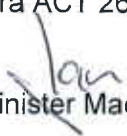




Nuclear-based science benefiting all Australians

31 July 2015

The Hon Ian Macfarlane MP  
PO Box 6022  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

  
Dear Minister Macfarlane,

On behalf of the Board of the Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation (ANSTO) I write to acknowledge receipt of your Statement of Expectations.

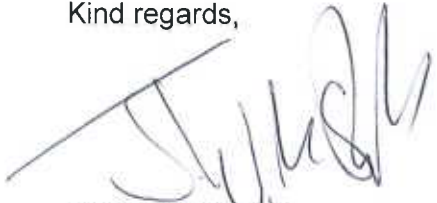
As requested, the ANSTO Board has prepared a Statement of Intent that outlines how it intends to deliver on the key priorities you have set out in your Statement of Expectations.

The ANSTO Statement of Intent takes into account the Government's broad policy framework and the organisation's responsibilities under the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013* and the *Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation Act 1987*.

Thank you for your ongoing interest in and support for ANSTO. Our focus and programs are strongly informed by the need to better connect with industry and indeed to create business opportunities from the nuclear science and technology base that is vested and growing in ANSTO.

In the light of this should you wish to discuss ANSTO's Statement of Intent further, or if I can be of any other assistance please don't hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards,

  
James McDowell  
Chairman  
Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation

## **STATEMENT OF INTENT FOR THE AUSTRALIAN NUCLEAR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY ORGANISATION**

The Board of the Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation (ANSTO) welcomes the Statement of Expectations from the Minister for Industry and Science and is pleased to outline its response in this Statement of Intent. This response follows the format of the Statement of Expectations.

### **Policy Context**

The ANSTO Board is committed to the effective implementation and pursuit of excellence in the performance of ANSTO's functions as outlined in the *Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation Act 1987* (ANSTO Act) and in the organisation's strategic priorities.

ANSTO is committed to actively supporting the government's science policy agenda by:

- continuing to deliver world class research outcomes across the broad spectrum of nuclear science and technology applications, helping foster a strong science and research foundation for a competitive Australia and supporting the Government's *Boosting Commercial Returns from Research* agenda;
- completing a revitalisation program to secure and grow its research programs, ensuring they are well positioned to engage with and support Australian industries, in addition to working closely with your department to develop opportunities for increased engagement with the private sector;
- considering closely how it can contribute to the *Science and Research Priorities* developed by the Chief Scientist of Australia and endorsed by the Commonwealth Science Council (CSC). ANSTO notes that it is already significantly involved in research activities in a number of the priority areas including soil and water, environmental change, food, energy and resources, manufacturing and health;
- continuing work to advance Australia's Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics (STEM) performance, including through hosting 15,000 plus visitors from across Australia every year at its purpose built science education centre, delivering accredited professional development programs for secondary science teachers and providing STEM materials for use in schools; and
- continuing to actively input to the Research Infrastructure Review process. ANSTO has had a number of positive meetings with the Infrastructure Review Panel and has provided a detailed policy submission to assist their deliberations.

### **Partnerships and Collaboration**

ANSTO is strongly committed to building and maintaining strong and beneficial partnerships and collaborations at both the national and international levels that deliver strong outcomes for industry and our nation as a whole.

As part of this focus, ANSTO will continue to:

- support the Government in protecting the national interest through providing specialised advice on all matters relating to nuclear science, technology and engineering. ANSTO will also support the Government in undertaking its international obligations, including through playing a leading role in Australia's international liaison

on nuclear matters, supporting Australia's designated seat on the Board of Governors of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), and sharing its expertise in the safe and secure application of nuclear science and technology with neighbouring countries;

- actively engage with the South Australian Royal Commission through the provision of expert technical advice. Working with the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet and various other agencies, ANSTO will also contribute to the formal whole of Government submission to the Commission;
- actively engage with the Chief Scientist of Australia and his office, through regular bilateral meetings; when (on a rotation basis) ANSTO is a member of the National Science, Technology and Research Committee; and at forums such as the quarterly Publicly Funded Research Agencies' Meeting. ANSTO provides policy inputs, planning and some secretariat support for this meeting;
- convene communities and hold capacity building meetings including the annual Australian Synchrotron (Synchrotron) and Bragg user meetings as well as the Australian Hadron Therapy Collaboration Group meetings, helping foster an integrated national approach to addressing some of the most important challenges facing Australians today;
- maintain relationships on behalf of the relevant science, engineering and industrial stakeholders, with strategically important international organisations including the European Organisation for Nuclear Research (CERN), one of the world's largest and most respected scientific organisations, and the International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor (ITER) project, ensuring Australia continues to play an important role in fusion nuclear physics;
- actively collaborate with universities and other publically funded research agencies and medical research institutes on projects of national priority, maximising resources and helping increase the nation's ability to translate research into outcomes; and
- work in partnership with industry to identify solutions that allows Australian businesses to develop innovative solutions to problems and improve their global competitiveness. ANSTO will, as operator and/or owner, continue to implement industry engagement programs at the Australian Synchrotron and its other landmark research infrastructure facilities. Since assuming operation of the Synchrotron through its wholly owned subsidiary, the Synchrotron Light Source Australia Pty Ltd, ANSTO has driven a 300% increase in industry utilisation of the facility.

### **Science Assets and Staff**

As the operator of many of Australia's most significant landmark scientific infrastructure platforms, including Australia's nuclear research reactor, OPAL, the Australian Synchrotron, which services over 4000 users each year, the Centre for Accelerator Science servicing over 120 external users a year and the Bragg Institute accommodating 1000 visiting scientists annually, ANSTO is committed to maximising its benefit to the research community as well as Australian industry. As part of this role it will:

- promote its world class scientific infrastructure via its website, through its membership of various professional associations and at scientific conferences both in Australia and overseas, with a focus on communicating and educating business about the benefits such infrastructure provides;

- contribute content to the Government's science.gov.au website;
- continue working closely with the Department to develop a case for Government regarding long-term funding arrangements and ANSTO ownership of the Synchrotron while maintaining a robust merit-based open access regime for the science community and encouraging industry access;
- promote careers in science and engineering for a wide range of research and technical staff, helping build an Australian workforce of the future that has the necessary skills required for the increasing use of nuclear techniques in fields as important as health and medicine, the minerals sector, environmental studies and many more. It will do so through continuing its various career programs including: the ANSTO Graduate Development Program, Postdoctoral Research fellowships, Year in Industry programs and various traineeships and apprenticeships across a range of trades;
- endeavour to ensure that its research publications are openly available to the public, using a range of online and hardcopy channels;
- encourage its researchers to be entrepreneurial through the provision of training and appropriate incentives through Annual Performance Evaluation Agreements;
- where possible, identify and take opportunities to support new companies and commercialise ANSTO discoveries;
- maximise its capacity to provide specialised services and products, in particular the provision of nuclear medicines through delivering the ANSTO Nuclear Medicine project on budget;
- adhere to the highest standards and practices in the manufacture and supply of nuclear medicines and continue undertaking this function efficiently, aided by the ANSTO's Organisational Excellence program;
- adhere to cost recovery principles in its pricing of nuclear medicines. In addition ANSTO will continue to work closely with the other producers of medical radioisotopes to explore ways to improve longer term reliability of supply and the sustainability of the market, including through engagement with the activities of the OECD's Nuclear Energy Agency's (NEA's) High-Level Group on Security of Supply of Medical Radioisotopes; and
- act as the nation's repository and custodian of Australia's nuclear capabilities, including maintaining its measurement standard for radioactivity, the Becquerel, and supporting an active program in nuclear forensics, ensuring Australia has the necessary tools to prevent and respond to nuclear security events.

### **Communication with your Office and the Department**

- ANSTO will continue to work closely with your office and the Department, including through the continuation of regular meetings, phone and email contact
- ANSTO will keep you and the Department informed, in a timely and accurate way, regarding significant issues relating to the financial health, culture and work of the organisation. ANSTO will also continue to keep your office and the Department abreast of routine developments through its regular six weekly activity briefs. It will also provide input and information to the department as required, ensuring that

advice to your office and the Government more broadly canvasses relevant issues and sensitivities and reflects a portfolio response. ANSTO will provide copies of ministerial briefings and correspondence to the relevant areas of your office and the department. ANSTO will also continue to provide advance notice of all significant announcements and events likely to attract media attention;

- the CEO of ANSTO will continue to champion better coordination of the Publically Funded Research Agencies (PRFA's), including co-convening the heads of research agencies meeting, enabling the provision of integrated specialised advice to Government; and
- ANSTO is currently developing a corporate plan that will meet all requirements of the PGPA Act. ANSTO has sought advice, and will continue to seek advice from Government on the formulation of this plan and will provide a copy to you and the Minister for Finance when finalised. In developing this plan, the Board looks forward to working with you and the Department.



James McDowell  
Chairman  
Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation