



Nuclear Safety Committee

Minutes

Date	18-19 March 2026
Time	12:00–17:10 (Day 1); 09:00–12:30 (Day 2)
Location	619 Lower Plenty Road, Yallambie, Melbourne, VIC
Members Present	Dr Tamie Weaver (Chair), Dr Gillian Hirth AO, Dr Joanna Wriedt, Mr Michael Parker, Dr Peter Karamoskos, Ms Jasmin Diab, Mr Tony Irwin, Dr Peta Miller (online), Mr Stuart Parr, Mr Brent Rogers, Mr Cameron MacPhail, Mr Peter Wilkinson (online)
Apologies	None
Secretariat	Mr John Ward, Mr Lachlan Whittle
Invitees/Observers	ARPANSA: Mr Jim Scott, Ms Shazz Duijkers-Mahood (item 4.2), Ms Christina Arthur, Associate Professor Ken Karipidis (Item 4.3), Mr Graham Rennie (Item 3), Mr Andrew McCormick (Item 5.1), Mr Vaz Mottl (Item 5.3), ANNPSR: Ms Michelle Miller, Mr Ryan Gilchrist

1 - Introduction

1.1 - Opening

The Chair opened the meeting with an acknowledgement of the Traditional Owners of the land, paying respect to Elders past and present.

1.2 - Attendance and apologies

All members were in attendance.

1.3 - Declaration of conflicts of interest, real, perceived or potential

No new conflicts were declared. The Secretariat maintains the register of previously declared potential conflicts.

1.4 - Minutes of the previous meeting

The draft minutes of the November 2025 meeting were circulated out of session and approved at the meeting for publication on the ARPANSA website.

1.5 - Meeting dates

The Committee noted the following future meeting dates:

- Wednesday 3 June - Thursday 4 June 2026 (Melbourne)
- Wednesday 18 November - Thursday 19 November 2026 (location to be confirmed).

2 - Business arising

2.1 - Outstanding actions

The Committee noted that the action to publish the previous minutes had been agreed at agenda item 1.4. No additional actions were raised.

2.2 - Incoming correspondence

Nil.

2.3 - Outgoing correspondence

Nil.

3 - Annual security briefing

The Committee was provided with a security briefing related to the roles and expectations of Committee members.

4 - Chief Executive Officer (CEO) update

4.1 - ARPANSA significant activities

The CEO provided an update on significant ARPANSA activities, including, but not limited to:

- hosting two IAEA Regional Workshops in Sydney in December 2025, the first on Regulatory Infrastructure Development focussed on Nuclear and Radiological Leadership for Safety and for Nuclear Security and the second on Nuclear Security Detection Architecture in the Pacific Region
- participating in several international engagements including an Integrated Regulatory Review Service (IRRS) mission to Japan and the IAEA Commission on Safety Standards (CSS) meeting in December 2025. In the margins of CSS the CEO noted her attendance at the annual plenary briefing of the IAEA's Nuclear Harmonization and Standardization Initiative (NHSI). Aspects of this briefing relevant to the NSC, were discussions that highlighted where efficiencies or unnecessary regulatory burden can arise when comparing countries' approval requirements and how international standards could be interpreted differently, leading to potential barriers for implementation of new technologies in other countries. The CEO noted that the recent conflict in the Middle East had impacted the ability of the agency to attend upcoming international engagements, particularly those in Europe
- publication of the ARPANSA Regulatory Guide - Regulatory Assessment Principles (ARPANSA-GDE-2423) and a new UNSCEAR publication on public exposures. The CEO noted that it is expected that the final

Australian Government Radiological and Nuclear Event Plan (AUSRNEPLAN) will be published in the coming month(s)

- the launch of [RADMAP Aus](#), a public-facing website/program that brings together ARPANSA's environmental radiation monitoring and assessment data in one place.

The Committee noted the update and inquired as to whether usage (or website access to) RADMAP Aus could be tracked as a KPI. The CEO noted the question and welcomed feedback on the website and its effectiveness as a source of information.

4.2 - Media enquiries update

ARPANSA provided an update on media enquiries received across 2025, including trends, sentiment, and a thematic analysis of the data. The Committee enquired about metrics on social media and ARPANSA noted that monitoring and reporting of ARPANSA social media channels is undertaken, but metrics for advisory committee reporting have not been developed.

4.3 - Public enquiries update

ARPANSA provided an update on public enquiries across 2025 through its Talk to a Scientist program. The number of enquiries has decreased compared to historical levels, with the decline primarily attributed to a reduction in radiofrequency (RF) related enquiries during 2025. The Committee noted that there may be a generational shift away from phone and email enquiries.

5 - Update on major controlled facilities and inspections

5.1 - Actinide Suite improvement notice

ARPANSA provided the Committee with an update on the recently issued improvement notice to 'make safe' the ANSTO Actinide Suite. The update reported that actions had been undertaken by ANSTO to rectify immediate issues, namely safe replacement of the glovebox isolation gloves, and that longer term actions are being pursued, noting that normal operations at the facility remain suspended. The Committee noted that, based on the information presented, the improvement notice was being addressed by ANSTO.

The Committee noted that, while the near miss in 2023 was reported by ANSTO, given the long timeframe during which this previously undocumented risk existed, there may have been earlier opportunities to detect and address this risk.

5.2 - Waste, Decommissioning and Transport section update

ARPANSA provided the Committee with an overview of ongoing work by ARPANSA's Waste, Decommissioning and Transport section, including:

- A submission for the next stage of the Intermediate-Level Waste Capacity Increase (ILWCI+) facility at ANSTO is expected once environmental considerations have been assessed by the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW)
- ARPANSA did not approve a change with significant implications for safety for the construction licence of ANSTO's SyMo liquid radioactive waste treatment facility. ARPANSA had not approved this application as inadequate information had been provided to demonstrate the proposed change

was optimised for radiation protection, the proposed change had also not addressed that modifications would be required to processes at the associated ANSTO Nuclear Medicine Facility.

The Committee noted the update and discussed, in general terms, the overall waste management strategies in place at ANSTO. The Committee noted that ageing facilities and legacy wastes do create challenges, and that strategies for financial liabilities should be considered. The CEO noted the discussion and that long term liabilities of facilities is a broader issue on which she may seek advice from the NSC in the future.

5.3 - Facility safety section updates

ARPANSA provided the Committee with an overview of ongoing work by ARPANSA's Facility Safety section, including:

- Increases in inspections and site-visits at facilities regulated by ARPANSA
- The licence to prepare a site for the Nuclear Medicine Manufacturing Facility (NMMF) at ANSTO has been issued, following a detailed review by ARPANSA. The [statement of reasons for issuing the licence](#) is published on the ARPANSA website.

6 - Main items for discussion

6.1 - Proposed actions related to legacy waste issues at ANSTO

ARPANSA provided an update on the recent works undertaken related to legacy waste stored by ANSTO. ANSTO reported a non-compliance regarding building works which were undertaken without the prior approvals required under section 63 of the ARPANS Regulations. The subsequent investigation and inspections identified four breaches of the regulations related to this facility. ARPANSA provided the Committee with an overview of enforcement options currently under consideration, including the use of formal enforcement mechanisms to ensure ANSTO is adequately addressing the risks.

The Committee discussed the need to appropriately describe and quantify the hazards and risks associated with the storage of the waste at this facility. This will help to ensure a proportionate response and consider the current and long-term ANSTO waste management strategy.

Action: A sub-group of the NSC will provide the CEO with advice on the CEO's proposed regulatory actions by April 2026.

7 - Reports and updates

7.1 - Radiation Health Committee

An update on the Radiation Health Committee (RHC) was provided by Dr Joanna Wriedt.

Key items included agreement of the workplan, upcoming publications (e.g. gauges and non-medical human imaging), mapping and harmonising terminology, and sharing local experience on initiatives such as a radon exposure action plan and X-ray use in urgent care. A member of the RHC provided an overview of the work his organisation had undertaken to characterise, reclassify, repack and where possible reduce the volume of legacy wastes stored at one of their waste storage facilities.

7.2 - Radiation Health and Safety Advisory Council

The CEO of ARPANSA provided a brief update on the most recent Radiation Health and Safety Advisory Council meeting, including reviews of updated guidance on the use of potassium iodide in a radiological emergency, sealed source safety and shielding design, and reprocessing of mining tailings for extraction of radionuclides such as actinium-225 for use in theranostics), as well as endorsing a response regarding Safe Work Australia's Deemed Diseases in Australia Report.

7.3 - Update from the member representing the interest of the public

Dr Peter Karamoskos provided an update regarding matters raised by members of the public. Dr Karamoskos indicated that he had received enquiries related to the directive to the US Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) regarding moving away from the Linear No-Threshold (LNT) model and the As Low As Reasonably Achievable (ALARA) principle, and what impact that would have on the Australian regulatory regime.

The Committee noted that a number of international bodies have issued statements in support of the current regulatory regime, including: The Heads of the European Radiological Protection Competent Authorities ([HERCA statement on the importance of maintaining trust in the international radiological protection system and radiological independence](#); ICRP memorandum [Essentials of the system of radiological protection](#); and the [US Health Physics Society statement](#). Within Australia the Radiation Health and Safety Advisory Council (RHSAC) previously published a [Position statement on the use of the LNT](#).

7.4 - Update from local government representative

The Committee noted an update from the local government representative regarding recent community engagement in Western Australia. The representative noted that two meetings were held with the Australian Submarine Agency, with feedback indicating frustration from members of the community in relation to emergency response arrangements and nuclear submarine waste. A recent UK delegation visit was well received. Further meetings and engagement are planned, including a taskforce with local government representation that will survey public sentiment.

7.5 - ANNPSR Update

The Committee received an update from the Australian Naval Nuclear Power Safety Regulator (ANNPSR). ANNPSR is continuing to focus on licensing and monitoring activities. Engagement with overseas nuclear-power submarine regulators is continuing (including a recent visit by the UK regulator), and training of personnel is underway. The Committee also noted ongoing regulated community engagement activities, including the delivery of briefings in South Australia and Canberra on ANNPSR regulatory matters and expectations.

The Committee noted the ongoing collaboration with ARPANSA and use of ARPANSA technical support services where appropriate.

7.6 - Graded Approach

ARPANSA sought NSC advice to support a business process review of its graded approach to regulation, noting implementation of such an approach is important to align regulatory effort with risk. ARPANSA has a graded approach built into its legislation and management system, but challenges remain in the application

of such an approach during individual assessments. Members discussed the need for practical strategies to support implementation of the approach, including use of scenario based models.

Action: Mr Peter Wilkinson and Dr Peta Miller will provide a short paper on graded approach out of session, with other members invited to contribute.

7.7 - *Regulatory activities policy update*

The Committee was informed of a recent update to ARPANSA's Regulatory Activities Policy. It was noted that the original policy was developed under the former Australian Government Regulatory Performance Framework (RPF), and that the update reflects the replacement of the RPF by the Department of Finance Regulator Performance requirements (Resource Management Guide RMG 128).

8 - Other business

8.1 - *Membership expiry*

The Committee was informed that the membership of the current triennium is set to expire at the end of 2026. Nominations for Committee members are expected to be sought mid 2026 for the 2027-2029 Triennium, current members will be advised when the call for nominations is released.

9 - Information on nuclear safety matters and regulatory activities

9.1 - *Public consultations and publications*

The Committee noted the item.

10 - Meeting close

The next meeting will be held 3-4 June 2026 in Melbourne.

The Chair brought the meeting to a close at 12:30, 19 March 2026.