

Senate Standing Committee on Economics
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Innovation, Industry, Science and Research Portfolio
Additional Estimates Hearing 2010-11
23 February 2011

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: AUSTRALIAN NUCLEAR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY ORGANISATION

TOPIC: Telephone survey on nuclear science and nuclear power

REFERENCE: Question on Notice (Hansard, 23 February 2011, E20)

QUESTION No.: AI-6

Senator BUSHBY—The survey that was conducted in July-August, particularly as it relates to nuclear power, are you able to indicate what those results showed about the public's opinion on that?

Dr Paterson—As I indicated, I do not have the details to hand, and we will take the question on notice.

ANSWER

ANSTO conducted an unstratified survey in late July 2010. This survey was focused on the Sutherland Shire area, with smaller samples being taken in other major cities for the purposes of comparison. It was not, nor intended to be, a national survey, but rather have a localised focus.

In relation to nuclear power, results from the survey found that at the time:

- 89 per cent of the respondents thought that Australia should have a national debate about the advantages and disadvantages of nuclear power. Eight per cent disagreed.
- 56 per cent of the respondents thought that Australia should establish a nuclear power industry. Twenty eight per cent disagreed.