

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

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

DEST Question No. E177_05

Senator Carr provided in writing

Question:

Does this (the answer to question E176_05) include costs for extra security, for a new entrance or for the updated radio-isotope production facility? If not, how much has been estimated for these items?

Answer:

Replacement Research Reactor

ANSTO has provided the following response:

The answer to question E176_05 covers the Replacement Research Reactor project costs for construction and commissioning. As indicated at page 185 of the 2004-05 Portfolio Budget Statements for the Education, Science and Training Portfolio (PBS), extra funds have been provided for modification of the reactor facility for, inter alia, security reasons. Those extra funds are included in the answer to question E176_05.

As indicated in the 2003-04 PBS (see page 191), the Government allocated \$11.1 million to enhance the security of the main entrance to ANSTO. As indicated in Public Works Committee report 12/2003 (paragraph 2.12), the estimated cost of the new entrance is \$10.366 million. As foreshadowed in the 2003-04 PBS, the remaining \$764,000 has been spent on the installation of additional security devices across the facility, including the site of the current reactor. As also indicated in the 2003-04 PBS, an additional \$1.7 million per annum was provided in the 2003-04 budget to enhance general security of the site, including the Replacement Research Reactor construction site. None of these expenditures form part of the Replacement Research Reactor project.

As indicated in Public Works Committee report 13/2003, the refurbishment of the radioisotope production facility is also a separate project. As noted in that report (paragraph 2.10), the estimated cost for this project is \$17.9 million (excluding GST), plus or minus 15 per cent, at March 2003 prices. Funds for the project are being sourced from ANSTO's own resources.