

PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA

Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works

Issued: 5 February 2016

Upgrade and extension of radioactive waste management facilities at Lucas Heights

<u>The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works</u> today announced that it is conducting an inquiry into the upgrade and extension of radioactive waste management facilities for the <u>Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation (ANSTO)</u>.

ANSTO's submission notes that current storage facilities will reach full capacity early in 2017 and although locations for a new facility are being considered, the new facility is not expected to be operational until 2020.

The inquiry will examine existing low and intermediate-level solid waste facilities at Lucas Heights that require extension and upgrade, with extension works for the low-level solid waste facilities expected to be completed by April 2017, and works for the intermediate-level facilities to be completed by June 2018.

In addition to upgrading and extending storage capacity, works will include upgrading ventilation and security systems, electrical infrastructure and surrounding roads.

The estimated cost of the project is \$22.3 million and it is anticipated that the Committee will conduct public and in-camera hearings for the inquiry in the near future.

Further information on the public hearing will be available soon on the Committee's website.

Submissions to the inquiry close on 10 March 2016.

NB the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works is neither involved in the tendering process nor the awarding of contracts. Enquiries on those matters should be addressed to ANSTO.

Media enquiries: Office of Senator Dean Smith (Chair of the <u>Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works</u>) (08) 9481 0349 <u>Committee Secretariat</u> (02) 6277 4636 Full details on the project are available on the <u>Committee's website</u>.