



Radiation Health Committee

Meeting Minutes

Date	3 – 4 March 2026
Time	9:00 AM – 5:00 PM (3 March) 9:00 AM – 12:10 PM (4 March)
Location	Tasmanian Department of Health, Trafalgar Building, 110 Collins Street, Hobart, TAS
Members	Dr Joanna Wriedt (Chair), Dr Gillian Hirth (CEO of ARPANSA), Ms Fay Bellis, Mr Tom Sullivan (Virtual), Mr Stuart Parr (Virtual), Mr Simon Critchley (QLD), Mr David Kruss (SA), Mr Glenn Riley (VIC), Mr Nehal Ahmed (TAS), Mr Bradley Feldtman (NT), Ms Hazel Upton (WA, Virtual)
Observers and Presenters	Dr Marcus Grzechnik (ARPANSA), Ms Monique Harrison (ANNPSR, Virtual), Mr Nik Thani (TAS), Mr Felix Werner (TAS), Mr Jim Scott (ARPANSA, Virtual, Items 6 – 9), Dr Peter Thomas (ARPANSA, Virtual), Mr Alex Kalaiziovski (ARPANSA, Virtual), Blake Orr (ARPANSA, Virtual), Dr Fiona Charalambous (ARPANSA, Virtual, Items 3 – 9.3, 11 – 14), Mr Erin McWilliams (ARPANSA, Virtual, Item 6.1), Mr Louis Casey (ARPANSA, Virtual, Item 7), Dr Cameron Lawrence (ARPANSA, Virtual, Items 12 – 13.4), Dr Hamish Melia (ARPANSA, Virtual, Items 12 – 13.4), Mr Samir Sarkar (ARPANSA, Virtual, Item 12), Mr Andrew Wulf (ARPANSA, Virtual, Item 12), Dr Brendan Tate (ARPANSA, Virtual, Item 12) Ms Alexis Kelly (VIC, Virtual), Mr Ted Haldane (VIC, Virtual), Ms Kavitha Srinivasan (SA, Virtual, Item 9), Xin-Lin Goh (TGA, Virtual, Item 9.2), Tracey Duffy (TGA, Virtual, Item 9.2), Mr John Jamieson (TGA, Virtual, Item 9.2), Dr Marcelle Noja (TGA, Virtual, Item 9.2), Ms Susan Barker (TGA, Virtual, Item 9.2)
Secretariat	Dr Arne Biesiekierski, Mr James Wheaton, Ms Parmeet Kaur

1 - Meeting Open

The Chair acknowledged the Muwinina and Palawa peoples 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 Tasmanian Department of Health (DoH), as well as other observers online including from the Australian Naval Nuclear Power Safety Regulator (ANNPSR). The Tasmanian DoH were thanked for hosting the meeting.

1.1 - Housekeeping

The Radiation Health Committee (RHC) confirmed the 25-26 November 2025 meeting minutes, for publication following the meeting. The RHC reviewed all outstanding tasks and agreed to close one relating to personal dosimetry guidance. No conflicts of interest were declared.

Decision: The RHC agreed to close an action relating to guidance on wearing personal dosimetry.

1.2 - Correspondence Received

The RHC noted a letter from Mr Michael Drake, Director General of ANNPSR, accepting an invitation to observe RHC and NSC meetings. The Chair thanked ANNPSR for their response.

2 - CEO Update

ARPANSA's CEO provided an update on recent agency activities. These included but were not limited to:

- Hosting two International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) regional workshops on regulatory infrastructure development and nuclear security detection in Sydney in December 2025.
- Attendance and participation at IAEA Safety Standards Committee meetings, the IAEA Commission on Safety Standards and an IAEA Integrated Regulatory Review Service (IRRS) mission to Japan;
- A general update on regulatory activities; medical research service activities; and radiation research advice, including ongoing engagement with the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) on sunscreen testing; a publication co-authored with the UK Health Security Agency critiquing a World Health Organisation (WHO) systematic review on animal studies and cancer; input to the Australian Radioactive Waste Agency (ARWA) consultation on its radioactive waste management framework; an Australasian Radioanalytical Laboratory Network (ARLN) capability survey; and recent publication of an ARPANSA Regulatory Guide - Regulatory Assessment Principles (ARPANSA-GDE-2423).

The CEO noted that the previous Radiation Health and Safety Advisory Council (Council) meeting overlapped with RHC, and the Council finalised its advice on a national competency framework on the safe use of radiation sources, and on Safe Work Australia's *Deemed Diseases in Australia Report*. The previous Nuclear Safety Committee (NSC) occurred prior to RHC's last meeting. The NSC is next scheduled to meet in June 2026 prior to the RHC, and the Council in July 2026 following RHC.

2.1 - Media Enquiries

ARPANSA provided an update on media enquiries received across 2025, including trends, sentiment, and a thematic analysis of the data.

2.2 - Public Enquiries

ARPANSA provided an update on public enquiries across 2025 and early 2026 through its Talk to a Scientist program, noting a decrease in enquiries, via email and phone.

3 - 2026 RHC Workplan

The RHC discussed minor revisions to its workplan since it was agreed at the November 2025 RHC meeting, as well as potential future items of work. Noting its previous decision to proceed with a largely unchanged workplan due to workload pressures, no new items were added to ongoing 2025 items. The item relating to Regulatory Assessment Principles was marked completed.

Decision: The RHC endorsed the amended 2026 RHC Workplan as tabled.

4 - IAEA - RHC Linkages Update

ARPANSA presented on the IAEA's process of document development, revision and publication, and opportunities for the RHC to provide input to the IAEA process. The RHC discussed ARPANSA's

ongoing engagement with the RHC for input to IAEA work and agreed that ARPANSA will provide ongoing high-level overviews of relevant IAEA publications underway, and avenues for RHC input.

Decision: The RHC accepted ARPANSA's offer to provide ongoing briefing material on IAEA publication developments.

Decision: The RHC accepted ARPANSA's offer to have its IAEA Safety Standards Committee representatives present at future RHC meetings for identified major interest publications.

5 - Updates to Radiation Protection Series

5.1 - Project Governance

The secretariat presented the status of ongoing RHC projects to update various Radiation Protection Series (RPS) publications. Revised Project and Document Plans (PDPs) to address identified changes to scope, working group membership or schedules were tabled for RHC projects on the: Exemption and Clearance Guide, X-ray Equipment Code, Radiation Gauges Code, Diagnostic and Interventional Radiology Safety Guide, Nuclear Medicine Safety Guide, Radiotherapy Safety Guide, and Waste Management Code. The RHC discussed the oversight role of the RHC Members as project managers on the RHC working groups for each RHC project.

Decision: The RHC endorsed the proposed amendments to the PDPs and updated the RHC Members listed as project managers for each RHC working group.

6 - Updates to the Radiation Protection Series - Continued

6.1 - Gauges Code

The RHC discussed progress on the draft *Code on Practice-Specific Requirements for Fixed and Portable Radiation Gauges* and reviewed working group responses to previous RHC Member comments. Members requested further time overnight to consider the responses (see item 14).

The project lead author flagged four key issues requiring RHC advice: the inclusion of direct text references from the Planned Exposure Code (PEC), the implementation of safety assessment requirements, jurisdictional equipment specifications for the related equipment standards, and the application of the term Radiation Safety Officer (RSO) versus Qualified Expert.

The RHC discussed the first two issues and agreed to remove direct reference to the PEC text from the draft Gauges Code, and to request that a safety assessment is provided alongside the Radiation Management Plan, with a graded approach to the exact safety assessment requirements. The RHC agreed to consider jurisdictional-specific requirements for the equipment standard out-of-session and deferred the discussion on RSO versus Qualified Expert terminology to Item 6.2.

Task: RHC members to give out-of-session feedback on the working group's proposed resolutions to outstanding RHC comments on the draft Gauges Code.

Decision: The RHC endorsed the removal of replicated PEC text from the draft Gauges Code.

Decision: The RHC endorsed the approach of requesting safety assessments with a Radiation Management Plan, noting the Gauges Code should refer to available guidance and a graded approach.

Decision: The RHC will provide reference material to support the equipment standard out-of-session.

6.2 - Non-Medical Human Imaging Code

The project lead author presented a first draft of the Non-Medical Human Imaging Code seeking feedback on three key issues relating to the implementation of a national dose constraint, the requirement for periodic compliance testing of scanning equipment, and a clarification of the use of the term RSO.

The RHC agreed on the preferred approaches: the implementation of a dose constraint similar to that of the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) Standard in the Code, noting that reaching the constraint should trigger a review of the circumstances rather than a strict cessation of scanning; mandatory compliance testing in accordance with the procedure outlined in the ANSI Standard; and that RSO and Qualified Expert are separate terms, and that both terms may be used as appropriate in drafting RPS Codes (applicable to the draft Gauges Code above).

Decision: The RHC endorsed the implementation of a 250 µSv/y dose constraint.

Decision: The RHC endorsed mandatory periodic compliance testing in accordance with the ANSI Standard methodology.

Decision: The RHC agreed that the existing use of the terms RSO and Qualified Expert in the draft Gauges Code and the Non-Medical Human Imaging Code were appropriate.

7 - National Glossary of Terms Mapping

ARPANSA presented on the work done to map the terminology used across current Radiation Protection Series (RPS) publications, and the *Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Act 1998* and Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Regulations 2018. The RHC discussed how to align inconsistent terminology, through ongoing drafting of RPS publications, including reviewing the glossaries of RPS documents currently in draft. The RHC agreed to begin work on a National Glossary immediately, amend the RHC 2026 Workplan to include this project, and establish a working group.

Decision: The RHC agreed to include the National Glossary of Terms on the 2026 RHC Workplan and establish a working group.

Task: RHC members to nominate out-of-session for participation on the working group.

Task: The National Glossary of Terms working group to draft a Terms of Reference for RHC consideration.

8 - Member to Represent the Interests of the General Public

The Member did not raise an item at this meeting.

9 - Regulatory Knowledge Sharing

9.1 - Tasmanian Radiation Regulation

The RHC Member representing the Tasmanian Department of Health presented on its regulatory structure and radiation protection activities. The RHC then discussed the Tasmanian approaches to regulation of non-ionising sources, licencing structure, and incident reporting.

9.2 - TGA Discussion - Cosmetic NIR Regulation

The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) Medical Device Reforms Taskforce presented to the RHC on a recent national roundtable to investigate potential reforms to the regulation of non-ionising radiation (NIR) as used for cosmetic purposes. The TGA sought feedback from radiation safety regulators on their experience to date in regulating this space; current initiatives or

regulatory changes; observed trends, complaints, or safety issues; and any suggested further actions. RHC Members were invited to provide any further feedback out of session.

Task: RHC Members to provide further feedback to the TGA Medical Device Reforms Taskforce.

9.3 - ANNPSR Stakeholder Engagement Guide

The Australian Naval Nuclear Propulsion Safety Regulator (ANNPSR) presented broadly on their stakeholder engagement activities, including their focus areas on meaningful consultation, intentional safety culture, and efforts to develop a stakeholder engagement guide. The RHC discussed existing consultation around Australian nuclear-powered propulsion activities.

10 - Annual Security Briefing

RHC Members were briefed on current threats, the national security environment, and reporting requirements and procedures.

The RHC discussed licence holder requirements under the *Code of Practice for the Security of Radioactive Sources* and the Commonwealth *Protective Security Policy Framework*. Challenges were noted around the decreasing availability of qualified security assessors for the endorsement of security plans for source transport and facilities. The CEO of ARPANSA committed to bringing back a discussion paper on this topic at the next RHC meeting, if feasible.

Decision: The RHC accepted ARPANSA's offer to present on the accreditation of assessors of radioactive source transport security plans at a future meeting.

11 - Radiation Administration Database System

ARPANSA presented on the implementation of its Regulatory Administration Database (RAD) system, covering the lifecycle, handling of Human and Organisational Factors, and data structure/classification. The RHC discussed approaches to regulatory administration, and interest from regulators in adopting the RAD system, including challenges facing wider adoption.

12 - CSIRO Woomera Waste Characterisation

A RHC Member presented on the recent efforts by the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) to characterise waste holdings at their Radioactive Waste Storage Facility at Woomera. The presentation covered the motivations, process, clearance criteria, outcomes, challenges and next steps from the analysis.

13 - New and Other Issues

13.1 - New South Wales Environment Protection Authority Letter on Unsealed Sources

The New South Wales RHC Member spoke to their correspondence to the RHC regarding the use of novel unsealed source therapies, particularly the topical application of a Rhenium-188 compound for skin cancer treatment and sought RHC perspectives on the implementation of these therapies.

The RHC discussed jurisdictional approaches to the use of this compound, and the wider topic of the relevant scope of practice for its use. The RHC recommended ARPANSA consult further on this matter with the Australian Health Practitioners Regulation Agency (AHPRA) and the Commonwealth Department of Health, Disability, and Ageing (DHDA).

Decision: The RHC recommended that ARPANSA write to the CEO of AHPRA regarding novel unsealed source therapies.

13.2 – RHSAC – Advice on National Competency Framework

ARPANSA talked to the recent Radiation Health and Safety Advisory Council (RHSAC) letter of advice on *National Workforce Competency Frameworks for the Safe Use of Radiation Sources*. The RHC discussed avenues to implement a national framework, starting with mapping individual jurisdictions' current requirements. ARPANSA offered to draft a Terms of Reference for a working group, drawing on existing competency requirements in Tasmania and Victoria.

Decision: Proceed with drafting a Terms of Reference, drawing on existing Victorian and Tasmanian competency requirements, for further RHC consideration.

13.3 - Radon Action Plan

ARPANSA presented on the closeout of the Australian Radon Action Plan, noting the original motivation for the Plan, the completion of most activities listed under the Plan, and the general low risk posed by radon to the general Australian public. Remaining actions will be incorporated into ARPANSA's ongoing activities.

13.4 - Occupational Exposure to Radon in Tasmanian Show Caves

The Tasmanian Department of Health presented on regulatory activities concerning occupational exposure of tourism operators leading guided tours of natural cave environments due to radon gas build up. This presentation discussed recently improved surveying of radon gas across Tasmanian cave systems, the challenges faced and approaches used to implement appropriate health controls. The RHC noted related recent work in other jurisdictions.

13.5 - X-Ray Use in Medicare Urgent Care Clinics

The Western Australia RHC Member raised the matter of the scope of practice for X-ray imaging undertaken at Medicare Urgent Care Clinics, due to increased federal and state interest in increased service delivery and requested information from other jurisdictions on any findings or actions undertaken, following the RHC's discussion at its previous meeting. The RHC expressed an interest in receiving updates on any outcomes from further discussions in each State or Territory.

14 - Gauges Code (Revisited)

Further to agenda item 6.1, several RHC members responded to proposed resolutions to outstanding comments made against the draft Gauges Code. RHC Members from Queensland, New South Wales, Australian Capital Territory, Victoria, and Tasmania confirmed that the resolutions addressed their outstanding comments. Northern Territory, South Australia, and Western Australia agreed to provide confirmation out-of-session.

Task: Northern Territory, South Australia, and Western Australia to confirm that proposed working group resolutions addresses their outstanding comments made against the draft Gauges Code.

15 – Meeting Close

The Chair noted upcoming scheduled meeting dates of 16-18 June 2026 and 24-25 November 2026.