



## NEWS RELEASE

Wednesday 18 April, 2012

### **RECORDS INDICATE NUCLEAR AGENCY NOT INVOLVED: PACIFIC HIGHWAY**

In relation to media reports today concerning work stopping on the Pacific Highway upgrade near Laurieton, in New South Wales, a spokesperson for the Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation (ANSTO) said:

**“A review of records indicates the 1980 accident did not involve material or vehicles associated with ANSTO’s predecessor, the Australian Atomic Energy Commission (AAEC), nor did it originate from Lucas heights.**

“Records from February 1981 state the following:

*“The AAEC was not officially concerned with any aspect of the accident involving a truck carrying radioactive materials, insecticide and food which occurred on the Pacific Highway near Laurieton on 4 December 1980. The only indirect AAEC involvement occurred because [AAEC employee, name withheld] was holidaying in the area and he offered his services in an advisory capacity to the Police...”*

“Records from April 1981 state the following:

*“The sources were not the property of the AAEC, nor were they being consigned to or from the AAEC. They were the property of a “geophysical” company and do not appear to have suffered any harm.”*

“Further, the Environment Protection Agency NSW has advised today there is no indication of radioactive drums or canisters being located at the site, though further studies may be undertaken as a precautionary measure.

“ANSTO would assist if requested by NSW Roads and Maritime Services, the NSW Environment Protection Agency or Fire and Rescue NSW.”

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