

Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Industry Portfolio
Budget Estimates Hearing 2014-15
2-3 June 2014

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: Australian Nuclear Science & Technology Organisation

TOPIC: Nuclear Medicine Project

REFERENCE: Written Question – Senator Carr

QUESTION No.: BI-198

What is the ANSTO Nuclear Medicine project? What are its key timelines and milestones? Please supply its funding profile.

ANSWER

The ANSTO Nuclear Medicine project will position Australia at the centre of the global fight against cancer and cardiac disease and will be a major advancement of Australia's global and regional leadership in the high-end manufacturing of nuclear medicines and in non-proliferation. The project will be delivered by highly specialised engineers at ANSTO's southern Sydney campus and involves the construction of:

- An export scale nuclear medicine manufacturing facility which will allow ANSTO to triple its production of molybdenum-99 (Mo-99), the world's most important nuclear medicine. The new facility will guarantee access to this important medicine for all Australians as well as position ANSTO as a global leader in the high-end manufacture and supply of nuclear medicines; and
- A co-located first-of-its-kind Synroc waste treatment plant to treat the necessary by-products of nuclear medicine production.

The project is funded through a \$168.8 million equity injection from the Commonwealth, which will be repaid via profits generated through the sale of nuclear medicines. To date, ANSTO has received \$64.071 million of this equity injection. ANSTO will receive a further \$86.2 million during the 2014-15 financial year and the remaining \$18.5 million in 2015-16.

The nuclear medicine facility is expected to be operational by the end of 2016. The Synroc plant is anticipated to be operational by the end of 2017.