



Newsletter

SPECIAL EDITION

May 2018

45 jobs to be created at the National Radioactive Waste Management Facility

The Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation (ANSTO) has completed the proposed workforce design for the National Radioactive Waste Management Facility and advised **the Facility will need 45 staff, in roles including environmental monitoring, community liaison, management, security and safety.** The proposed structure was developed taking into account similar facilities around the world.

ANSTO's Chief Executive Officer, Dr Adi Paterson, said the staffing levels and structure is based on ANSTO's 60 year experience in the industry, and confirmed that the fully scoped range of activities at the Facility will require a larger workforce than the minimum 15 jobs originally announced.

"About two years ago ANSTO indicated that at least 15 operational jobs would be created at the Facility for the undertaking of low level waste disposal – but this did not go to additional regulatory, security and support services or the intermediate waste storage that would be required," Dr Paterson said.

"Given the interest shown by the communities, we were asked to work on the full proposed organisational structure, and we've now provided the Government with advice that 45 staff will be needed at the Facility.

"The Facility will be resourced as a centre of excellence, becoming part of Australia's world-class nuclear science network that includes the OPAL reactor and associated science infrastructure at Lucas Heights in Sydney, the Australian Synchrotron in Melbourne, and other government and medical facilities. The community that hosts it will, based on the Australian and international experience, expect

a regular stream of visiting experts and regulators for decades to come."

Around 26 of the 45 roles will not require any previous experience, but rather will be supported by on-the-job training. Other roles will require qualifications through TAFE or university. Additional opportunities, such as science-based cadetships with ANSTO, would be provided. The majority of the jobs will be filled by the local community, and there is a commitment for a minimum number of Aboriginal jobs that will be provided for within the structure.

The Facility's staff will consist of:

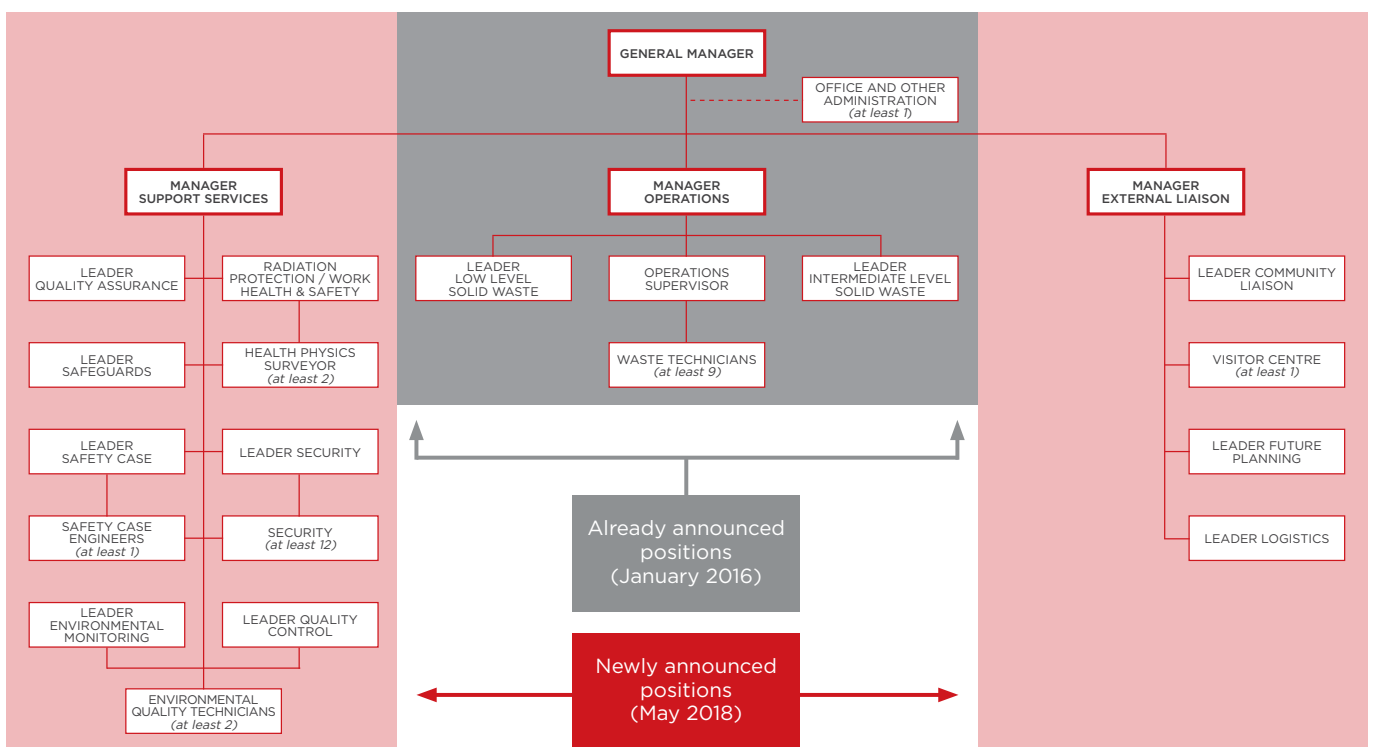
- 14 new security and safeguards jobs
- 13 new roles for waste technicians and in waste operations
- 8 new roles in site management and community outreach
- 5 new jobs in environmental protection and quality control
- 5 new jobs in safety and radiation protection



ANSTO's CEO, Dr Adi Paterson, confirmed the 45 new jobs at the Kimba Gateway Hotel on Thursday 3 May, and Hawker Community Sports Centre on Friday 4 May.

What will staffing look like in practice?

- Of the 45 staff, it is expected that up to 33 would be present on-site at any one time.
- Working hours would vary depending on roles: some would be traditional, others shift work, and some will have an on-call component.
- Importantly, and in line with community feedback during the process, there are no fly-in, fly-out (FIFO) workers in the structure recommended from ANSTO, though scientists and regulators will visit regularly.
- The Facility will operate on a full-time basis throughout the year.
- Some functions such as administration, waste storage and transfer will operate on a normal weekday basis, while others such as security would have a continuous presence.
- All staff will be provided with the necessary on-the-job training needed for the role they hold, such as in radiation protection, or in Work Health and Safety.
- There will also be the opportunity to obtain a number of transferrable skills, including truck and forklift licenses, and certificates in Work Health and Safety and technical qualifications.



Snapshot of roles – which of the 45 jobs could you do?

Waste technicians ensure radioactive waste is properly managed, and would undertake tasks including receiving and preparing it for disposal. They will require no formal qualifications – just a willingness to learn. On-the-job training would be provided.

People in **environmental monitoring roles** will use a range of tools to monitor the facility, ensuring it continues to operate within regulatory guidelines that ensure no possible adverse impacts to the local community, industries or environment.

In **visitor centre and community outreach roles**, people will manage the Facility’s interaction with the community and tourists, performing tasks such as conducting tours and educational experiences with school students, community groups and visiting scientists.

There will also be **management and administrative roles** - just as in any workplace, administration staff will keep the Facility running, overseeing invoices, accounts, diary management, answering the phone and filing.

Preserving cultural heritage

Les Bursill OAM JP, is a Dharawal historian, archaeologist, anthropologist, and publisher. Les has been helping protect the heritage sites around ANSTO for more than 20 years, and visited Wallerberdina Station with Malcolm “Tiger” McKenzie while he was in the area.

“It was wonderful to meet with Adnyamathanha people, and to share with them my experience of preserving my heritage alongside a nuclear facility,” Les said.

“It was interesting to see the technical site works that are underway, which complement the Heritage work that’s been completed, to inform whether this site could be suitable.

“I was deeply impressed at the level of research and care taken to identify any issues with the proposed site itself. This included drilling down more than 100 metres to check the land underneath, work on water studies, and work to ensure the proposed Facility is a substantial distance from any significant sites.”

Tiger McKenzie, co-chair of the Barndioota Economic Working Group, said he was thrilled to meet Les to show him the Adnyamathanha’s land, and talk about the importance of creating local jobs for Aboriginal youths.

“I was happy to meet Les and show him our heritage sites, and talk to him about the positive experience he has had with ANSTO,” Tiger said.

“Now knowing that there will be 45 jobs and that there will be dedicated jobs for Aboriginal people, it shows that this project will be good for families, and particularly the young people – giving them the opportunity to learn a new set of practical skills that will set them up for life.”



(L-R) Community Liaison Officer Zaaheer McKenzie, Les Bursill and Tiger McKenzie, at Wallerberdina Station, Friday 4 May.

In my backyard

SUTHERLAND SHIRE MAYOR TALKS ABOUT REALITIES OF LIVING NEXT DOOR TO A RADIOACTIVE FACILITY

Sutherland Shire Mayor, Carmelo Pesce, visited South Australia earlier this month, meeting with locals and the Mayor of the Kimba Council Dean Johnson, as well as visiting the sites.

“It was great to meet Mayor Johnson, and share the positive experience of having a nuclear facility in my community,” Carmelo said.

“ANSTO is one of the largest employers in the Shire, and we work alongside them on all manner of community projects in a council area that includes 250,000 residents. The ANSTO operations have no impact on land values, local farmers or on the crowds that come to our beautiful beaches, which are located only about 17 kilometres from the reactor and waste stores.

“I would recommend to anyone the chance to have ANSTO be a part of your community.”

Mayor Dean Johnson said he thought the community had many of its questions answered.

“In projects like this, a lot of people have a ‘not in my backyard’ mentality, so it was good to hear from someone who has a facility like this in their own backyard,” Dean said.

“Lots of the questions that have come up relate to ANSTO’s facility in suburban Sydney, so it was interesting to hear from Carmelo how positive his community’s experience has been, and how a federal facility like this contributes to his local area.”



(L-R) Sutherland Shire Mayor Carmelo Pesce meets Kimba Mayor Dean Johnson at the Kimba office.

Reaching the community

The National Radioactive Waste Management Facility would have a number of outreach community programs, which would connect the local and broader community to the work that happens there. **Included in the 45 jobs are roles specifically related to community liaison and the operation of a visitor centre.**

Marian Jones works at the ANSTO Discovery Centre. She said that nuclear facilities attract interest from a whole range of different groups.

“ANSTO welcomes around 15,000 tourists each year, with people full of curiosity about the outcomes and benefits of nuclear science and medicine production,” Marian said.

“This includes school students, community groups, local businesses, international scientists and politicians at all levels, who want to know more about what it is we do.

“We know that there is a lot of nuclear science that people don’t fully understand, so it’s important to take the time to explain the ways it is all done safely, and all the ways it benefits our community.”



Marian Jones at the ANSTO Discovery Centre in Lucas Heights. There will be 5 jobs in community outreach at the Facility.



Nuclear technology boosting Australian farming

ANSTO Senior Researcher, Dr Mathew Johansen gave a presentation at the Kimba Agricultural Breakfast on 4 May, discussing some of the environmental projects ANSTO is conducting that benefit Australia’s agricultural industry.

“ANSTO and the University of South Australia are conducting research helping grain producers optimise their existing methods and adopt new technologies, to help improve crop yields,” Dr Johansen said.

“Fertilisers with zinc are applied to the surface of wheat leaves, to make the fertiliser more effective.

“We also do a considerable amount of water research – both rain and surface water in inland Australia can be unreliable and scarce, so shallow fresh and underground water are critical to support vegetation in our inland environment.

“The study of fresh underground water ‘lenses’ in outback Queensland is helping us to better understand environmental sustainability issues around arid rivers, and could have significant implications for land management.”

The Kimba Agricultural Breakfast was a great opportunity to bring together farmers and nuclear scientists, to discuss complementary areas of focus and research. Several areas of research relevant to local growers were discussed.

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