

Question on notice no. 3

Portfolio question number: AI-3

2020-21 Additional estimates

Economics Committee, Industry, Science, Energy and Resources Portfolio

Senator the Hon. Kim Carr: asked the Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation on 29 March 2021—

The budget papers (Part 2: Payment Measures, p60) also announce additional funding for ANSTO of \$238.1 million over the forward estimates, "to ensure the long-term safety, quality and reliability of the Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation's core operations, including nuclear medicine production, radioactive waste management, and nuclear decommissioning activities". a.The four-year breakdown of this amount shows a significant drop from the projected funding in 2020-21 (\$74.2M) and 2021-22 (\$71.5m) to the projected funding for the third year, 2022-23 (\$45.9m) . What is the reason for this drop? b.Is the total amount of additional funding sufficient to achieve the goal stated in the budget papers? c.Did ANSTO make a request for additional funding to Treasury before the 2020-21 budget? If so, how much was requested d.What effect has the pandemic had on ANSTO's operations?

Answer —

Please see attachment.

Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources
2020 - 2021 Additional Estimates

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: Australian Nuclear Science & Technology Organisation

OUTCOME:

TOPIC: Funding for ANSTO of \$238.1 million over the forward estimates

REFERENCE: Written Question – Senator Kim Carr

QUESTION DATE: 29 March 2021

QUESTION No.: AI-3

The budget papers (Part 2: Payment Measures, p60) also announce additional funding for ANSTO of \$238.1 million over the forward estimates, *“to ensure the long-term safety, quality and reliability of the Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation’s core operations, including nuclear medicine production, radioactive waste management, and nuclear decommissioning activities”*.

- a. The four-year breakdown of this amount shows a significant drop from the projected funding in 2020-21 (\$74.2M) and 2021-22 (\$71.5m) to the projected funding for the third year, 2022-23 (\$45.9m). What is the reason for this drop?
- b. Is the total amount of additional funding sufficient to achieve the goal stated in the budget papers?
- c. Did ANSTO make a request for additional funding to Treasury before the 2020-21 budget? If so, how much was requested
- d. What effect has the pandemic had on ANSTO’s operations?

ANSWER

- a. The profiling for this additional funding includes allocations in 2020-21 and 2021-22 for the repair and maintenance of the nuclear medicine production facility (Building 23).
- b. Yes.
- c. No. ANSTO did however receive an increase in funding totalling \$49.5 million in the 2019-20 Mid-Year Economic and Fiscal Overview (MYEFO) context.
- d. Like many organisations in Australia, ANSTO’s operations have been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Impacts include: changes in workforce arrangements to protect essential nuclear medicine and reactor staff; limited access to ANSTO’s research infrastructure during lock-down periods and border closures, which particularly impacted New Zealand collaborators’ access to the Australian Synchrotron and disrupted research and commercial projects; and a downturn in external revenue, which has impacted ANSTO’s operating budget. While there were significant freight and logistic challenges in nuclear medicine importation and distribution, due to Australia’s domestic capability in nuclear medicine production, there were no major disruptions in nuclear medicine supply for Australian patients as a result of the operational challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic.