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18 March 2016

Senator Sean Edwards
Chair
Senate Economics Legislation Committee
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Senator Edwards,

I write in relation to the testimony of Dr Adi Paterson at the Estimates hearings conducted by the Senate Economics Legislation Committee on 22 October 2015.

During this hearing Dr Paterson entered into a wide ranging discussion with Senator Kim Carr regarding a range of local and international physics research centres including the Stawell Underground Physics Laboratory in Victoria. In the course of this discussion, Dr Paterson confined his comments to the research into neutrinos conducted at these facilities.

On reflection ANSTO believes it is important to emphasise that facilities such as the Stawell Underground Physics Laboratory will also conduct a range of other vital research activities, particularly in the area of dark matter. Indeed, the first experiments to be undertaken at the facility will concentrate on the detection of dark matter. ANSTO is fully supportive of this ground-breaking research, and believes that facilities like the Stawell Underground Physics Laboratory will play an important role in ensuring that Australia remains at the cutting edge of this internationally recognised field of research.

Yours sincerely

Steve McIntosh
Senior Manager
Government and International Affairs