



# Radiation Health Committee

## Meeting Minutes

<b>Date</b>	25 – 26 November 2025
<b>Time</b>	9:00 AM – 5:00 PM (25 November) 8:30 AM – 12:00 Noon (26 November)
<b>Location</b>	NSW EPA, 6 Parramatta Square, Parramatta, NSW (25 November) NSW EPA, 252 Pitt Street, Sydney, NSW (26 November)
<b>Members</b>	Dr Joanna Wriedt (Chair), Dr Gillian Hirth (CEO of ARPANSA), Ms Fay Bellis, Mr Tom Sullivan, Mr Stuart Parr, Mr Simon Critchley (QLD), Ms Hazel Upton (WA), Mr David Kruss (SA), Mr Glenn Riley (VIC), Mr Nehal Ahmed (TAS, Virtual), Mr Bradley Feldtman (NT, Virtual)
<b>Observers and Presenters</b>	Mr Len Potapof (NSW), Mr Radomir Krsteski (ACT), Mr Brett Purdue (ACT), Mr Ryan Gilchrist (ANNPSR), Ms Sarah Longo (DHDA), Ms Tone Doyle (ARPANSA), Mr Blake Orr (ARPANSA), Ms Amy Macintosh (ARPANSA), Mr Jim Scott (ARPANSA, Items 1 – 9.3), Ms Christina Arthur (ARPANSA, Items 1- 5), Mr Samir Sarkar (ARPANSA, Virtual, Items 3.1, 3.2, 8 – 9.2), Mr Erin McWilliams (ARPANSA, Virtual, Items 3.2 – 3.3), Mr Toby Beveridge (ARPANSA, Virtual, Items 3.4 – 3.6), Mr John Ward (ARPANSA, Virtual, Items 7.1 – 7.3), Ms Prachi Batra (ARPANSA, Virtual, Item 7.3), Mr Chris Nickel (ARPANSA, Virtual, Item 7.3), Mr James DeCorrado (ARPANSA, Virtual, Item 5), Mr Cameron Lawrence (ARPANSA, Virtual, Items 3, 6), Mr Johnathan Szentas (ARPANSA, Virtual, Item 15), Ms Beth Jackson-Hope (ARPANSA, Virtual, Item 15), Prof Ken Karipidis (ARPANSA, Virtual, Item 13), Ms Zoe Thomas (Monash University, Virtual, Item 13), Mr Martin Bowles (NSW, Item 13), Mr Ted Haldane (VIC, Virtual), Ms Alexis Kelly (VIC, Virtual, Items 3, 6, 7), Ms Susan Zhao (VIC, Virtual, Items 1 – 9.3), Mr Ian Cunninghame (DHDA, Virtual), Mr James Abbott (DHDA, Virtual, Items 3 – 5, 10 – 12), Ms Carly Cilento (SA, Virtual, Item 7), Ms Maya Cooper (SA, Virtual, Item 7), Ms Kavitha Srinivasan (SA, Virtual, Item 7), Mr Paul Reid (SA, Virtual, Item 7), Mr Raj Sardana (SA, Virtual, Item 7), Ms Misha Richards (SA, Virtual, Item 7), Mr Ian Yorke (SA, Virtual, Item 7), Ms Hani Romani (SA, Virtual, Item 7), Ms Amanda Fortenier (ARWA, Virtual, Item 8), Dr Jane Canestra (Council, Items 10 – 16), Mr Mark Carey (NSW/Council, Items 10 – 16), Mr John Piispanen (QLD/Council Items 10 – 16), Ms Tracy Ward (NT/Council, Items 10 – 16), Mr Chris Perry (Council, Items 10 – 16), Ms Melissa Holzberger (Council, Items 10 – 16), Mr Michael Denison (Council, Items 10 – 16), Prof Pam Sykes (Council, Items 10 – 16), Prof Catherine Olsen (Council, Items 10 – 16), Dr Laura-Lee Innes (Council, Virtual, Items 10 – 16).
<b>Secretariat</b>	Dr Arne Biesiekierski, Mr, Louis Casey, Mr James Wheaton

## 1 – Meeting Open and Housekeeping

The Chair acknowledged the Burramattagal people of the Dharug clan as the Traditional Owners and Custodians of the land on which the meeting was held, paying respects to their Elders past and present. The Chair welcomed observers in the room from the New South Wales (NSW) Environment Protection Authority (EPA), the Australian Capital Territory (ACT) Health and Community Services Directorate, the Commonwealth Department of Health, Disability and Ageing (DHDA), the Australian Naval Nuclear Power Safety Regulator (ANNPSR), and the Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency (ARPANSA), as well as other observers online. New South Wales (NSW) Environment Protection Authority (EPA) staff were thanked for their efforts hosting the meeting.

The Radiation Health Committee (RHC) reviewed all outstanding tasks. The published June 2025 minutes were noted. No potential conflicts of interest were declared.

### 1.1 – Correspondence Received

The Chair tabled a letter from the NSW EPA regarding the use of unsealed radioactive sources in medicine and implications for regulation and licencing. This topic was noted as partly under discussion in the revision of Radiation Protection Series (RPS) 14.2 - *Safety Guide for Radiation Protection in Nuclear Medicine*. The RHC agreed to discuss this item further at its next meeting and invite the NSW EPA to participate in the RPS 14.2 working group.

Separately, the Chair tabled for circulation correspondence received from a personal colleague on the Nuclear Safety Committee, relating to radiation safety competencies.

## 2 – Draft RHC 2026 Workplan

The RHC discussed its draft 2026 workplan and key priorities for future work, including potential updates to existing codes such as *RPS 9 - Code of Practice and Safety Guide for Radiation Protection and Radioactive Waste Management in Mining and Mineral Processing* or *RHS 24 - Code of practice for the design and safe operation of non-medical irradiation facilities*, and new potential documents such as guidance for managing orphan sources or radiation shielding. The RHC requested jurisdictions share their existing shielding guidance for consideration but agreed to not add further items to the workplan until existing items are completed, noting a revised RPS 9, a national Glossary of Terms, and guidance on radiation shielding as priority items. The RHC agreed to amend the draft workplan to reflect these priorities.

**Decision:** No further items will be added to the RHC 2026 Workplan until existing items are completed, with a revised RPS 9, National Glossary of Terms, and radiation shielding guidance as priority items for future consideration.

**Task:** ARPANSA to finalise 2026 Workplan and table it at the next meeting for further discussion.

**Task:** NSW and VIC to share material relating to Radiation Shielding where possible.

## 3 – Radiation Protection Series (RPS) Updates

### 3.1 – Updates to Competent Authority Details in RPS C-2 (Rev. 1)

The RHC discussed the currency of listed contacts for Competent Authorities listed under Schedule B1 of *RPS C-2 (Rev. 1) - Code for the Safe Transport of Radioactive Material*, and

options to update these details. Noting the Code may be revised next year, it was agreed to only update contact details on ARPANSA's website, with annual reviews thereafter.

**Task:** ARPANSA to update the list of Competent Authorities on the ARPANSA website.

### 3.2 – Radioactive Waste Management Code

The RHC discussed the draft Project and Document Plan (PDP) for the cost-shared Radioactive Waste Management Code. This included consideration of key stakeholders such as in the defence and medical industries, as well as potential lead and contributing authors for the working group. The RHC discussed the availability of contracted authors to commence and complete work in a short timeframe, the need for relevant unique knowledge and experience including in radiation regulation and specific legacy waste, mining industry implications, and naturally occurring radioactive material (NORM) and other issues which will be key considerations in the formation of a draft code. The RHC discussed management of any conflicts of interests through existing statutory committee structures. The RHC recommended minor inclusions in the draft PDP, to accommodate discussed matters, and requested circulation out-of-session for endorsement.

**Task:** ARPANSA to circulate amended draft PDP out of session, including changes recommended in the meeting.

### 3.3 – Exemption and Clearance Guide

ARPANSA presented on the outcomes of a webinar on the proposed Exemption and Clearance Guide, which over 100 people attended, and covered the sources, processes, and content to be used in drafting a Guide. Attendees provided valuable feedback on the proposed content and direction of the guide, and interested participants were invited to nominate for a focus group for later targeted consultation.

### 3.4 – 3.6 – Revision of Medical Safety Guides

ARPANSA presented a brief update on the progress three working groups revising the safety guides under the modernised *RPS C-5 - Code for Radiation Protection in Medical Exposure*; these were *RPS 14.1 - Safety Guide for Radiation Protection in Diagnostic and Interventional Radiology*, *RPS 14.2 - Safety Guide for Radiation Protection in Nuclear Medicine*, and *14.3 - Safety Guide for Radiation Protection in Radiotherapy*. It noted successful recruitment of working group participants from relevant professional colleges, with reviews of existing safety guides and preparation of new material underway, targeting RHC review in June 2026.

### 3.7 – Revision of X-Ray Equipment Code

ARPANSA presented an update on the progress of the working group preparing a revised X-Ray Equipment Code to modernise and unify the existing *RHS 9 - Code of practice for protection against ionizing radiation emitted from X-ray analysis equipment*, *RHS 21 - Revised statement on cabinet X-ray equipment for examination of letters, packages, baggage, freight and other articles for security, quality control and other purposes*, and *RHS 22 - Statement on enclosed X-ray equipment for special applications*. It noted recruitment of a contracted lead author, and an initial working group meeting on content and structure of the planned Code including technologies for consideration. A gap analysis is being undertaken to ensure alignment with *RPS C-1 - Code for Radiation Protection in Planned Exposure Situations*.

#### 4 – NHMRC Recreational Water Guidelines

ARPANSA presented a draft chapter on radiological hazards for the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) *Guidelines on Managing risks in Recreational Water*, with technical documentation to support interpretation. The draft incorporates prior feedback from RHC members and recommended a reference level of 10 millisieverts (mSv) per year. RHC noted that the NHMRC expects to proceed to public consultation on the wider Guidelines from mid-January, and members were invited to comment further through this process. The RHC discussed challenges and scenarios for applying the guidelines, and potential guidance for sampling methodologies to support recreational water monitoring.

#### 5 – Potassium Iodide Technical Report and Advisory Note to RPS G-3

The RHC considered a draft Advisory note on the use of potassium iodide during a radiological or nuclear emergency, for inclusion under *RPS G-3 - Guide for Radiation Protection in Emergency Exposure Situations*. It noted feedback from targeted consultation, including with jurisdictions and federal agencies, and endorsed the advisory note for publication in support of RPS G-3 with supporting changes to the RPS G-3 landing page. It also considered undertaking further consultation with wider government, noting concurrent work on the Australian Radiological and Nuclear Event Plan (AUSRNEPLAN).

**Decision:** RHC endorsed publication of the advisory note in support of RPS G-3 alongside supporting website changes.

#### 6 – Member to Represent the Interests of the General Public

The Member spoke to a tabled paper noting the recent agreement between Australia and the United States to promote mining and refining of rare earths and other critical minerals. The RHC discussed the potential impacts on radiation protection within Australian regulatory jurisdictions, including regulatory capacity for new approvals, and whether refining activities would represent a novel risk compared to similar challenges faced in mineral sands and uranium mining. Most jurisdictions noted existing frameworks are established for other mineral resources would remain appropriate for rare earth extraction. The RHC agreed to consider this issue when revising RPS 9 (the mining code) and during drafting of the new radioactive waste management code.

**Decision:** RHC to consider rare earth refining in drafting of radioactive waste management code, and in any future revision of RPS 9.

**Decision:** RHC did not endorse establishing a watching brief on this topic at this time.

#### 7 – Regulatory Knowledge Sharing

NSW EPA presented on its regulatory structure and radiation protection activities. The RHC discussed the use of regulatory infringement notices, and state-specific approaches to community-led emergency response in remote locations.

The NSC crossover Member presented on the principles and methodology used in radiological safety assessments of nuclear facilities. The RHC discussed how this may be applied to broader radiological safety assessments, and efforts to develop a national approach to risk assessments.

ARPANSA presented on two recent publications; the updated Holistic Safety Guide, detailing the motivation for changes to the previous version; and the 2022 Australian Radiation Incident Register (ARIR) Summary Report, noting key findings and current reporting timelines and format.

The RHC discussed the reporting of radiation incidents, including the alignment of State and Commonwealth incident reporting formats, and ARPANSA's new Regulatory Administration Database (RAD), requesting an update on RAD at the next meeting.

The RHC also discussed challenges in validating the experience of regulatory staff in recruitment.

Tasmania presented on progress towards the exemption of Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) registered Medical Radiation Practitioners (MRPs) within their jurisdiction. This exemption would apply to AHPRA-registered MRPs with no other conditions on their national registration.

**Decision:** RHC requested an update on ARPANSA's Regulatory Administration Database at its next meeting.

## **8 – Australian Radioactive Waste Agency (ARWA) – Radioactive Waste Management**

ARWA presented on its current areas of work, including updates to the 2018 Australian Waste Management Framework, accounting for changes to the radioactive waste landscape since 2018; its development of draft principals for the decommissioning of facilities; its publication of the latest inventory of radioactive waste in temporary storage and projected for the future, including challenges, purpose, and future improvements to captured information; and its request for information (RFI) on the management of radioactive waste for near-surface disposal. Mr Stuart Parr recused himself for the duration of the discussion regarding the RFI, declaring an interest relating to his employment as a Radiation Safety Officer for the disposal site at Mt Walton in Western Australia.

## **9 – New and Other Issues**

### **9.1 – Incidents involving material covered by clause 107f of the RPS C-2 (Rev. 1)**

The RHC discussed the challenges of incidents arising during transport of naturally occurring radioactive material (NORM) at concentrations and quantities that are exempt under clause 107f, but are above exemption levels set in the National Directory for Radiation Protection. The RHC agreed this could be addressed in a revision of the Transport Code, following the expected publication of the IAEA's Specific Safety Requirements (SSR) 6 - *Regulations for the Safe Transport of Radioactive Material* expected early next year.

**Decision:** The raised issue was noted, to be considered in greater detail when the IAEA's *Regulations for the Safe Transport of Radioactive Material* (SSR-6) is finalised and Australian adoption is being considered.

### **9.2 – Revalidation of Type B(U) Transport Containers**

The RHC discussed the extent to which other jurisdictions undertook revalidation of Type B(Unilateral) transport containers for radioactive materials, with several jurisdictions noting they had recently undertaken this revalidation. ARPANSA also provided reference to a 2020 advisory note providing guidance on this matter available on the ARPANSA website.

**Decision:** The issue was noted.

### **9.3 – Update to AS/NZS 2982 Laboratory design and construction**

The RHC noted that the Australian and New Zealand Standard *AS/NZS 2982 Laboratory Design and Construction* was currently undergoing review with the standards committee accepting

public comment until early December 2025.

**Decision:** The issue was noted.

## **10 – Opening of Joint Meeting with the Radiation Health and Safety Advisory Council (the Council)**

The RHC continued in a joint sitting with the Council from 8:30 am on 26 November 2025. The RHC Chair chaired the joint meeting. The Chair acknowledged the Traditional Owners of the land, the Gadigal people of the Eora nation, and paid respects to their Elders past and present. Observers were welcomed and NSW EPA staff were thanked for their efforts hosting the RHC and Council.

## **11 – CEO Update on ARPANSA**

The CEO of ARPANSA provided an update to the RHC and Council on recent ARPANSA activities. These included, but were not limited to: recent work with Australian Border Force (ABF) to amend import permit requirements,; regulatory activities; medical radiation activities; international engagement including attendance at the IAEA General Conference; and ongoing support to the new Australian Naval Nuclear Power Safety Regulator (ANNPSR) that was established on 1 November 2025.

The combined session discussed international engagement on emergency preparedness, including the challenges of establishing protocols for engagement in different cultures and countries. It also discussed the benefits of regulatory communities of practice.

### **11.1 – Update on Advisory Bodies**

ARPANSA's CEO provided an update on the recent activities of the Nuclear Safety Committee (NSC), and the respective Chairs of RHC and Council provided updates on the recent activities of their advisory bodies. The NSC had met the previous week and discussed the licensing of regulated facilities including for radioactive waste, the handover of prescribed activities from ARPANSA to ANNPSR, and outcomes of an IAEA emergency preparedness exercise.

The RHC Chair related key points of discussion from items tabled on the preceding day (Items 1 – 9 of these minutes); the forward workplan, updates to RPS documents, and transport of radioactive material were highlighted.

The Council Chair noted consultation with industry stakeholders on emerging issues and workforce challenges, and engagement with jurisdictional radiation safety advisory bodies on issues such as the Safe Work Australia deemed diseases list and approaches to a national framework for radiation safety competency requirements; discussed a recent journal publication regarding the registration of keratinocyte skin cancers lead-authored by a Council member; considered how to apply United Nations Sustainable Development Goals to radiation protection, discussed initiatives that are being explored to reprocess radioactive mine tailings waste to extract radionuclides for medical applications, and examined risks and governance for Artificial Intelligence (AI).

### **11.2 – Media Enquiries**

ARPANSA provided an update on media enquiries received since the last meeting including trends, sentiment, and thematic analysis of the data.

### 11.3 – Public Enquiries

ARPANSA provided an update on public enquiries received since the last meeting through its Talk to a Scientist (TTAS) program. The number of enquiries were noted to be tracking lower when compared with this time last year, due to a reduction in enquires related to radiofrequency radiation.

### 12 – ANNPSR Update

The Acting Deputy Director General (DDG), Mr Ryan Gilchrist, of the Australian Naval Nuclear-Power Safety Regulator (ANNPSR) presented on their establishment as a new regulator on 1 November 2025.

### 13 – Cosmetic Non-Ionising Radiation (NIR) and intense-pulsed-light (IPL) Injuries

Ms Zoe Thomas, an ARPANSA-supported PhD student at the Monash University Accident Research Centre, presented on the progress of her doctoral research into injuries arising from NIR and IPL used in cosmetic procedures. The combined session discussed Radio-Frequency (RF) micro-needling, interpretation of reported burns from lasers and IPL for the purposes of defining adverse events, and the variability of equipment parameters as set by cosmetic or other practitioners. A final report is expected from Ms Thomas in 2026.

Mr Martin Bowles, Principal Policy Officer from the NSW EPA, gave a presentation on recent research into the risks and adverse effects of laser and IPL devices used in cosmetic applications. The research will inform advice to the NSW government on options for managing laser and IPL risks. The RHC and Council discussed the use of these cosmetic procedures for tattoo removal and noted that laser therapy can change how melanomas present, potentially resulting in delayed or under-diagnosis.

### 14 – National Competency Framework for Use of Radiation Sources

The Chair of Council presented to RHC a draft letter of advice from the Council to the CEO of ARPANSA on the development of a national competency framework for the use of radiation sources. A joint working group that included RHC-nominated members had produced the draft, and Council sought final comments from RHC ahead of its further consideration for endorsement of letter.

The RHC and Council discussed this letter, and issues around accreditation of people against any framework, including Certified Radiation Experts, noting that such a system would underpin the mutual recognition of State and Territory licencing. They also discussed how regulators could share information and current processes for visibility of licence application assessments.

ARPANSA noted that it will work with various stakeholders, including regulators but also medical councils and education departments, as part of its national uniformity leadership on this issue. The RHC expressed their support for the draft letter.

**Decision:** The RHC endorsed the draft Letter from Council to the CEO for a National Competency Framework for Use of Radiation Sources.

### 15 – Clinical Guidelines Review

ARPANSA provided an update on the status of a project to review the Clinical Guidelines for Radiological Emergencies (to be renamed *Guidelines for Medical Response to Radiological and*

*Nuclear Emergencies*). This included an overview of a Potassium Iodide (KI) Technical Report and inclusion of KI Advisory Note associated with the Guide for Radiation Protection in Emergency Exposure Situations (2019), Radiation Protection Series (RPS) Guide No. 3 (RPS-G3).

ARPANSA noted that the current proposal is to include the new Clinical Guidelines as a subplan under the Australian Radiological and Nuclear Event Plan (AUSRNEPLAN). It sought RHC and Council input on the structure and content, and publication method and location, for the revised guidelines.

The RHC and Council recommended seeking input from the target user-group during the document development – such as emergency physicians, general practitioners, nurse practitioners, paramedics, and jurisdictional departments of health – including via annual professional conferences. Other issues discussed and flagged for further consideration included the ‘self-evacuation’ of contaminated people from a disaster zone before emergency services arrive at any incident.

**Task:** Members to provide suggested inclusions for target user-groups to Secretariat.

### **16 – Meeting Close**

The Chair noted 3-5 March 2026, 16-18 June 2026, and 24-25 November 2026 as the suggested date ranges for next year’s meetings, and then closed the meeting.