ANSTO operates much of our country’s landmark science facilities on behalf of the Federal Government including one of the world’s most modern nuclear research reactors, OPAL, a comprehensive suite of neutron beam instruments, the Australian Synchrotron, the National Imaging Facility Research Cyclotron and the soon to be opened Centre for Accelerator Science used for research into the area of health, environment and innovation for industry.

Our environment
• On average, there is now 17 per cent less rainfall across Western Australia’s south-western region than was recorded prior to 1970. This rainfall reduction has economic, social and environmental implications for the region. Ongoing ANSTO research is using stalagmites from the Golgotha Caves in south-west Western Australia to help unlock thousands of years of rainfall-sensitive data preserved in these structures to help understand what is causing the recent rainfall decrease.
• ANSTO research is helping to understand the age of groundwater aquifers of the Perth Basin and how frequently the water is being replenished, in order to determine how much of the resource is available for use. The Gnangara groundwater system supplies up to 70 per cent of Perth’s potable water during periods of drought. The sustainable use of this important resource is of major importance for future development in and around Perth.
• ANSTO scientists have been studying the groundwater beneath Rottnest Island that supplies around 25 per cent of the Island’s potable water requirements. The information generated will be vital to ensure the resource can be maintained sustainably for future generations.

Enabling innovation for industry
• ANSTO has provided software and technical support for pressure testing of the Dampier to Bunbury Natural Gas Pipeline Expansion Project. This project is a duplication of the existing pipeline to increase capacity. ANSTO’s materials modeling capabilities were used to develop PipeStrain software used on the project to improve safety.
• ANSTO is undertaking work for Chevron as part of a feasibility stage for the Wheatstone Natural Gas Processing Plant Project which could see the construction of a multi-billion dollar gas processing site, between the town of Onslow and the mouth of the Ashburton River in Western Australia. ANSTO is contributing to a study of the coastal geomorphic (or landform) dynamics of the proposed site.
• ANSTO Minerals continues to provide process development support for uranium and rare earth projects managed out of Western Australia and has played an important role in the development of the Lynas Mt Weld project.

For more information about the important work undertaken by ANSTO for the benefit of all Australians or to take a tour of our Lucas Heights (NSW), Camperdown (NSW) or Clayton (Vict) campus’ please call ANSTO’s Government Relations team on 02 9717 3111.

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