

## ANSTO Opening Statement

Senators, I thank you for the opportunity to offer the committee an opening statement.

In the wake of the National Innovation and Science Agenda, ANSTO begins 2016 with a sense of renewed optimism and excitement. But before I talk about the path ahead I would like to note that 2015 was a very positive year for ANSTO.

In 2015 ANSTO produced its four millionth dose of nuclear medicine at the OPAL reactor since it commenced operation in 2007. Nuclear medicines used in diagnosis and therapy save lives. The key mission of Australia's OPAL reactor is to provide a reliable source of nuclear medicines to hospitals and patients across the nation....

....more broadly this capability speaks to the importance of investing in landmark scientific infrastructure that offers real and ongoing benefits across our entire community.

Last December also saw the successful culmination of the "return of waste" to ANSTO for interim storage. I am proud to say, on behalf of the staff and leadership of Australian agencies that took responsibility for this, that the project went smoothly and was without incident. Australia has been able to meet our international obligations and we have been added to the growing list of countries that can safely transport intermediate level nuclear waste to interim storage with strong community and stakeholder support.

As I noted in opening, we are excited at what 2016 will bring. Over the next 12 months ANSTO will be implementing a strategic agenda designed to highlight innovation and the many economic opportunities that scientific infrastructure dedicated to research and innovation can offer our nation.

As part of the National Innovation and Science Agenda, \$520 million was provided to ensure the long term future of the Australian Synchrotron. This news has been celebrated by the user community, industry and medical research partners and the dedicated staff. It provides a springboard to support the science and innovation agenda.

As the operators of Australian Synchrotron ANSTO is committed to ensuring that

.... the benefits of this multi-user landmark infrastructure, including world leading cancer research and breakthroughs in lung function of newborns using the imaging and medical beamline...

.... and research designed to assist Australian companies to compete more effectively on the world stage...

...are shared as widely as possible.

ANSTO is committed to innovative new technologies that will improve the health of Australians of all ages.

One such technology is particle therapy...

.... a cutting edge treatment that destroys cancer non-invasively using carbon or other charged ions such as protons.

**ANSTO along with other stakeholders in the health and science communities is supporting strategic reflection on the right mix of these new therapies for our setting in Australia.**

I look forward to reporting back to the committee on this investigation and indeed on the many other exciting ANSTO activities that will be unfolding in the months to come.