

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE - QUESTIONS ON NOTICE 2004-2005 BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING

DEST Question No. E176_05

Senator Carr provided in writing.

Question:

What costs are projected to finalise the (replacement reactor) project up to the stage of hot commissioning?

Answer:

Replacement Research Reactor

ANSTO has provided the following response:

The projected total cost including the extra moneys appropriated in the May budget (see page 185 of the 2004-05 Portfolio Budget Statements for the Education, Science and Training Portfolio) is \$359.8 million in constant 1999 dollars, the project base date. This figure includes the end April 2004 forecast total cost of the replacement research reactor, which is \$330.4 million, and the forecast total cost of the neutron beam instruments of \$29.4 million. As indicated in the reply to question E175_05, \$242.21 million in constant 1999 dollars had been spent until the end of April 2004. Therefore, the balance of expenditure on the project from that date is projected to be approximately \$117.45 million in constant 1999 dollars. This includes a performance-related payment which will be paid subsequent to hot commissioning.

The project budget covers completion of construction and commissioning of the replacement reactor, as well as construction, installation and commissioning of eight scientific instruments for neutron science. With the neutron flux that will be available from the replacement reactor, the performances of these instruments will be, or will be among, the best in the world.