

Senate Standing Committee on Economics
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Innovation, Industry, Science and Research Portfolio
Budget Estimates Hearing 2011-12
30 May 2011

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: AUSTRALIAN NUCLEAR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY ORGANISATION

TOPIC: HIFAR Reactor

REFERENCE: Question On Notice, (Hansard, 30 May 2011, E10)

QUESTION No.: BI-3

Senator LUDLAM: You have given us an undertaking to take on notice when the dates are for an early and late start. Can you just give us a rough idea what a late commencement would look like? Is that months or years – and I will not hold you to this?

Dr Paterson: For a late approach, the decommissioning activities would be initiated in 2017.

Senator LUDLAM: By 'initiated' you mean that you would apply for a license or you would actually start from—

Dr Paterson: That would be the year that that works would begin.

Senator LUDLAM: Work would begin by sometime in 2017. And an early commencement?

Dr Paterson: At present this would be of the order of two years earlier.

Senator LUDLAM: So 2015 or thereabouts. Over what time frame? How long does it take to pull apart a plant the size of HIFAR?

Dr Paterson: The total decommissioning program has not been worked out in detail, but we will provide on notice a set of time lines during which decommissioning could take place.

ANSWER

We currently anticipate that the physical dismantling process will take around two years. This will obviously be subject to any necessary modification as the detailed planning is undertaken.