



OFFICIAL

Radiation Health and Safety Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes

Date	26-27 November 2025
Time	8:30am – 5:30pm (Day 1), 9:00am – 12:30pm (Day 2)
Location	Microsoft Teams Meeting; Day 1 – 252 Pitt Street, Sydney (Parkline Place); Day 2 – Australian Institute of Nuclear Science and Engineering (AINSE), Lucas Heights.
Members	Dr Jane Canestra (Chair), Dr Gillian Hirth (ARPANSA CEO), Mr Michael Denison, Mr Mark Carey, Mr John Piispanen, Ms Tracy Ward, Ms Melissa Holzberger, Mr Chris Perry, A/Prof Catherine Olsen, Mr Stuart Parr, Dr Laura-Lee Innes (virtual only), Prof Pam Sykes.
Apologies	Mr Jim Hondros.
Presenters and Observers	Ms Tone Doyle, Dr Blake Orr, Dr Amy Macintosh (Day 1), Dr Joanna Wriedt (Items 1 - 6), Ms Fay Bellis (Items 1 - 6), Mr Tom Sullivan (Items 1 - 6), Mr Simon Critchley (Items 1 - 6), Ms Hazel Upton (Items 1 - 6), Mr David Kruss (Items 1 - 6), Mr Glenn Riley (Items 1 - 6), Mr Nehal Ahmed (Items 1 - 6), Mr Bradley Feldtman (Items 1 - 6), Mr Ryan Gilchrist (ANNPSR) (Items 1 - 6), Mr Radomir Krsteski (Items 1 - 6), Mr Brett Purdue (Items 1 - 6), Ms Jenni Stiffe (Item 2.2), Mr Rohan Mate (Item 2.3), Ms Zoe Thomas (Item 4), Dr Ken Karipidis (Item 4), Mr Bryn Jones (Item 13), Dr Massey de los Reyes (Item 13), Ms Helen Cassidy (Item 13), Matthew Boxall (Item 13), Ms Ingrid McCarthy (Item 14), Michelle Durant (Item 15), Andrew Popp (Item 16), Amanda Fortanier (Item 17), Dr Fiona Charalambous (Item 17), Mr Erin McWilliams (Item 17).
Secretariat	Mr James Wheaton, Dr Arne Biesiekierski, Mr Louis Casey.

1 - Opening of Joint Meeting with the Radiation Health Committee (RHC) (Day 1)

The Radiation Health and Safety Advisory Council (the Council) met in a joint sitting with the RHC from 8:30am on 26 November 2025. Dr Joanna Wriedt (RHC Chair) Chaired the joint meeting, acknowledging the Traditional Owners of the land, the Gadigal people of the Eora nation, and paying respects to their Elders past and present. New South Wales (NSW) Environment Protection Authority (EPA) staff were welcomed as observers and were thanked for their efforts hosting the meeting.

2 - CEO Update on ARPANSA

The CEO of ARPANSA provided an update to the Council and RHC 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) 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 separately discussed the benefits of regulatory communities of practice.

2.1 - Update on Advisory Bodies

ARPANSA's CEO provided an update on recent Nuclear Safety Committee (NSC) activities, and the Chairs of RHC and Council gave 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 International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) emergency preparedness exercise.

The RHC had met the previous day and the RHC Chair related key points discussed, including its forward workplan, including proposals for a national glossary of terms and a new code for radioactive waste management. RHC also received updates on work underway on an x-ray equipment code, medical safety guides, and an exemption and clearance safety guide. It also discussed requirements for transporting radioactive material.

The Council Chair noted its 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. The Council Chair also noted a recent journal publication regarding the registration of keratinocyte skin cancers lead-authored by a Council member; their consideration of 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).

2.2 - Media Enquiries

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

2.3 - 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.

3 - ANNPSR Update

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

4 - 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 joint meeting of Council and RHC 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 Council and RHC discussed the use of cosmetic procedures for tattoo removal and noted that laser therapy can change how melanomas present, potentially resulting in delayed or misdiagnoses.

5 - National Competency Framework for Use of Radiation Sources

The Council and RHC discussed 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 Council and RHC discussed issues around accreditation or certification of people against any framework, including radiation experts or training providers, 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 Council noted that the RHC supported the draft letter.

6 - 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 Council and RHC input on the structure and content, and publication method and location, for the revised guidelines.

The Council and RHC 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.

7 - Meeting Opening and Housekeeping (Council only)

The Chair acknowledged the Gadigal people as the Traditional Owners and Custodians of the land on which the meeting was held, paying respect to their Elders past and present. Mr Jim Hondros was noted as an apology. No conflicts of interest were declared, and the previous meeting minutes were noted as finalised and published. The secretariat provided the status of outstanding action items.

7.1 - Correspondence - RANZCR

The Council noted correspondence received from the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Radiologists (RANZCR), regarding radiation protection workforce challenges and opportunities facing the radiology industry, and potential strategies available to address their points.

The Council discussed various points in RANZCR's letter and discussed consistency and quality in radiation safety officer services at smaller operational sites, the links between radiation licences and comprehensive training or competencies, the role of the Australian Health Practitioner Regulatory Agency, Australian Medical Council, and professional colleges.

The Council also discussed the impact of outsourced clinical imaging, and the relevance of clinical decision support (CDS) tools, including an example implemented at the Alfred Hospital in 2024. It noted the increased need for medical physicists with the uptake of radiopharmaceuticals in combined therapy-diagnostic (theranostics), and that the RHC nuclear medicine safety guide working group might consider some of these issues.

The Council resolved to reply to RANZCR with input from ARPANSA, noting its recent advice on competency requirements for using radiation sources, and outlining its work underway as well as scope for RANZCR's further involvement in potential solutions. Council agreed to further discuss the points which RANZCR raised at its next meeting.

Task: Council to prepare a reply to RANZCR in consultation with ARPANSA out-of-session.

Decision: Council resolved to add to agenda in March 2026.

7.2 - Correspondence - ARPANSA CEO (Sealed Sources)

The Council noted a reply from the CEO of ARPANSA to Council's previous advice on residual risks and loss of sealed radioactive sources in Australia.

The Council discussed the collection of data on recommended treatments for reported incidents and noted that the ARIR is dominated by medical incidents, so incidents in 'other' categories may benefit from a focus from in-depth analysis in future ARIR reports. It was noted that a revised radiation gauges safety code should address incident reporting for gauges as a form of sealed sources, and the RHC will consider orphaned radioactive sources in its future workplan.

Task: The Council requested an update on the Australian Radiation Incident Register (ARIR) and recent ARIR Annual Reports at its next meeting.

7.3 - Correspondence - ARPANSA CEO (Shielding Design)

The Council noted a reply from the CEO of ARPANSA to Council's previous advice on shielding design, installation and verification, including the need for national guidance.

The Council noted that priority was given to this as a future project at RHC, acknowledging the existing NSW shielding standard and the Victorian Department of Health's work on Victorian shielding design standards, with the opportunity to integrate such existing standards into a national approach. The Council also noted RHC's discussion on dose measurements to ensure dose constraints are met.

8 - Member representing the interests of the general public

Paper attached.

The Member representing the interests of the general public tabled a paper and noted concerns around the testing of sunscreens, international commitments to establish nuclear power on the moon, and reduced investment in science nationally.

The Council briefly discussed the items noting the topic of sunscreen testing at agenda Item 9, the relevance of terrestrial regulation prior to launch of space activity, and the compounding factors contributing to scientific workforce issues along with the university sector's separate advocacy.

9 - Sunscreen Testing

Further to its previous meeting (31 July – 1 August) 2025, the Council discussed sunscreen-testing and related concerns around methodology, test results variability, and the potential impacts on public confidence and trust. It noted that ARPANSA is currently engaging various stakeholders on this topic and agreed to discuss it again at its next meeting. ARPANSA offered to provide Council a tour of its UV testing facilities when Council next meets in Melbourne.

Decision: Council accepted an invitation to tour ARPANSA's UV testing facility.

10 - KI Advisory

ARPANSA presented on a draft advisory note regarding the use of Potassium Iodide in emergency situations. The Council contributed suggestions in relation to various technical terminology and discussed misinformation around the presumed allergy of iodine sensitivity which is unfounded. It also discussed the inclusion of information on sourcing medications, and using alternative medications, noting that the broader operationalisation of distribution is out of scope of the advice.

The Council recommended further stakeholder engagement with clinical expertise, regulatory communities of practice, and State and Territory public health teams, noting the need to seek re-endorsement from RHC following any amendments.

Task: Council member input sought out-of-session over next 2 weeks.

11 - Occupational Diseases (ionising radiation)

The Council discussed its working group draft letter of advice to the CEO regarding the Safe Work Australia (SWA) deemed diseases list in the context of occupational diseases from exposure to

ionising radiation. The Chair noted that SWA welcomed ARPANSA's ongoing advice and noted the tabled updated report from the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation (UNSCEAR). The draft letter recommended that additional references should be included in the next SWA review of the deemed diseases list. The Council agreed to the draft letter.

Decision: The draft letter of advice to the CEO on the Safe Work Australia Deemed Diseases in Australia Report was approved un-amended.

12 – United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Working Group Update

The substantial considerations of Council's working group on this topic were noted, acknowledging the various perspectives of its members in the tabled paper. The Council noted that the working group had considered various avenues to incorporate the UN SDGs into ARPANSA's work, including recognition throughout the Radiation Protection Series (RPS) documents or a standalone guide on how radiation protection incorporates or relates to sustainability broadly.

The Council discussed the concept of 'sustainability' versus the UN SDGs as broader socio-economic goals, noting the Australian Government's in-principal commitment to the UN SDGs and ARPANSA's current annual reporting obligations for some of these. The recently launched ARPANSA *Framework for Monitoring and Assessment of Radiation in the Australian Environment* was noted as an example of including explicit UN SDGs in relevant sections. Council also discussed linking the UN SDGs to a national approach to risk assessments for radiation sources or apparatus, or their incorporation into regulatory approaches (for example, to justify different regulatory approaches between urban and remote communities).

The Council noted that improved environmental monitoring would provide quantifiable data to show radiation levels and thereby contribute to an ability to quantify improvements over time. It also discussed reporting mechanisms and other relevant policy considerations, including the matters of national environmental significance currently under consultation in relation to the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Bill 2025*.

The Council agreed to draft a letter of advice to the CEO of ARPANSA based on the summary concluding points in the paper tabled.

Task: The UN SDG working group will draft a letter of advice to the CEO of ARPANSA based on the summary concluding points in the paper tabled.

13 - Minerals Reprocessing and Radium Waste for Theranostics

The Council noted the tabled paper from its working group deliberations, which provided an overview of targeted alpha therapy radiopharmaceuticals (for use in theranostics) that could be manufactured from naturally occurring alpha radionuclides sourced from the reprocessing of mining wastes, as well as the use of radionuclides in batteries for specific applications such as in the space industry, and the radiological considerations of reprocessing of radionuclides from waste streams. Council queried whether the current Guidance and Codes in the RPS was sufficient for reprocessing of mining wastes.

The Council heard a presentation from entX Limited (entX) on the opportunities in recycling Radium-226 (Ra-226), in radiopharmaceutical and space industry applications, including the ability to

establish a sovereign recovery and reprocessing capability by leveraging domestic uranium mining expertise. However, entX noted challenges in identifying and gaining access to domestic legacy inventories of Ra-226, competing for legacy sources with drug developers seeking to secure strategic stockpiles, and in regulatory inconsistencies across Australia for reprocessing or re-using disused radioactive sources.

The Council also heard from the Australian Radioactive Waste Agency (ARWA) on the benefits of having a clear policy position that recognises the benefits of circular economy. The Council agreed to discuss the issues further at its next meeting.

Decision: The Council agreed to further discuss reprocessing of radionuclides from waste streams at its next meeting.

14 - Update on RadInnovate (Day 2)

The Chief Operating Officer of the Australian Research Council (ARC) Industrial Transformation and Training Centre for Radiation Innovation (RadInnovate), Ms Ingrid McCarthy, presented on their Training Centre and the development of higher degree by research students in the radiation protection and nuclear safety space. The Council noted the centre's contributions to workforce development, through support for students, co-design of projects with industry partners, and efforts to develop (and assess and verify) competencies for radiation protection and nuclear safety roles.

15 - AINSE Presentation

The Managing Director of the Australian Institute for Nuclear Science and Engineering (AINSE), Ms Michelle Durant, presented on AINSE's role encouraging students into nuclear science and engineering careers in Australia, particularly through its relationships with universities across Australia and New Zealand and partnered research placements at its 43 member organisations. The Council noted AINSE's long-standing role in providing its members and students with conference support, funding for student travel, scholarships for honours and postgraduate students, grants for early career research, and intensive undergraduate education program.

16 - ANSTO Competency Frameworks

The Head of Radiation Strategy for the Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation (ANSTO), Mr Andrew Popp, presented on ANSTO's radiation protection competency-based framework, which is used to develop radiation protection professionals within ANSTO. It noted the wide breadth of radiation-related activities which ANSTO undertakes, and their approach to safety culture covering expertise across a range of activities.

The Council noted ANSTO's framework draws on criteria and standards from the Australasian Radiation Protection Accreditation Board (ARPAB), the Australasian Radiation Protection Society (ARPS), the United Kingdom's (UK) Society for Radiological Protection (SRP), the European Network on Education and Training in Radiation Protection, and the International Radiation Protection Association (IRPA). It noted the framework is designed to align with IAEA and ARPANSA standards and give a clear and structured path for professional recognition as qualified experts, through application to ARPAB or RPA2000, with experience as a key component including technical and professional skill development.

The Council discussed the internal certification process for ANSTO staff and associated governance mechanisms, alignment with the UK SRP's established system, and the requirements for ARPS to achieve UK SRP chartership. The Council agreed to consider further engagement with ANSTO.

17 - 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 excused 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.

18 - National Competency Framework for Use of Radiation Sources

Further to the joint discussion with RHC at agenda Item 5, the Council considered whether the draft advice to the ARPANSA CEO needed to be further amended. The Council discussed minor amendments then agreed that the draft letter can be finalised.

Decision: The Council agreed that the letter to the CEO of ARPANSA regarding national workforce competency frameworks for the safe use of radiation sources is approved with amendments.

19 - New Issues to Consider

The Council met in-camera to discuss potential new issues for its 2026 agenda. This included policies for promoting national uniformity of radiation protection and nuclear safety, ARPANSA's regulatory activities, and regulatory workforce and funding challenges across all jurisdictions.

The Council noted that it may further consider in 2026: competency requirements for radiation protection; how the UN SDGs might apply to radiation protection frameworks; draft RHC codes and standards including for radioactive waste management and decommissioning legacy facilities; sunscreen testing methodologies; emergency preparedness for radiological emergencies; and, other regulatory issues including regulatory structures, and stakeholder engagement by regulated entities.

20 - Housekeeping and Meeting Close

The Council reviewed its decisions and actions from the meeting and confirmed that the next planned meeting will be between 24-26 March 2026 in Melbourne. ARPANSA noted advertisements seeking nominations to the Council with seven current members terms expiring on 30 May 2026.