

Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Industry, Innovation and Science Portfolio
2016 - 2017 Additional Estimates
2 March 2017

DEPARTMENT: DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND SCIENCE

TOPIC: National radioactive waste dump site nominations

REFERENCE: Question on Notice (Hansard, 2 March 2017, page 121)

QUESTION No.: AI-49

Senator LUDLAM: Can you please confirm for us that the minister has formally accepted two recent additional national radioactive waste dump site nominations from the Kimba district in South Australia?

Senator Canavan: No, I have not accepted those proposals at this stage. I have received two formal applications—

Senator LUDLAM: Okay. Received not accepted.

Senator Canavan: from the Kimba area, but they have not been accepted yet.

Senator LUDLAM: It seems a bit silly to direct that to Mr Sheldrick when you are sitting right there. My apologies.

Senator Canavan: That is alright.

Senator LUDLAM: Given that a couple of previous nominations from that area were not selected and short-listed for further consideration as part of the formal site selection process that ran for 18 months or so, what is different about these two new sites that even causes you to have them on your desk?

Senator Canavan: Senator Ludlam, I am happy to give you the time line here, if you like—

Senator LUDLAM: Yes, please.

Senator Canavan: and pull me up if I am giving you too much information. As you would be aware, on the short-listing of the Barndioota site last year we indicated an openness or that we would welcome further voluntarily proposals from landowners.

Senator LUDLAM: I remember.

Senator Canavan: In the second half of last year, I was advised that there was some renewed interest from landowners from different properties in the Kimba region than proposed previously. On receiving that, I indicated that I was happy to meet with the applicants, as well as the local council and some other community members. Following those discussions, I obviously spoke to my department. The department felt it would be important to assess the situation on the ground in Kimba before we made any decision; so they will go to the detail. They have done that over the last few months and have provided some analysis for me that I will consider in making a determination in this case. Because the decision is before me, I will not go into all of the details, although I think the department have been very transparent with the affected community members, and they might go into what they have produced and the advice they have provided me. The difference here, if you like, that seems to have triggered the most interest in these proposals is that the neighbouring landholders are relatively supportive—at least it is my understanding—compared to the previous submission from Kimba. I have not made a final decision yet, but there has been an extensive process to try and assess what, if anything, has changed. Mr Wilson or Mr Sheldrick, do you want to add anything?

Mr B Wilson: I think that is a pretty good summary.

Senator LUDLAM: A decent summary. Alright. Thank you. Maybe on notice, if you like, as you are a bit indeterminate as to when these sites had come to your attention. Do you want to take on notice when you were actually approached?

Senator Canavan: Sure.

ANSWER

Q. Do you want to take on notice when you were actually approached?

I met with the Working for Kimba's Future group in Adelaide on Thursday 29 September 2016 to discuss prospects of re-nominating land in the Kimba region.