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Nuclear-based science benefiting all Australians

Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation

Media statement

22 September 2008

Nuclear materials store

ANSTO clarifies media reports today about a proposed new nuclear materials store on its site.

In response to reports in *The Australian* and on ABC radio regarding ANSTO's referral to the Australian Government's Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts of a proposal for a new nuclear materials store, ANSTO wishes to highlight the following:

- The store will consolidate nuclear materials currently held in various locations on site.
- These are mainly materials that have been on the ANSTO site for many years.
- The key reason the new store is needed is to allow for the removal of the security fence and the eventual decommissioning of ANSTO's previous reactor, HIFAR. That security fence must be removed before some of the major activities in preparation for decommissioning, such as demolition of the cooling towers, can be undertaken. In addition, the freed-up space in its existing facilities will also provide ANSTO with the capacity to accommodate waste generated on-site.

ANSTO has safely managed its nuclear and other radioactive material for over the past 50 years and will continue to do so.

For media information please call ANSTO Communications Manager, Nadia Levin (02) 9717 3199 or 0400 394 085.