

**Senate Standing Committee on Economics**  
**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
Industry, Innovation, Science, Research and Tertiary Education Portfolio  
Additional Estimates Hearing 2011-12  
15 February 2012

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**AGENCY/DEPARTMENT:** AUSTRALIAN NUCLEAR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY ORGANISATION (ANSTO)

**TOPIC:** HIFAR Reactor

**REFERENCE:** Question on Notice (Hansard, 15 February 2012, page 27)

**QUESTION No.:** AI-18

**Senator LUDLAM:** That is what I am going to come to now. Is it too early for me to ask you what the cost is going to be of pulling that facility apart?

**Dr Paterson:** I think the engineering estimates for the moment can be tabled.

**Senator LUDLAM:** Can be?

**Dr Paterson:** But the level of certainty of those estimates improves over time. So there are significant contingencies that are not allocated to specific works at the moment. But we can table that number.

**Senator LUDLAM:** I would greatly appreciate that, and we will not hold you to it. You have told us that there is obviously a range of latitude there.

**ANSWER**

Current engineering estimates put the cost of the project at around \$50 million. This is an early estimation, based on similar projects carried out overseas, and factors in significant contingencies. This figure is expected to be refined as further detailed project planning is carried out over the next two years. The refined cost estimate will be developed using the results of a characterisation study of the reactor, and using experienced consultants in decommissioning and cost estimation. We do not anticipate that the refined cost estimate will exceed the above current estimates.