

AusYGN

Australian Young Generation in Nuclear

30th January 2018

Hon Stuart Robert MP
Chair, Joint Standing Committee on Treaties
C/O Committee Secretary
Joint Standing Committee on Treaties
Email: jsct@aph.gov.au

Dear Chair,

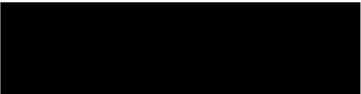
I am writing on behalf of The Australian Young Generation in Nuclear (AusYGN) in my capacity as President, to state its support of the *Agreement between the Government of Australia and the Government of the French Republic Concerning the Reprocessing in France of Australian Irradiated Nuclear Fuel Elements*. AusYGN is dedicated to ensuring all Australians continue to gain the maximum benefit from nuclear science and technology, by engaging and supporting young Australians in the nuclear industry.

Australia is committed to the responsible management of spent fuel generated at the Open Pool Australian Lightwater Reactor (OPAL), located at the Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation (ANSTO). This Agreement has been established to enable safe transport of spent fuel from OPAL to France, and the return of the residual waste once the fuel has been reprocessed. OPAL is utilised for world-class scientific research in health, materials engineering, the environment and also enables numerous industrial applications such as radiopharmaceutical production and silicon irradiation. The Agreement will enable the continuity of such functions, but will importantly ensure the reliable production of nuclear medicine. It is estimated that one in two Australians will benefit from the radiopharmaceuticals produced at ANSTO. This medicine is supplied across Australia with approximately 10,000 doses of life-saving medicine dispatched each week. ANSTO also exports nuclear medicines to a number of regional and global partners. OPAL is a critical piece of Australian scientific infrastructure, and its continued operation not only secures the future of the nuclear science and technology industry within Australia but also ensures the reliability of the international supply of nuclear medicine.

As a result of the wide variety of services and research enabled through the use of the OPAL reactor, it is a critical component in facilitating work for young professionals in diverse careers such as engineering services, mining and mineral processing, research, nuclear medicine and numerous other scientific and enabling services. The ongoing operation of OPAL will ensure that there are continuous opportunities for young professionals seeking careers and professional development in the nuclear industry.

The Agreement between the Governments of Australia and France will facilitate the responsible management and reprocessing of spent fuel from OPAL. This will enable the ongoing operations of OPAL, ensuring it continues to support the Australian and global community through the provision of world-class, nuclear-based research and supply of life-saving nuclear medicine.

Kind regards,



Alexander Borovskis
President, AusYGN