



Australian Government

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Nuclear-based science benefiting all Australians

Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation

## Media statement

5 November 2009

### Results of nuclear energy poll

ANSTO's web poll attracted 2108 votes over the month it ran - exceeding the interest levels shown in previous ANSTO web polls.

The poll attracted controversy and media attention on 26 October after an unauthorised change to one poll answer by a staff member at ANSTO. The poll was promptly reinstated and a public apology issued.

The final poll result was 71 per cent of voters indicating opposition and 25 per cent support for nuclear energy in Australia. This was a notable turnaround from five days earlier when the results showed a majority of support for nuclear energy at 53 per cent and opposition at 31 per cent.

There was substantial activity in the poll over this period which appears to explain a turnaround in sentiment and a result at odds with other public polls. The evidence for this was an increase in voting to ten times the daily vote rate at 12 votes per day up to 21 October. After that the rate jumped to 124 per day – of which 76 per cent were opposed to nuclear energy.

ANSTO acknowledges that such polls are not scientific and are open to campaigns which attempt to influence their result. Despite this, ANSTO supports public engagement through such mechanisms and will continue to invite expressions of opinion and encourage informed discussion on nuclear topics.

Final results of poll on the question "Should nuclear power be a part of Australia's future energy mix?" were:

For it: 522 (25 per cent)

Sitting on the fence: 29

I need more information: 62

I am against it/no: 1495 (71 per cent)

The results at 21 October prior to a surge in responses was:

For it: 135 (53 per cent)

Sitting on the fence: 9

I need more information: 30

I am against it/no: 80 (31 per cent).

**For more information please contact ANSTO Corporate Communications Manager, Nadia Levin (02) 9717 3199 or 0400 394 085. For more information please contact ANSTO Communications Manager, Nadia Levin (02) 9717 3199 or 0457 505 438.**