Proposed ANSTO Sustainability Changes

To better support its workforce and support financial stability ANSTO is consulting on proposed changes to its capabilities, instruments, activities and staffing requirements, which may affect 2026 merit access offerings.

For more than a year, ANSTO has been working to refresh its priorities - to provide better support for its workforce, support financial stability for the long term and ensure the focus is on the delivery of our core functions and support of national priorities.

To achieve this, the organisation has proposed changes to its capabilities, instruments, activities and staffing requirements, among other measures. Consultation on these proposed measures is currently underway.

The Australian Centre for Neutron Scattering

Proposed cessation of the operation of the Koala Laue diffractometer

- It is proposed to cease operations of this instrument at the end of the 2025 operational cycles and for it not to be available for Merit Access or Commercial Access experiments in 2026.

Proposed cessation of availability of Beryllium-Filter capability on Taipan instrument

- It is proposed to cease operations of this capability at the end of the 2025 operational cycles and for it not to be available for Merit Access or Commercial Access experiments in 2026.

Proposed reduction in the number of operating days for each instrument

- It is proposed to not operate each instrument for 1 cycle of each year (1 cycle is approx. 30 days). This would be an approximate reduction from 225 days to 202 days for the user program (assuming OPAL operates 300 days in a calendar year).

The National Deuteration Facility

The proposed changes would shift the major focus to increasing revenue and reducing controllable costs.

- This would be supported by the introduction of a cost recovery scheme for all international users and the cessation of merit program support for deuteration activities that can be independently undertaken by other organisations, specifically, labelling and purification of proteins.

ACNS & NDF users are advised that some of these proposed ANSTO sustainability measures, under consultation, may affect 2026-1 merit access offerings.

For the ACNS it is proposed to cease operations of the Koala Laue diffractometer and Beryllium-Filter capability on Taipan at the end of the 2025 operational cycles and for it not to be available for Merit Access or Commercial Access experiments in 2026 onwards.

For the NDF it is proposed to transition requests for labelled proteins and requests from international users to a user-pays access program in 2026 onwards.

As no final decision has been made, you may continue to submit proposals. Acceptance and scheduling will be subject to the outcome of consultation.

If you have any queries that relate to Merit Access or Preferred Access beamtime proposals or ACNS or NDF User operations, please contact the ANSTO User Office (user.office.nsw@ansto.gov.au).

ANSTO welcomes stakeholder feedback and questions on the proposed changes via nstfeedback@ansto.gov.au up to 7th November 2025.

These proposed changes are essential to ensuring ANSTO is optimally positioned to continue to deliver the benefits of nuclear science and technology to Australia. Final decisions are anticipated to be advised by December 2025. ANSTO will continue to deliver world-class user programs and research, including capital enhancements to infrastructure.