

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Resources, Energy and Tourism Portfolio

Supplementary Budget Estimates

19 October 2011

Question: SR9
Topic: Uranium Council Projects
Proof Hansard Page: 83-84

Senator Ludlam asked:

Ms Constable: It is the Uranium Council; they have changed the name. There is no formal process in place bilaterally with the Western Australian government on uranium mine issues other than through the EPBC Act. The Commonwealth has a responsibility there. We of course work within the ministerial council on energy and resources on broad resource issues that from time to time provide information or work related to uranium, such as abandoned mines, which also takes into account uranium mines.

Senator LUDLAM: Could you table for us the proposed work plan or next phase of work for that Uranium Council. Is there something that you could put in writing for us?

Ms Constable: We can provide that. Would you like the projects?

Senator LUDLAM: Yes, projects and activities. That would be great; we appreciate it.

Answer:

The proposed work program for the Uranium Council in 2011-12 is at **Attachment A**.

ATTACHMENT A

Projects	PROPOSED URANUM COUNCIL PROJECTS 2011 – 2012
Australian National Radiation Dose Register (ANRDR) Reporting and Outreach	ANRDR provides a mechanism for auditing dose limits throughout their whole career, regardless of the jurisdiction of the mine. Continued funding for maintenance, data collection, and reporting for the ANRDR, developed and managed by Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency (ARPANSA). Outreach program for mine workers to explain how to use the ANRDR, and the benefits.
ERICA Workshops	Sponsorship of a proposed training course for industry and government participants to use the ERICA tool, a computer based assessment tool that predicts the risks to reference animals and plants from ionising radiation.
Transport strategy	Examine impediments to the domestic and international transportation of uranium.
Toxicology Testing for Uranium Oxide Concentrate (UOC)	Engage Environmental Research Institute of the Supervising Scientist (ERISS) to examine the current classification of UOC as an aquatic toxicant.
Develop an Environmental Assessment Framework (for Uranium Mining)	Led by ARPANSA, develop a systematic approach to assess the effects of radionuclides on the environment due to uranium mining operations which is consistent with overseas approaches and directly applicable to the Australian environment – for use by regulators and industry when developing proposals for new mines.
Chair Review of the Uranium Council (UC)	Review of achievements and future direction of the Uranium Council