

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE - QUESTIONS ON NOTICE 2005-2006 SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES HEARING

Outcome: 3

Output Group: 3.2 – Assistance for science collaboration and innovation

DEST Question No. E647_06

Senator Wong provided in writing.

Question:

Please provide the estimated total cost of the waste dump including costs to other departments and agencies? Please provide a breakdown by year and please itemise the costs as far as possible.

Answer:

Commonwealth Radioactive Waste Management Facility

The Department of Education, Science and Training's (DEST) estimated costs until the end of 2007-08 were provided in answer to Senator Carr's Question on Notice E120_06. The project does not presently have funding in the forward estimates beyond that year, which would cover construction and subsequent operation of the facility.

The site characterisation studies to be undertaken by a consultant to DEST will include comparative estimates of the costings of constructing the Facility at each of the three identified sites.

The Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation is providing technical advice to DEST upon request, but this work is presently being met from within its existing funding.

DEST is not able to provide advice on potential costs to other portfolios associated with the facility.