

Summary of ANSTO-ARPANSA Liaison Forum (AALF) Meeting

24 October 2025 11:00am – 1pm, ANSTO Lucas Heights (Building 5 Boardroom)

Attendees:

ARPANSA	ANSTO
Dr Gillian Hirth, CEO	Mr Shaun Jenkinson, CEO
Mr Jim Scott, Chief Regulatory Officer	Ms Emily Hodgson, Group Chief Financial Officer
Ms Christina Arthur, Director, Waste Decommissioning and Transport	Mr Aaron Flett, Chief Nuclear Officer
Mr Vaz Mottl, Director, Facility Safety	Mr Jakob Vujcic, General Manager, Regulatory & Governance
	Ms Jasmine Reay, Group Executive Infrastructure and Engineering Services
	Andrew Peele, Group Executive Nuclear Science and Technology
	Oleh Nakone, Group Executive Nuclear Medicine and Commercial
	Marianne Morton, Acting Group Executive, Assurance Risk and Compliance
	Ms Elyssia Gasparotto, Regulatory Affairs Manager

1. STRATEGIC OVERVIEW FROM ARPANSA

New regulatory guidance documents have been developed. One document establishes regulatory assessment principles which was developed as a joint publication with the Australian Naval Nuclear Power Safety Regulator (**ANNPSR**) for nuclear installations.

Another guidance document on stakeholder engagement on disposal of radioactive material under section 65 of the regulations has been in development. It will be aligned with the relevant IAEA guidelines. ARPANSA also informed ANSTO that section 65 of the ARPANS Regulations on disposal of controlled apparatus, materials and facilities will continue to be further improved. This will promote a more consistent approach nationally.

Additional guidance on radioactive waste management is being developed to harmonise processes from preparation to disposal, with resources being allocated due to its national significance.



ARPANSA emphasised the importance for ANSTO to take a strategic approach to manage ageing infrastructure.

ANSTO has recently changed its executive management structure. ARPANSA raised a question on how this change may impact safety. ANSTO will keep ARPANSA informed of the changes.

An update on regulatory assessments progress and scheduled inspections was outlined to ANSTO.

2. STRATEGIC OVERVIEW FROM ANSTO

The primary focus remains on nuclear medicine manufacturing and distribution, alongside waste management and the recent shipment of spent fuel.

Significant capital programs include building 5, Intermediate Level Waste Capacity Increase (ILWCI) and the Camperdown decommissioning. Risk acceptance for various projects is being considered amid funding challenges, with safety and compliance as priority considerations.

ANSTO is in the final stages of reviewing the building 57 event investigation report.

A plan is being prepared to respond to the Actinide Suite Improvement Notice, and to address outstanding risks related to the facility. Several remediation projects, including some associated capital works, have been approved and are managed through a Steering Committee to address the issues.

A site-wide infrastructure review of ANSTO is underway. The executive team will have ownership of the assets assigned to them. Asset managers have been appointed for tactical planning, performance monitoring, and maintenance strategies, supported by annual asset management plans.

ANSTO is moving toward an integrated approach to risk assurance and compliance.

ARPANSA expressed interest in how the asset management plan will align with decommissioning older facilities and the development of a decommissioning plan.

The ILWCI project is in the final stages of its internal risk assessment. An EPBC referral is planned for submission in November 2025. The updated joint Siting and Construction Licence application to ARPANSA is targeted for February 2026.

Applications related to the HIFAR reactor decommissioning will aim at lower risk activities to be completed first, enabling decommissioning to progress while other parts of the application are under review.

3. COMPLIANCE MATTERS

ARPANSA noted that the Improvement Notice for the Actinide Suite (Building 56) represents an escalated enforcement action. ARPANSA will increase the frequency of inspections and conduct additional site visits.

The reactive inspection by ARPANSA of the legacy acidic waste tanks indicated multiple breaches occurring from the initiation of work through to its completion. The ARPANSA human factors team will likely participate in upcoming inspections.

Multiple ANSTO facility Safety Analysis Reports are overdue for review. ANSTO is working to address this matter systematically. The aim is to establish priorities based on safety risk acceptable to ARPANSA before resources are allocated.

4. JOINT MATTERS

The Nuclear Medicine Manufacturing Facility (NMMF) siting licence application review has been concluded. ARPANSA is expecting the decision on the siting licence to be made in November 2025. Improvements to the regulatory assessment process have been identified and they will be implemented in the future.

ARPANSA is assessing the application from ANSTO for the transfer of Building 54 from the ANSTO Health Products licence to the ANSTO Waste Operations licence.

ANSTO is developing the ANSTO Health Products Periodic Safety and Security Review (PSSR) plan that will be submitted to ARPANSA for approval. Any associated regulatory decision will also result in a licence amendment specifying a timeframe for submission of the PSSR main documentation. ARPANSA regularly engages with ANSTO to clarify expectations in this area.

The ARPANSA Regulatory Administration Database Portal was launched in 2024, with licence holders expected to self-manage their regulatory data. Training for relevant ANSTO staff is scheduled for 29 October 2025.

National and international regulatory developments

ARPANSA is developing a new radioactive waste management code covering the entire nuclear waste lifecycle from generation to disposal, with input from state and territory regulators.

ANSTO shared information on the UK Office for Nuclear Regulation graduate program with ARPANSA. ANSTO is a contact point for any potential interested applicants.

Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in the nuclear industry was discussed. ANSTO has completed their assessment in this regard. ARPANSA noted that the international community led by the IAEA do not recommend using AI in decision making.

Minor updates were made to the ANSTO-ARPANSA Liaison Forum (AALF) terms of reference, including a requirement for meeting summaries to be prepared within six weeks.

5. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Next AALF meeting date

The next AALF meeting is planned for May 2026.