



# ARPANSA's public consultation process

## Questions and answers

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<b>Q1</b>	<b>Why is ARPANSA consulting the public?</b>
<b>A1</b>	The ARPANSA public consultation process seeks feedback from interested stakeholders regarding the radiological safety of licence applications for prescribed facilities, and this includes the public. Although there is no requirement for ARPANSA to conduct public consultation on the Controlled Industrial Facility, ARPANSA seeks to invite public feedback on this application prior to a decision being made on the construction licence application.
<b>Q2</b>	<b>How does ARPANSA assess licence applications?</b>
<b>A2</b>	Details of ARPANSA's robust regulatory assessment process can be found on our website <a href="#">How will my application be assessed?   ARPANSA</a>
<b>Q3</b>	<b>What will ARPANSA do with submissions received?</b>
<b>A3</b>	ARPANSA will document and analyse all information gathered during the consultation period and, where relevant, use it to inform the decision whether to issue a licence. We will also use insight from the consultation to improve how we work with our stakeholders and to encourage our licence applicants and holders to do the same.
<b>Q4</b>	<b>Who can participate in the public consultation?</b>
<b>A4</b>	Anyone can participate in the public consultation process including individuals, organisations, industry representatives and advocacy groups.
<b>Q5</b>	<b>If I am seeking to make a submission, what should it cover?</b>
<b>A5</b>	Only submissions related to radiological safety can be considered as part of ARPANSA's decision-making process because of the agency's role as the independent regulator of Commonwealth entities that use or produce radiation.
<b>Q6</b>	<b>What if I have a concern related to a non-radiological topic?</b>
<b>A6</b>	If you have a concern that is outside of the remit of ARPANSA's jurisdiction, for example non-radiological issues such as socio-economic, political, health or environmental impacts unrelated to radiation, the relevant regulatory body should be contacted and/or the Australian Submarine Agency for information.
<b>Q7</b>	<b>Will ARPANSA publish my submission?</b>
<b>A7</b>	ARPANSA will group the submissions into themes and publish a summary report which will inform stakeholders of the licensing decision and how public concerns were taken into account in this process. ARPANSA will not publish individual's names or contact details for privacy reasons.
<b>Q8</b>	<b>Why has the full licence application not been published?</b>

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A8	<p>The ASA is responsible for providing information to ARPANSA to publish for public consultation. As the site is an operational navy base, and the proposed operations will interface with vessels owned and operated by AUKUS partner nations, there are constraints on ASA regarding what information they are permitted to release.</p> <p>ARPANSA has aimed to balance the national security restrictions placed on ASA with the decision to consult the public regarding this licence application. ARPANSA is satisfied that the documents provide an appropriate and accurate summary of the proposed facility and licence requirements to allow for external stakeholders to make comment.</p>
Q9	<b>Does the scope of the licence application cover visiting nuclear-powered submarines to HMAS Stirling?</b>
A9	No, ARPANSA does not regulate visiting nuclear-powered submarines.
Q10	<b>How can the public be assured of the safety of visiting nuclear-powered submarines to HMAS Stirling?</b>
A10	<p>Visits to HMAS <i>Stirling</i> by nuclear-powered vessels including submarines are overseen by the long-established Defence led cross-governmental panel known as the Visiting Ships Panel (Nuclear). ARPANSA is a member of this panel. This panel has established procedures to ensure the public and the environment's safety during visits from nuclear-powered vessels. These procedures include conditions of entry to the port, radiation monitoring, and contingency arrangements in the unlikely event of an incident resulting in the release of radioactivity to the environment. More information on these existing contingency arrangements can be found here: <a href="#">State Hazard Plan Hazmat Annex A Nuclear Powered Warship</a>.</p>
Q11	<b>Will ARPANSA remain the regulatory authority for radiological and nuclear safety for the Australian Submarine Agency?</b>
A11	No. The new Australian Naval Nuclear Power Safety Regulator (ANNPSR) is due to be established in late 2025. A transition bill will enable the transfer of any licences issued by the CEO of ARPANSA to this new Regulator.