

Senate Economics Legislation Committee

## **Additional Estimates Hearings February 2022**

### **Opening Statement**

#### **ANSTO**

as read by Shaun Jenkinson, Chief Executive Officer

Thank you Chair and Committee members.

It is a privilege to represent ANSTO before this Committee in my role as Chief Executive Officer, to which I was formally appointed in March last year. I acknowledge that we have not have an opportunity to speak in the hearings since then, but I very much look forward to engaging with the Committee now and over the coming years.

ANSTO operates national landmark infrastructure supporting thematic research and national research priorities. We engage with universities, other publicly funded research agencies, industry as well as all tiers of government. Our focus is on developing solutions and driving outcomes for Australia at a time when science and industry need to combine to support sovereign capability and future growth.

In this context, I want to acknowledge the Government's announcement regarding AUKUS and the plan to acquire nuclear-powered submarines. As the custodian of Australia's nuclear science, technology, and engineering capabilities and expertise,

ANSTO stands ready to support the Government and Australian industry through the development of this capability.

I also would like to acknowledge the Government's strong support for ANSTO, evident in the announcement of a \$30 million project to design a world-leading, modern nuclear medicine manufacturing facility that will be located on our Lucas Heights campus. The announcement in September 2021 confirms the critical role that ANSTO plays, and will continue to play, in supporting the health of all Australians through the enabling of the early and precise diagnosis and treatment of a range of diseases.

ANSTO also welcomes the November announcement of the site in Kimba, South Australia, as the location for a new National Radioactive Waste Management Facility. That Facility will be critical infrastructure for Australia, allowing ANSTO to focus on its core activities of medicine production, science, and innovation to benefit all Australians.

I am joined today by my colleagues, Dr Miles Apperley, Head of Research Infrastructure and Ms Emily Hodgson, Acting Chief Operating Officer.