Answer:

While the Australian Government responsibility lies in regulating transboundary movements of hazardous wastes, it has continued to liaise with and encourage Orica to investigate opportunities for a local treatment facility to destroy the wastes. Over 2013-15, Orica approached more than ten firms in the Australian market offering seed funding to develop the capacity to destroy the HCB stockpile. No firm was interested and/or capable due to the limited ongoing commercial viability of any facility that would be sufficient to treat the large scale stockpile of complex hazardous wastes.