

Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Industry, Innovation and Science Portfolio
2016-17 Supplementary Budget Estimates
20 October 2016

AGENCY: AUSTRALIAN NUCLEAR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY ORGANISATION

TOPIC: Statement of expectations

REFERENCE: Question on Notice (Hansard, 20 October 2016, page 63)

QUESTION No.: SI-8

Dr Paterson: We are working under that same statement of expectations. The advice that we have had from the department is that it stands.

Senator KIM CARR: The minister recently said that there would be a new statement of expectations for the CSIRO. Has there been a similar statement in regard to ANSTO?

Dr Paterson: I have met with the minister and we have had a number of discussions. I imagine that it is possible that he would expect some things of us, but there is no written document at this point.

Senator KIM CARR: Did the former Minister Macfarlane—it would have been, what, around February 2015 that you received the letter?

Dr Paterson: I think it was of that order.

Senator KIM CARR: I am just trying to go from memory. Did that letter make any reference to you seeking to maximise commercial returns?

Dr Paterson: I will take that on notice because it is a rather specific term. There was a general indication that we should seek to work closely with industry and to develop a portfolio of outcomes in the industrial setting, but I will take the specific question on notice.

ANSWER

The current ANSTO statement of expectations, signed by former Minister for Industry and Science, the Hon Ian Macfarlane MP, on 4 June 2015, is publicly available on the ANSTO website: <http://www.ansto.gov.au/AboutANSTO/About/StatementofExpectations/index.htm>. In terms of commercial returns, the statement includes the following passage:

I expect that ANSTO will actively engage in specific actions and the overall spirit of the Boosting Commercial Returns from Research agenda, ensuring the Commonwealth's \$9.2 billion per year investment in research furthers the interests of the Australian community and maximises commercial returns. In particular, I ask that ANSTO work with my department to develop opportunities and options for increased engagement with the private sector where appropriate.