

Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Industry, Innovation and Science Portfolio
2015-16 Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearing
22 October 2015

AGENCY: ANSTO

TOPIC: Capital cost for new beamlines

REFERENCE: Question on Notice (Hansard, 22 October 2015, page 38)

QUESTION No.: SI-2

Senator KIM CARR: You mentioned a figure in terms of the capital cost for new beamlines. So if it is eight to 15 for each new beamline, how many are you building a case for? How many are you seeking to actually secure?

Dr Paterson: The next round of the science case has seven beamlines in it. That science case is what I would call a background document to allow us to engage in a conversation with the stakeholder community. It is also put through our science advisory committee, which meets annually, and they also give us guidance on what international best practice is in terms of current developments in beamlines. It therefore is an indicative case. But once capital funding envelopes become available there is a requirement to further engage stakeholders to stratify the resources against the requests and find the most optimal use of the resources to maximise the productivity of our academic and industrial science and engineering users. So there is a conversation with users. There is a series of user groups. As an operator of the facility, we take our user views very, very seriously.

Senator KIM CARR: So if you have a science case for seven extra beamlines, what is the aggregate cost for that?

Dr Paterson: I do not have the full figure in my mind at the moment because they are indicative costs, but I can provide that on notice.

ANSWER

The Australian Synchrotron has identified seven priority new beamlines based on extensive community consultation; these have been approved by the facility's international Science Advisory Committee. An additional beamline optimised for applied/industry research, i.e. delivering the most common techniques of interest to industry and optimised for rapid access is also planned.

The design of these eight beamlines has been refined to the point that indicative costings have been developed. In 2014-15 financial year dollars, the cost for each beamline ranged from \$8.6 million to \$15 million, for a total capital expenditure of \$93 million.