

PART II

THE TENDERING PROCESS AND CONTRACT

In this section of the Report, the Committee turns to the issues of the tendering process and the contract.

In Chapter Six, the Committee inquires into the process leading up to the signing of a contract in June 2000 with INVAP of Argentina for the construction of a new nuclear reactor at Lucas Heights.

In Chapter Seven, the Committee examines the nature of the contractual commitments entered into.

REPLACEMENT RESEARCH REACTOR PROJECT CHRONOLOGY¹

Milestones	Date
Government Decision	3 September 1997
ANSTO seeks expressions of interest	July 1998
Pre-qualification <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre-qualification briefing (September 1998) • Formal pre-qualification request close (November 1998) • Pre-qualification meetings with six vendors (November–December 1998) • Selection of pre-qualified reactor vendors (December 1998) 	September 1998
Formation of Request for Tender Team	January 1999
Site visit to Reference reactors	April 1999
Issue of draft Principal's Project Requirements	April 1999
Red Team Review	June 1999
Request for Tender Issued <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joint tenderer briefing (6 September 1999) • Geotechnical investigation of site (September–October 1999) • Mid term tender preparation review meeting (September–October 1999) • Tenders close (December 1999) 	28 August 1999
Tenders opened <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tender briefings (6–7 January) • Initial compliance check (8 January) • Detailed evaluation (10 January–27 February) • Clarification meetings (6 March–1 April) 	3 January 2000

1 Taken from Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works, *Proposed Replacement Nuclear Research Reactor, Lucas Heights, NSW*, 12 August 1999, p. 124 and ANSTO, submission no. 118, Attachment G.

Milestones	Date
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submission of Supplementary Pricing Proposals • Detailed financial analysis (April) • Completion of Team Leader Report (April) • Comparative Review by Tender Evaluation Management Group (2–4 May 2000) • Tender Selection Review Committee (10 May–13 May 2000) <p>Tender evaluation completed with final recommendation.</p>	
Government announced successful tenderer—INVAP	6 June 2000
Contract signed for replacement research reactor	13 July 2000
Government announce search for a site for the national store for intermediate level radioactive waste	11 August 2000
Detailed design including systems requirement reviews and system critical design reviews. ²	July 2000–May 2002
Construction authorisation by ARPANSA including preliminary safety analysis report	April 2002
Construction commencement	May 2002
Low power Reactor Commissioning	March 2005
High power Reactor Commissioning	June 2005
Operation Authorisation by ARPANSA including Final Safety Report	September 2005
Replacement Reactor Full Operations	December 2005
Permanent Shutdown of HIFAR	December 2005

2 Professor Garnett stated that detailed design drawings that form part of the development of the safety assessment to go for a construction licence will be completed by the first half of 2001. *Committee Hansard*, 9 October 2000, p. 16.

