

## EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

### SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE - QUESTIONS ON NOTICE 2005-2006 BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING

**Outcome:** ANSTO

**Output Group:** ANSTO

#### **DEST Question No. E258\_06**

Senator Carr provided in writing.

#### **Question:**

What is ANSTO doing to ensure this does not occur again? Does ANSTO have concerns about the operation of HIFAR as a result? Will any operations be delayed as a result?

#### **Answer:**

*Concerns regarding the operation of HIFAR*

ANSTO has provided the following response:

Investigations of the events were implemented immediately. The investigations resulted in recommendations for improvement that have or are being progressively implemented. Improvements were identified in the areas of updating the instructions and procedures for the task, planning for non-routine tasks, and refresher training for operators and duty officers. ARPANSA have been notified of the details of the investigations and the implementation of the recommendations. These measures are designed to prevent recurrence. Given that the cause of the event lay in operator error rather than malfunction of the equipment and that there are safety systems in place to address such events, ANSTO has no concerns about the operation of HIFAR as a result.

A few days' delay in reactor start-up was experienced after the events, due to the need to replace the damaged shutdown pump. There have been no other delays to HIFAR operation as a result of these events.