

Summary of Decided Changes

Following a period of extensive consultation, ANSTO will now move forward with measures to more sustainably achieve its strategic objectives. A summary of the changes follows.

Changes in Nuclear Science and Technology Research Infrastructure

Australian Synchrotron

The BRIGHT beamlines – no impact on project

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 finalised decisions do not include changes to the construction, commissioning, and operation of the BRIGHT beamlines.

Adopted: cessation of the ANSTO-administered International Synchrotron Access Program

The International Synchrotron Access Program will cease to operate in early 2026. Existing funding commitments to those with grants already awarded under this program will be honoured.

Adopted: cessation of the operation of the Terahertz/Far-Infrared beamline

The Terahertz/Far-Infrared beamline instrument will cease operation at the end of the 2025/3 operational cycle and it will not be available for merit access or commercial access experiments in 2026. Discussions are ongoing regarding the formation of a stakeholder funding consortium to externally support operations.

Withdrawn: cessation of the operation of the Infrared Microspectroscopy beamline

Due to increased revenue certainty, the proposal to cease operations of this instrument is withdrawn. The Infrared Microspectroscopy beamline will continue to operate as per usual in 2026.

Adopted: reductions in operational support

The Small- and Wide-Angle X-ray Scattering beamline will continue to operate a full schedule of experiments in 2026. A reduction in the staffing of beamline scientists means from four to three means there will be some scaling back in the types of experiments that will be able to be supported, with some experiment types supported solely on BioSAXS instead.

Australian Synchrotron accelerator operators will continue as the first point of contact to help mitigate beamline issues or outages that occur outside of regular business hours. With this mode of support covering 90% of matters, beamline scientists will no longer be “on-call”, either over the phone or to be recalled to the facility, outside of business hours to fix issues that accelerator operators cannot resolve. The exception to this is that on-call beamline scientist

support will be retained for the BRIGHT Beamlines in their first year of operation, and also for *in vivo* studies on IMBL.

Commercial development activities will now be centralised to ANSTO's business development group with a reduction of 2 staff based at the Australian Synchrotron.

Australian Centre for Neutron Scattering (ACNS)

Adopted: cessation of the operation of the Koala Laue diffractometer

This instrument will cease operation at the end of the 2025-2 operational cycle and will no longer be available for merit access or commercial access experiments in 2026 from 2026-1 proposal round onwards (February 2026).

Adopted: cessation of availability of Beryllium-Filter capability on Taipan instrument

This capability will cease at the end of the 2025 operational cycles and will not be available for merit access or commercial access experiments in 2026 onwards.

Withdrawn new proposal: cessation of the scientific computing support from the ACNS user program

Following further consultation, the proposal to cease scientific computing support has been withdrawn – the activity will continue to operate as per usual in 2026.

Centre for Accelerator Science (CAS)

There is no impact on instrument availability, national capabilities, or user programs. Accelerator utilisation targets and delivery commitments for 2026 remain unchanged.

Adopted: prioritisation of operations as a national user facility

There is no cessation of instruments or core capabilities. CAS will continue to deliver its full suite of accelerator-based analytical capabilities, including accelerator mass spectrometry, ion beam analysis, and accelerator irradiation services. These capabilities remain fully available for merit, commercial and externally funded research programs.

All research proposals will be processed through a single merit access scheme (with limited exceptions, where statutory or contractual obligations apply). Student access through the Australian Institute for Nuclear Science and Engineering (AINSE) will be aligned with the processes used across other ANSTO facilities for the next portal submission cycle (February).

Adopted new proposal: strengthening of cosmogenics research

Following consultation and analysis of operational risks, CAS will implement a workforce realignment to strengthen resilience in accelerator operations and ensure continuity of national significant capabilities.

This includes creating a new accelerator-focused role to ensure continuity of the in situ ¹⁴C capability and support the cosmogenic program.

The National Deuteration Facility (NDF)

There is no cessation of core capabilities at the NDF. The adopted changes will shift the major focus to increasing revenue and reducing controllable costs.

Adopted: the introduction of a cost recovery scheme for all international users

Implementing a partial cost recovery scheme for requests of labelled proteins. While subsidies will be reduced, NDF will still accept labelled protein requests when the NDF unique capabilities are essential. In such cases, these requests will be considered under the NDF free-of-charge access scheme.

Adopted: reducing the subsidy for requests of labelled proteins

Changes in Nuclear Science and Technology Research and Technology Groups

Environment Research and Technology Group

The adopted changes prioritise the group's focus towards environmental research aligned with ANSTO's strategy in areas such as water, climate change, and contaminants. Roles that supported platform activities are no longer part of this group and some will move to the Centre for Accelerator Science.

Commercial activities that are not financially or strategically viable will cease. This change impacts roles involved in the construction of new commercial radon detectors, with radon detector construction being limited to those supporting ANSTO research activity.

Health Research and Technology Group

The adopted changes prioritise the group's research and innovation focus towards nuclear medicines and radiotherapies. This involved the re-structuring of teams, the consolidation of management roles, including the reduction of a senior management role, and the integration of research capabilities to maximise research and development output and enhance collaboration.

Nuclear Materials Research and Technology Group

The adopted changes prioritise the group's focus towards applied materials research that more directly addresses ANSTO operations and future materials challenges, as well as supporting future Australian stakeholder nuclear research requirements. This impacts research roles that are focussed on topics at earlier stages of materials development or reactor system design and also includes reduction of a management role.