

Proposed ANSTO Changes - Synchrotron

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 BRIGHT Beamlines – no impact on project

The changes currently being proposed as part of this consultation process do not include changes to the construction, commissioning and operation of the BRIGHT Beamlines.

The Australian Synchrotron User Community and our international partners have committed more than \$100 million towards the construction of eight new BRIGHT Beamlines at the Australian Synchrotron. The Commonwealth government through ANSTO has committed to fund the operation of the new BRIGHT Beamlines to ensure an appropriate return for the investment made by the BRIGHT Funders.

The changes currently being proposed as part of this consultation process do not include changes to the construction, commissioning and operation of the BRIGHT Beamlines.

Proposed cessation of the ANSTO-administered International Synchrotron Access Program (ISAP)

If this proposed change is adopted the International Synchrotron Access Program would cease to operate in early 2026. Existing funding commitments to those with grants already awarded under this program would be honoured.

Proposed cessation of the operation of the Terahertz/Far-Infrared Beamline

It is proposed to cease operation of this instrument at the end of the 2025/3 operational cycle and for it to not be available for Merit Access or Commercial Access experiments in 2026.

Proposed cessation of the operation of the Infrared Microspectroscopy Beamline

It is proposed to cease operations of this instrument at the end of the 2025/3 operational cycle and for it not to be available for Merit Access or Commercial Access experiments in 2026.

Points to note

- All of the currently operating Australian Synchrotron beamlines, including those being considered as part of these proposed changes will operate as normal during the 2025/3 operating cycle.
- Merit Access and Preferred Access proposals currently under review for the 2026/1 operating cycle will be assessed and scheduled as normal. Beamtime notification letters will be sent out as normal in early November

- If a decision is taken to shut down any of our currently operating beamlines, a notification letter will be sent to any affected Users in early December to let them know that their 2026/1 experiment will be cancelled.
- The call for 2026/2 proposals will be extended by 1 week, to close on December 2, 2025.

If you have any queries that relate to Merit Access or Preferred Access beamtime proposals or Australian Synchrotron User operations, please contact the ANSTO User Office (user.office.vic@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.