

Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Industry, Innovation and Science Portfolio
2016 - 2017 Additional Estimates
2 March 2017

AGENCY: AUSTRALIAN NUCLEAR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY ORGANISATION

TOPIC: Annual Production Cycle

REFERENCE: Question on Notice (Hansard, 2 March 2017, page 57)

QUESTION No.: AI-7

Senator LUDLAM: In the interests of time, because there are other senators piling in and we are on the clock a bit, could you provide us on notice with your estimated volume throughput in an annual production cycle, if you will, or disposal cycle—however you will measure the economics whether it is dollars per kilogram of material glassified or whatever your metrics are—just to give us some idea? And then, finally, how long it would take to treat the inventory of waste that would be appropriate for treatment in this manner; that is in the Australian inventory, I guess?

Dr Paterson: We will take that on notice. I will say, however, that there is some commercial interest in these plants from other nuclear medicine facilities so—

Senator LUDLAM: I hope so.

Dr Paterson: we might have to take some care and give you a range of numbers on the cost of the waste.

ANSWER

The volume of Intermediate Level Liquid Waste (ILLW) generated by the new ANSTO Nuclear Medicine (ANM) production facility is estimated to be between 4,500 to 4,700 litres per annum. This volume takes into account ILLW generated from both domestic and export production of molybdenum-99 (Mo-99).

The legacy ILLW inventory at ANSTO from past production of Mo-99 is approximately 13,000 litres. This legacy ILLW will also be processed through SyMo over a period of at least 15 years.

The cost of treatment per volume for SyMo is commercial in confidence due to the anticipated demand for Synroc technology to be exported on a commercial basis.