

December 12 2009

Senator Kim Carr
Minister for Victoria
Minister for Innovation, Industry, Science and Research
senator.carr@aph.gov.au



Dear Senator Carr

Australian Synchrotron Science

I am writing as President of the Australian Neutron Beam Users Group (ANBUG) to offer our unqualified support for the scientific program conducted at the Australian Synchrotron. ANBUG represents around 300 users of the neutron beam instruments at the OPAL reactor in Sydney, as well as at international facilities. A large number of ANBUG members make use of the beamlines at the Australian Synchrotron and the recent events in Melbourne were discussed at the ANBUG annual meeting held in Sydney December 9.

Australian science has benefited enormously from the decisions to construct both the OPAL reactor and Australian Synchrotron. These two landmark facilities provide Australian scientists and engineers with key infrastructure and have transformed the quality of the research conducted in this country. These two facilities have a lot in common; most particularly both aim to support world class research using a variety of instruments or beamline. This research is conducted by both internal and external users including staff and students from Australian Universities as well as researchers from National Laboratories, such as CSIRO, ANSTO and DSTO. Industry also utilizes these facilities. These external users are attracted by the quality of the beam instruments and the support offered by the scientists working at the facility.

ANBUG asserts that the facilities at the Australian Synchrotron are essential for future research. The rapid commissioning of the Australian Synchrotron and the associated beamlines is testament to the commitment of the Australian Scientific community. We believe the continued success of the Australian Synchrotron is vital for the future of scientific research and training in Australia.

The Australian Synchrotron has demonstrated the ability of Australian researchers to collaborate to develop world class scientific infrastructure. It is essential that the facility continue to receive full support from Government at this critical time. We urge you to remain committed to the ongoing operation of the Australian Synchrotron and to work with all interested parties to develop a sustainable funding and governance model.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Brendan Kennedy'.

Professor Brendan J Kennedy
President ANBUG
<http://www.anbug.org/>