

ANSTO Opening Statement

Senators, thank you for the opportunity to provide you with an update on ANSTO's work with Australian industry.

Using its landmark research infrastructure, including the OPAL research reactor and the Australian Synchrotron, to investigate challenges facing Australian industry, ANSTO and its industrial partners are seeing great results from their collaborations. For example, the Australian rail industry is benefiting from the use of ANSTO's neutron beam instruments, keeping Australian railways safe. ANSTO's neutron beam instruments allow researchers to examine rail tracks at the atomic scale, assessing them for stresses or cracks. ANSTO researchers are then able to identify how and where tracks may break, allowing operators like RailCorp to optimise their service and maintenance programs.

In another example of ANSTO supporting Australian industry, ANSTO technology is allowing Australian energy operators to run coal-fired power plants more efficiently, reducing maintenance costs and improving operating lifespans.

Base-load power stations are undergoing increased stresses as they are required to respond to increasing volatility in Australia's energy demand profile. RemLife software, based on ANSTO's advanced materials engineering capabilities, allows power station operators to better characterise these stresses and make significant improvements in operating efficiencies. The majority of major base-load power stations in Australia have benefited from this ANSTO-developed technology.

These are just two of many examples of how Australian research links to Australian industry and positively impacts on us all.

I am happy to take your questions.