



## Summary of ANSTO-ARPANSA Liaison Forum (AALF) Meeting

6 September 2023 3:30 pm – 5:00 pm, ANSTO Lucas Heights

### Participants:

ARPANSA	ANSTO
Dr Gillian Hirth, CEO	Mr Shaun Jenkinson, CEO
Mr Jim Scott, Chief Regulatory Officer	Ms Emily Hodgson, Acting Chief Operating Officer
Mr Vaz Mottl, Director, Facility Safety	Mr Hefin Griffiths, Chief Nuclear Officer
Mr Andrew McCormick, Senior Regulatory Officer	Mr Jakob Vujcic, General Manager, Regulatory & Governance
	Mr Con Lyras, Chief Engineer
	Ms Pamela Naidoo-Ameglio, Group Executive Nuclear Operations and Nuclear Medicine (virtual)
	Ms Ciara Collins, Manager Regulatory Affairs and Compliance
	Dr David Child, Acting Leader Centre for Accelerator Science

### Strategic Overview from ARPANSA

ARPANSA's resourcing continues to be affected by its support of AUKUS and recruitment challenges. As a consequence, ARPANSA will review its inspection program over the next 6 – 12 months to reflect the resources that are available to complete the work required.

The Regulatory Services Branch is undertaking a review of business processes to implement a graded approach to assessments and inspections.

ARPANSA will shortly launch a new Regulatory Administration Database to replace the current system. The new portal will facilitate the tracking of submissions and reporting.

ARPANSA has established a new section focusing on Waste, Transport and Decommissioning. Recruitment is underway.

ARPANSA will host the follow-up Integrated Regulatory Review Service (IRRS) mission in October 2023.

A second safety culture assessment of ARPANSA has commenced. This assessment will be conducted by an external consultant.

## **Strategic Overview from ANSTO**

ANSTO reiterated its strategic objectives noting that the organisation is guided by the ANSTO Act to deliver on Australia's priorities for the benefit of people, industry and the environment.

ANSTO acknowledged challenges associated with resourcing and recruitment both now and into the future. ANSTO noted that it is committed to working with relevant Commonwealth agencies to help attract people into the nuclear industry.

ANSTO has worked over the last six months to develop the top 5 items to be focused on by the organisation on top of business critical activities. These were shared with ARPANSA.

## **HIFAR Decommissioning Licence Public Forum**

The HIFAR Decommissioning Licence Application has been received by ARPANSA. The date for the public forum has been set for 9 October 2023 and will be held virtually.

Regulatory review of the application has commenced and will include public consultation input as required by the ARPANS Act.

## **Nuclear Medicine Facility**

A business case has been developed for a new Nuclear Medicine Facility and detailed design of the facility is currently underway.

## **Camperdown Facility**

During the previous ANSTO-ARPANSA Liaison Forum, ANSTO indicated that it planned to submit a Decommissioning Licence Application in 2023. However, this is no longer the case and the timing of the submission is currently under review.

## **Intermediate Level Waste Capacity Increase**

Design work is continuing for the Intermediate Level Waste Capacity Increase to allow ANSTO to progress to a Construction Licence Application. This application is expected to be made in 2024.

Site investigations are being planned to allow for site preparation to begin. ANSTO will keep ARPANSA informed of works planned.

## **OPAL Shutdown 2024**

The main purpose for the shutdown is to replace some components of the cold neutron source. The shutdown is scheduled to commence in March 2024. Submissions are under ANSTO internal review and expected to be submitted to ARPANSA shortly.

## **SyMo Operating Licence Application**

SyMo Operating licence is currently in ANSTO internal review and expected to be submitted to ARPANSA this year. An update on cold commissioning was provided.

## **NRWMF Siting Decision**

Although ANSTO is not a long-term waste storage facility, ANSTO has assessed its storage capacity for the foreseeable future and operations can continue safely until there is an offsite location to store waste.

## **Compliance**

ANSTO detailed a number of improvements that have been made in the Centre for Accelerator Science following a recent breach. Sharing of lessons learnt across divisions was noted as a positive development.

## **Other business**

### ***OPAL Riser Update:***

ARPANSA is reviewing the Riser Structural Assessment. ANSTO has implemented mitigations and will continue to engage with ARPANSA on the development of options and appropriate safety case adaptations.

## **Next meeting**

The next meeting will be held at ARPANSA's Sydney Office in February 2024.