

## EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

### SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE - QUESTIONS ON NOTICE 2005-2006 BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING

**Outcome:** 3

**Output Group:** 3.2 – Assistance for science collaboration and innovation.

#### **DEST Question No. E127\_06**

Senator Carr provided in writing.

#### **Question:**

Isn't it true that you will need a port to take the nuclear waste from Lucas Heights? If not, why not? Could you give an indication of which ports might be used or suitable? How large a port would you need?

#### **Answer:**

##### *Radioactive Waste – Requirement for Port Facilities*

The Department of Education, Science and Training understands this question to relate to radioactive waste returning to Australia as a result of the overseas reprocessing of spent fuel.

A port facility will be required for the unloading of spent fuel reprocessing waste returning from France and the United Kingdom. The key factor in terms of port suitability is the need to be able to manage waste returning from France, as the Cogema TN81 transport casks have a mass of 112 tonnes.

On 15 July 2005 the Minister for Education, Science and Training announced that three sites in the Northern Territory had been identified for detailed consideration of their suitability as the site for the Commonwealth Radioactive Waste Management Facility. Darwin might therefore be used but the choice of port could ultimately depend on whether a site in the southern or northern part of the Northern Territory is selected as the site for the Facility.