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## **New nuclear medicine facility to be scrutinised**

The Public Works Committee is conducting an inquiry into the proposed ANSTO Nuclear Medicine Project.

ANSTO (the Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation) states that the proposed facility will comprise a new nuclear medicine manufacturing facility and a co-located Synroc waste treatment plant.

Molybdenum-99 (Mo-99) is one of the world's most important nuclear medicines and allows the detection of life threatening diseases. In Australia, 550,000 people receive a diagnosis using Mo-99 each year. The proposed facility will also allow Australia to guarantee the future supply of Mo-99 to Australians, and will meet a significant proportion of the world's increasing demand for Mo-99 which currently totals around 45 million doses a year.

The Synroc facility is based upon ANSTO's proprietary technology and is a world 'first of a kind' facility able to treat a variety of wastes. The Synroc facility will provide a viable economic solution to consolidating waste which is a legacy of 50 years of Australian nuclear medicine production.

The estimated cost of the project is \$168 million. Construction is expected to be complete by 2016. The facility will be located at ANSTO's Lucas Heights campus.

The Committee's Chair, Kirsten Livermore MP, said the Committee will conduct an inspection and public hearing for the project in February 2012.

"This project aims to establish a new facility for the production of nuclear medicines. The current facility is ageing and must close by 2017. The new Synroc facility will treat the waste by-products of nuclear medicine production. The Committee will scrutinise this project to ensure that the works are fit for purpose and offer value for money for the Commonwealth" Ms Livermore said.

Full details on the proposal are available on the Committee's website: [www.aph.gov.au/pwc](http://www.aph.gov.au/pwc)

### **Submissions to the inquiry close on 24 January 2013.**

Details of the public hearing program will be announced soon.

**NB** the Public Works Committee is neither involved in the tendering process nor the awarding of contracts. Enquiries on those matters should be addressed to the Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation.

**For interview:** Contact the Chair's office on (07) 4922 6604.

**For further information**, including how to make a submission, the public hearing times, and copies of submissions when they become available, please visit the Committee website <http://www.aph.gov.au/pwc> or contact the Committee Secretariat on (02) 6277 4636.