



Summary of ANSTO-ARPANSA Liaison Forum (AALF) Meeting

14 May 2025 2:30 pm – 4 pm, ANSTO Lucas Heights

Participants:

| ARPANSA | ANSTO |
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| Dr Gillian Hirth, CEO | Mr Shaun Jenkinson, CEO |
| Mr Jim Scott, Chief Regulatory Officer | Ms Emily Hodgson, Group Chief Financial Officer |
| Dr Samir Sarkar, Principal Advisor safety and Knowledge Management (virtual) | Mr Hefin Griffiths, Chief Nuclear Officer (virtual) |
| Ms Christina Arthur, Director, Waste Transport and Decommissioning | Mr Jakob Vujcic, General Manager, Regulatory & Governance |
| Mr Vaz Mottl, Director, Facility Safety | Ms Jasmine Reay, Group Executive Infrastructure and Engineering Services |
| | Ms Pamela Naidoo-Ameglio, Group Executive Nuclear Operations and Nuclear Medicine |
| | Ms Jade Greenhalgh, Senior Manager, Regulatory Affairs & Compliance |
| | Ms Elyssia Gasparotto, Regulatory Affairs Manager |

Strategic Overview from ARPANSA

ARPANSA staffing levels have increased over the last few months which has resulted in several new appointments of inspectors. Knowledge planning and staff development is a priority. Upcoming inspections, site visits and assessments will continue to be managed by experienced regulatory officers who will be accompanied by less experienced inspectors to build relationships with ANSTO. Transfer of licensing responsibilities to new staff will be implemented gradually.

Another strategic priority for ARPANSA is understanding ANSTO's priorities and delivery with the associated timeframes.

The Regulatory Administration Database (RAD) system is now in use and involves significant change. The RAD system still has some implementation issues. However, ARPANSA continues to work to address these issues as quickly as possible. ANSTO is encouraged to use the system portal and ARPANSA will continue to assist with the training of ANSTO staff and developing the user experience with the RAD system.

An overview of the ARPANSA CEO's recent visit to the Finnish underground nuclear waste repository was presented.

The ARPANSA inspection programme for the ANSTO facility licences was outlined. The number of inspections has increased, and this trend will continue. ARPANSA will share the inspection schedule with ANSTO and will provide sufficient notice before each inspection or site visit. ARPANSA does not want to impede on licences and will negotiate a suitable time for both ARPANSA and ANSTO where key staff are not available.

Updates on major regulatory assessment progress

The OPAL reactor riser submission to request a change in the riser design criteria is nearing completion and it is expected that the decision will be made by the end of May. The removal of the licence conditions imposed on the OPAL reactor due to the First Reactor Protection System upgrade approval in 2024 will also be completed within the same time frame.

Decisions on ANSTO's Synchrotron submissions requesting an extension of a licence condition and removing another licence condition are expected to be made in late May.

The CAS licence amendment is under review and the review of the updated safety case will continue to progress.

The application regarding Building 45 on the Secondary Standards Dosimetry Lab Building is in the final stage of the internal review and approval process.

ARPANSA has been working with ANSTO Health Products and the ANSTO Nuclear Medicine facility to set regulatory expectations for the periodic safety and security reviews (PSSR) for these facilities. Practical timeframes and expectations will be considered. ANSTO has requested a workshop for ANSTO and ARPANSA representatives on the scope and timelines.

Action: A workshop on the scope of ANSTO Health and ANM PSSR is to be organised by ARPANSA in conjunction with the ANSTO facility personnel and Regulatory and Governance group.

Strategic Overview from ANSTO

ANSTO gave an update on changes within their organisation. The changes will involve the nuclear medicine production group, other products and services e.g. silicon neutron doping and minerals, research, and national infrastructure. Amongst other things, the change will affect some projects and their prioritisation. How much of the changes will be carried out at any given time will be considered with a core focus on affordability and delivery. Despite the pressure on funding, ANSTO will not compromise on safety or compliance and resource appropriately. If funding is not forthcoming the prioritisation list will be considered to determine what is stopped. Consultation would be required to explain risks associated with any changes to capability.

ANSTO structural changes are being considered, and they may involve the executive management structure. ANSTO gave ARPANSA assurance that safety, security and functionality remain the highest priority in the changes.

ANSTO presented updates on their current projects.

The public consultation on the Nuclear Medicine Manufacturing Facility held on 30 April was discussed. A new date for the facility operation is now estimated to be 2034. The Intermediate Level Waste Capacity Increase project environmental risk assessment was reported to be nearly complete. The submission to ARPANSA is estimated to be lodged in November to December 2025.

The related SyMo project associated with the ARPANS Regulation section 63 change on liquid waste transfer using a flask is expected to be ready for submission to ARPANSA early next financial year 2025-26. This will be followed by the cold commissioning report in August to September 2025.

The Camperdown facility decommissioning licence application has been delayed by approximately six months due to a need to include additional activities in the project scope. The project has been submitted to the Department of Climate Change, Energy the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) and their report will be provided to ARPANSA. It is now estimated that the application for the decommissioning licence will be submitted to ARPANSA in May 2026.

Action: ANSTO to provide a copy of the Camperdown facility DCCEEW assessment report to ARPANSA.

Other business

ARPANSA shared details of the upcoming RAD Portal Workshop and the Licence Holder Forum which will be held on the 29 and 30 May 2025 in Canberra.

The next AALF meeting is aimed to be held in mid-November 2025.