

Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Industry Portfolio
Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearing 2014-15
23 October 2014

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: Australian Nuclear Science & Technology Organisation

TOPIC: Inventory of current holdings

REFERENCE: Question on Notice (Hansard, 23 October 2014, page 7)

QUESTION No.: SI-2

Senator LUDLAM: That is all right; it was just worth checking. Just one final one from me on notice, as I do not think you will have this with you. Could you table a record for us of all the mineralised ore products—whether they be uranium, mineral sands or rare earth elements—processed and stored on site? I understand that there is a variety of reasons why different people would bring such material to your site, but perhaps you could detail the nature and the source of the product, particularly the volumes and the type of material that is there.

Dr Paterson: If I could ask a question of clarification, I do not understand the concept of 'mineralised'.

Senator LUDLAM: Ore products that might result in mining or mineral processes.

Dr Paterson: In other words, a product that has been mined and has been transported to ANSTO for the purpose of research.

Senator LUDLAM: Yes; whether it is uranium, thorium or zirconium—ores or other mineralised materials, apart from your radio pharmaceutical work and that kind of stuff.

Dr Paterson: You are asking for an inventory of our current holdings; we will provide an inventory.

ANSWER

Classification	Quantity (tonnes)
Uranium ore	15.4
Complex U ores	8.9
Mineral Sands (incl. Zircon & Monazite)	0.2
Rare earth ores	8.0
Niobium / Zirconium ores	16.0
Minor samples for characterisation purposes	0.1

In addition to the above, 162.4m³ of thorium residues from past mineral sands processing operations is stored on site.