

Question No: 74

Question: Construction Agency Soils Laboratory

Date: 12/11/91

Member: Mr STIRLING

To: MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

1. Has a decision been made to close the Construction Agency Soils Laboratory at Palmerston.
2. If so, when will the laboratory close.
3. What future employment arrangements have been made for the laboratory staff.
4. What future use will be made of the laboratory facilities and equipment.

ANSWER

1. Yes, a decision has been made to close the Construction Agency Soils Laboratory at Palmerston.
2. It is impossible to establish exactly when the laboratory will close. While no new work is being accepted, staff are currently clearing outstanding tasks. Once these tasks are exhausted, the laboratory will close.
3. Two positions have been retained in the establishment to support the geotechnical work of the NT Construction Agency.

These are the T5, Officer-in-Charge, Materials Testing position, and a new T3 multi-disciplined position.

The OIC T5 position will in due course be reassessed and evaluated at the time the Materials Laboratory is decommissioned.

The balance of staff at the laboratory is 9.

The department's options for placement of displaced staff are exercised within the PSC redeployment guidelines currently in place.

4. Laboratory facilities will be incorporated into the Yarrowonga depot. Laboratory equipment is to be gifted to the Northern Territory University with items not required by that institution to be disposed of at auction.