

**Senate Standing Committee on Economics**  
**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
Innovation, Industry, Science and Research Portfolio  
Budget Estimates Hearing 2009-10  
01 June 2009

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**AGENCY/DEPARTMENT:** AUSTRALIAN NUCLEAR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY ORGANISATION

**TOPIC:** Opal Reactor

**REFERENCE:** Question on Notice (Hansard 1 June 2009, E13)

**QUESTION No.:** BI-33

**Senator LUDLAM**—In rough numbers, if we include the cost of the fuel, the enrichment and the transport, to what order are the increases compared with what you estimated the cost of fuel would be?

**Dr Cameron**—Those are exactly the sum of money which we have asked for under this particular—

**Senator LUDLAM**—\$6.4 million over three years.

**Dr Cameron**—Correct and that related directly to the contract that we signed with the French manufacturers for the fuel.

**Senator LUDLAM**—Thank you, but how much is the increase? Is that 50 per cent over budget? How much was it relative to what you were expecting to pay?

**Dr Cameron**—I would not be able to be confident in giving you an exact number but it was between 50 and 100 per cent. If you would like us to provide that number we can do so.

**Senator LUDLAM**—Yes, if you could pin that down for us, I would appreciate that.

**ANSWER**

The total cost of the fuel assemblies, including enrichment and transportation, will increase by 62% from 1 July 2009.