

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

**SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE - QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
2005-2006 BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING**

Outcome: ANSTO
Output Group: ANSTO

DEST Question No. E248_06

Senator Carr provided in writing.

Question:

Where is the licensing process up to for the new reactor? Please provide details.

Answer:

Licensing Process for new Reactor

ANSTO has provided the following response:

ARPANSA Facility Licence to construct the reactor (FO0118) remains in force. Under that licence, the CEO of ARPANSA has approved the construction of more than one hundred items important for safety. The construction licence provides for the completion of all reactor construction activities and for the Cold Commissioning, involving demonstration of complete reactor plant operation without nuclear fuel in the reactor.

ANSTO submitted an application for a facility licence to authorise operation of the OPAL Reactor on 13 September 2004. We understand that the application is currently under consideration by ARPANSA, but it would be inappropriate for us to comment in detail on ARPANSA's processes. We note that an international peer review of the application has taken place, the report of which is available on the ARPANSA web site.