

SENATE ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS LEGISLATION COMMITTEE
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Department of Industry, Science and Resources
Inquiry into the Environment and Other Legislation Amendment (Removing Nuclear Energy Prohibitions) Bill 2022
15 May 2023

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: Department of Industry, Science and Resources

TOPIC: Radioactive waste stored at ANSTO

REFERENCE: Question on Notice (Hansard, 15 May 2023, Page 59)

QUESTION No.: 2

Senator CANAVAN: Where is most of our Commonwealth radioactive waste stored?

Ms Long: I understand that the majority of the waste is currently stored at ANSTO in Lucas Heights.

Senator CANAVAN: How far is Lucas Heights from Sydney's CBD?

Ms Long: I would need to get that on notice.

Senator CANAVAN: Roughly? Is it 20 to 30 kilometres? Pretty close. How long has it been stored there for?

Mr Crawshaw: Sorry, I'll have to take on notice how long it's been at ANSTO.

Senator CANAVAN: Decades and decades.

Mr Crawshaw: At least, yes.

Senator CANAVAN: Has there ever been a safety incident or an issue of radioactive waste at ANSTO?

Mr Crawshaw: I'd have to take that on notice, as well, or just direct it to ANSTO.

ANSWER

The Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation (ANSTO) is a statutory body that is Australia's centre of nuclear science expertise, research and development.

ANSTO advises that the Lucas Heights campus is located 40km south-west of the Sydney Central Business District (CBD).

ANSTO advises that it has safely managed its radioactive waste since its establishment 70 years ago.

ANSTO publishes comprehensive information on its safety performance in its annual reports. Detailed information related to ANSTO's safety record is also available on the ARPANSA website.