



Australian Government
Australian Radiation Protection
and Nuclear Safety Agency



17 August 2026

Ref: 2622218

Dr Jane Canestra
Chair
Radiation Health and Safety Advisory Council

Dear Dr Canestra

Re: Minerals Reprocessing and Radium Waste for Theranostics

Thank you for your letter addressing the re-processing of mining residue streams as a potential source of radionuclides for theranostics. I appreciate Council's commitment to providing me with advice on enhancing radiation protection and nuclear safety, including matters of policy and regulatory implementation.

I acknowledge the importance of the reuse of radionuclides from waste or residue streams, as an alternative pathway to disposal. ARPANSA remains committed to working with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the Australian Radioactive Waste Agency (ARWA) in taking a national approach to any initiatives which improve sustainability in line with international safety benchmarks.

I have noted the request to maintain a watching brief on this matter and provide an update to Council in one year. Thank you for your advice.

Yours sincerely

Dr Gillian Hirth AO
CEO of ARPANSA