

ANSTO Opening Statement – Additional Estimates 2017

Senators, thank you for the opportunity to update you on ANSTO's important work.

With over 60 years of excellence in nuclear science and technology, ANSTO is committed to undertaking world leading research for the benefit of all Australians. As an organisation, we are delighted that the commitments of successive governments, which have been instrumental in securing much of our landmark infrastructure, have enabled us to achieve significant outcomes for Australia and the broader global community in the areas of human health, the environment and the nuclear fuel cycle. However, we recognise there is even more we can do to advance the science and technology landscape in Australia, through bolstering links with industry, and actively contributing to the training of the next generation of highly-skilled STEM professionals.

As outlined in ANSTO's 2016- 2020 Corporate Plan, ANSTO is developing a proposal for an Innovation Precinct at its main campus in Southern Sydney. This Precinct will cluster together scientific partners, subject matter experts, high-tech businesses, industry, and graduates, and utilise ANSTO's unique capabilities and research infrastructure to create an innovation ecosystem. Using this model of co-location, the Precinct will remove barriers to mobility for STEM professionals between the Publicly Funded Research Agencies, universities and industry, boosting researcher, university and other research organisation engagement with industry.

The Graduate Institute, a critical aspect of the broader Innovation Precinct, aims to establish a formal training program for researchers with approximately 300- 400 postgraduate students and postdoctoral fellows undertaking research studies at ANSTO's Sydney and Melbourne campuses. Under the proposal, students and fellows would be enrolled at universities, with supervision and access to infrastructure provided at ANSTO. In establishing such a program, ANSTO aims to act as a conduit between the academic and industry sectors, providing students with first-hand experiences as working scientists.

I am happy to take your questions.