

Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Industry, Innovation and Science Portfolio
2016-17 Supplementary Budget Estimates
20 October 2016

DEPARTMENT: DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND SCIENCE

TOPIC: Waste facility correspondence

REFERENCE: Question on Notice (Hansard, 20 October 2016, page 140-141)

QUESTION No.: SI-48

Senator WATERS: Great. What is the capacity of the fund? You said \$2.8 million had been applied for. What is the total amount in the fund?

Senator Canavan: Two million dollars.

Senator WATERS: So not everyone will get a prize. Again, roughly what time frame do you think the successful applicants will be notified by if it is a matter of weeks till the committee is appointed?

Senator Canavan: We have to establish the consultative committee first, obviously.

Senator WATERS: A matter of months, by the sounds.

Ms Facey: We are thinking that the committee will probably meet by the middle of next month, so I am thinking it would be early in the New Year that we would be able to announce the grant applications.

Senator WATERS: Has the minister met with or received correspondence from any other individuals, organisations or stakeholder groups local to the site? Who were they and were they either in favour of or opposed to continuing discussion?

Senator Canavan: You say 'met with and received correspondence from'. I certainly have received correspondence from a variety of people on the matter and have responded to much of that correspondence. On that visit I had planned, I was to meet a range of landowner groups, business groups and the local GP, a variety of whom are for or against the project. As I say, I am returning there in a couple of weeks. I have not seen the agenda, but I presume it will be very similar to what I was intending to do a couple of weeks ago.

Senator WATERS: Could you please take on notice to provide a list of the people who have sent correspondence to you and likewise that you have responded to?

Senator Canavan: I can take that on notice. I might just narrow that for us, if it is possible. We might try and take on notice those local communities affected. Obviously I get correspondence on this from primary school students and others, and some of it also goes to the South Australian government royal commission process, not necessarily the low-level and intermediate waste facility we are seeking to establish. So I might, if it is okay with you, just narrow that for my department staff.

Senator WATERS: Yes. Let us start with that, and I will come back if I need some more there.

ANSWER

The Minister has received 23 correspondence items relating to the National Radioactive Waste Management Facility since he became the Minister for Resources and Northern Australia (five from around the Barndioota area). Of the 23 correspondence items:

- The Minister replied to 11 items;
- Eight items were for information only;
- Two items were Departmental reply; and
- Two items are currently being drafted.