

Executive Group meeting

EME Program

Title: EME Program review and proposed changes
Date: 11 June 2025
Item no: 7.2

Purpose:

For **noting** of the review of the EME program contained in this paper and for **approval** of the recommendations to change the EME Program.

Issue

The EME Program Action Plan concluded at the end of 2024. At the 4 February EG meeting, the EG considered proposed changes to the EME Program. s 47C, s 47E(a), s 47E(b), s 47E(d), s 22(1)(a)(ii)

The EG requested further information on the priorities of the EME program that will inform the next EME Action Plan for 2025 to 2028 and the risks to the delivery of the EME program in the form of a SWOT analysis or similar.

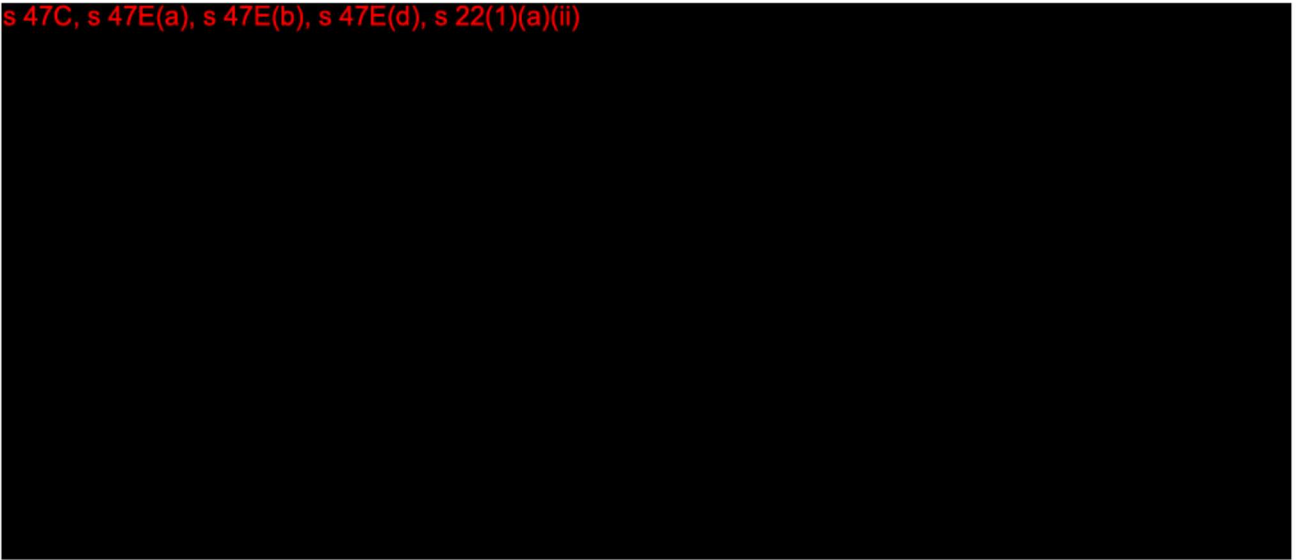
Background

The government has run an EME Program since 1997 to provide information to the public, enable Australia to engage with international experts, and fund research into health issues associated with mobile phones, mobile phone base stations and other communications devices and equipment.

In recognition of renewed concerns about EME from new and emerging communications technology, the Commonwealth Government announced in December 2019 that it was enhancing the EME Program, comprising three components:

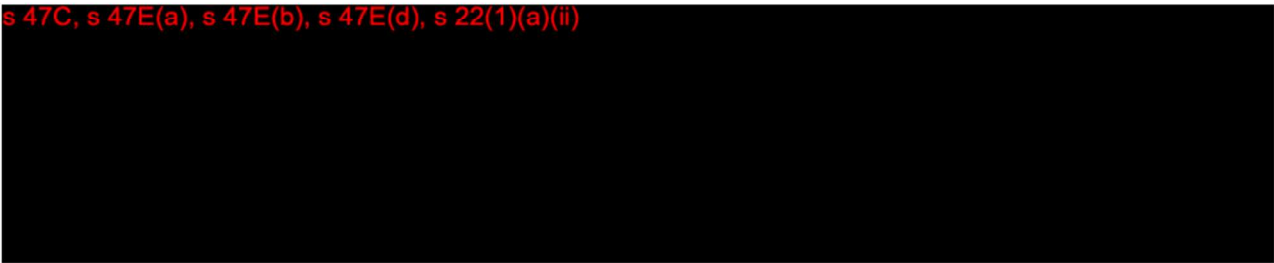
- **Research:** An Australian research program managed by the ARPANSA to conduct targeted research into EME issues of relevance to Australia including measurement studies assessing EME levels in the community.
- **Engagement:** ARPANSA involvement in international forums (such as the World Health Organization), as well as the setting and maintenance of EME standards and provision of expert scientific advice on EME and health to stakeholders.
- **Communication:** A targeted public communications program, overseen by the Department of Communications, to provide accessible information to the general public. This will be based on, advice from the Department of Health and ARPANSA and take account of the latest relevant research.

s 47C, s 47E(a), s 47E(b), s 47E(d), s 22(1)(a)(ii)



Resource Allocation

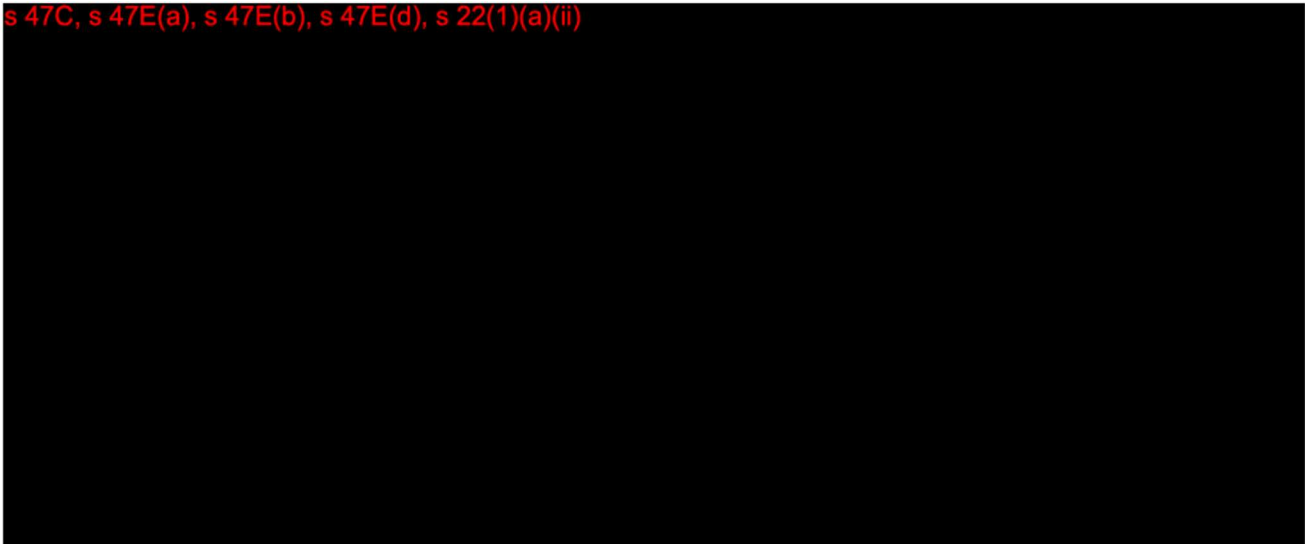
s 47C, s 47E(a), s 47E(b), s 47E(d), s 22(1)(a)(ii)



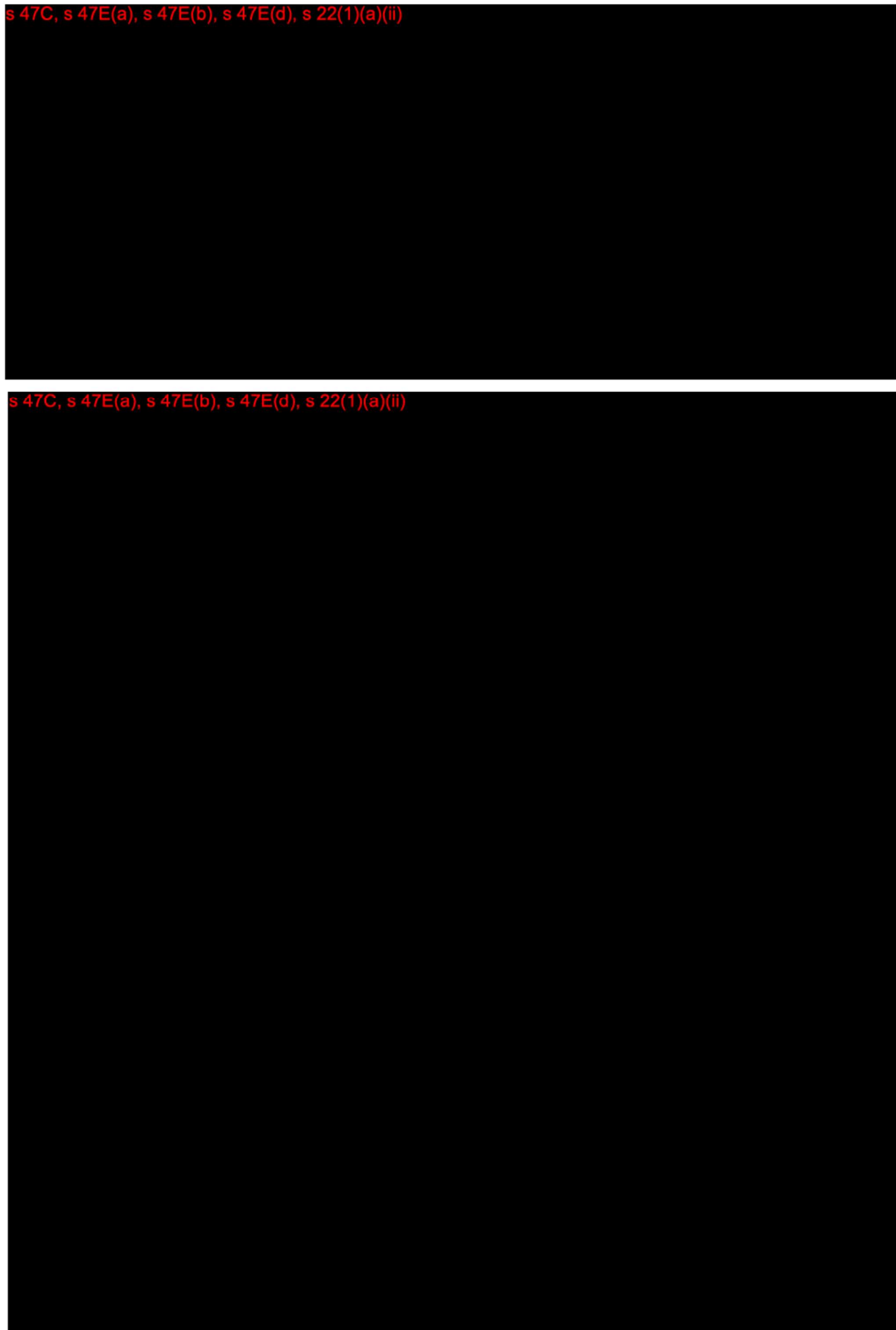
Research Review

As part of the Australian Government's Electromagnetic Energy (EME) Program, ARPANSA promotes, co-ordinates, funds, and leads EME research. In 2021 ARPANSA produced the [EME Program Research Framework](#) that established a set of requirements for seed and large scale research projects. The Framework is supported by published best practice [Research Proposals Assessment Criteria](#). All research proposals undergo a 2-step review process. Initially a proposal is assessed by an expert committee comprised of representatives from ARPANSA to ensure that the proposal meets the requirements as set out in this Research Framework. Proposals that meet the Research Framework requirements are then assessed by a group of external experts in the EME field to ensure research quality and integrity, and to assess any potential or perceived conflicts of interest.

s 47C, s 47E(a), s 47E(b), s 47E(d), s 22(1)(a)(ii)



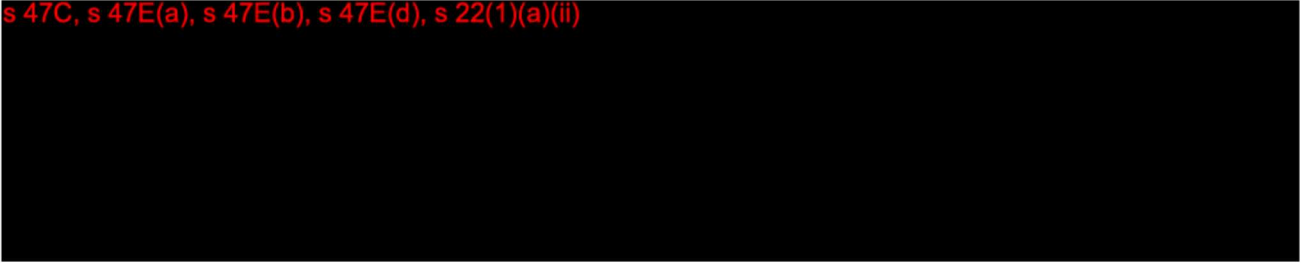
s 47C, s 47E(a), s 47E(b), s 47E(d), s 22(1)(a)(ii)



s 47C, s 47E(a), s 47E(b), s 47E(d), s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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s 47C, s 47E(a), s 47E(b), s 47E(d), s 22(1)(a)(ii)



It is a key obligation under the EME Program for ARPANSA to manage the Australian research program. There is sufficient evidence that a different funding allocation model is required to ensure we continue to deliver quality EME research in Australia.

s 47C, s 47E(a), s 47E(b), s 47E(d), s 22(1)(a)(ii)



s 47C, s 47E(a), s 47E(b), s 47E(d), s 22(1)(a)(ii)

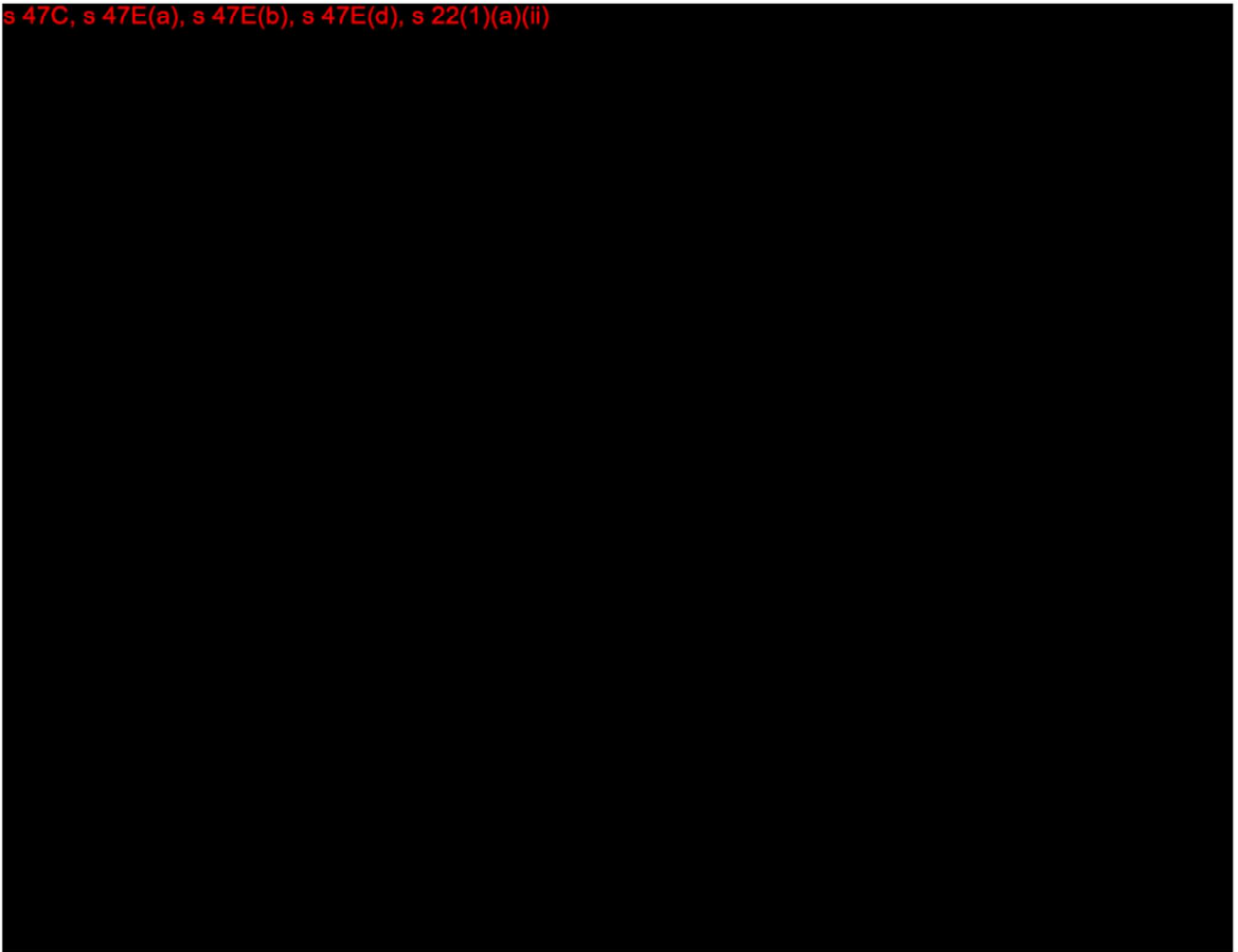


Attachment 1 considers the different Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats for a new research model. It considers five different options.

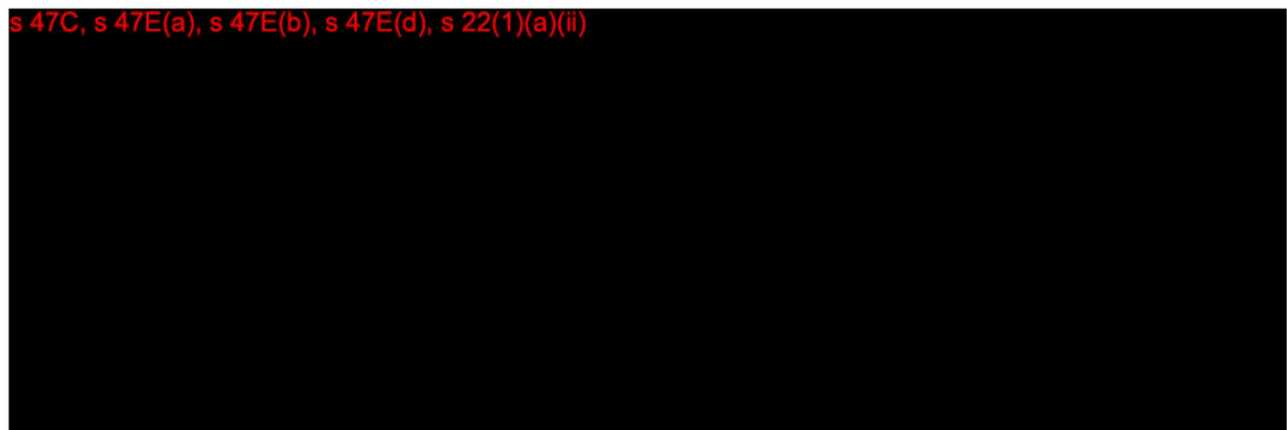
s 47C, s 47E(a), s 47E(b), s 47E(d), s 22(1)(a)(ii)



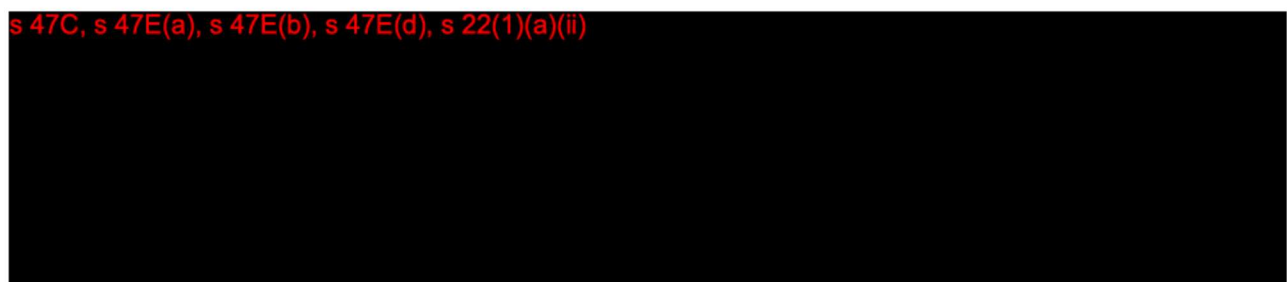
s 47C, s 47E(a), s 47E(b), s 47E(d), s 22(1)(a)(ii)



s 47C, s 47E(a), s 47E(b), s 47E(d), s 22(1)(a)(ii)



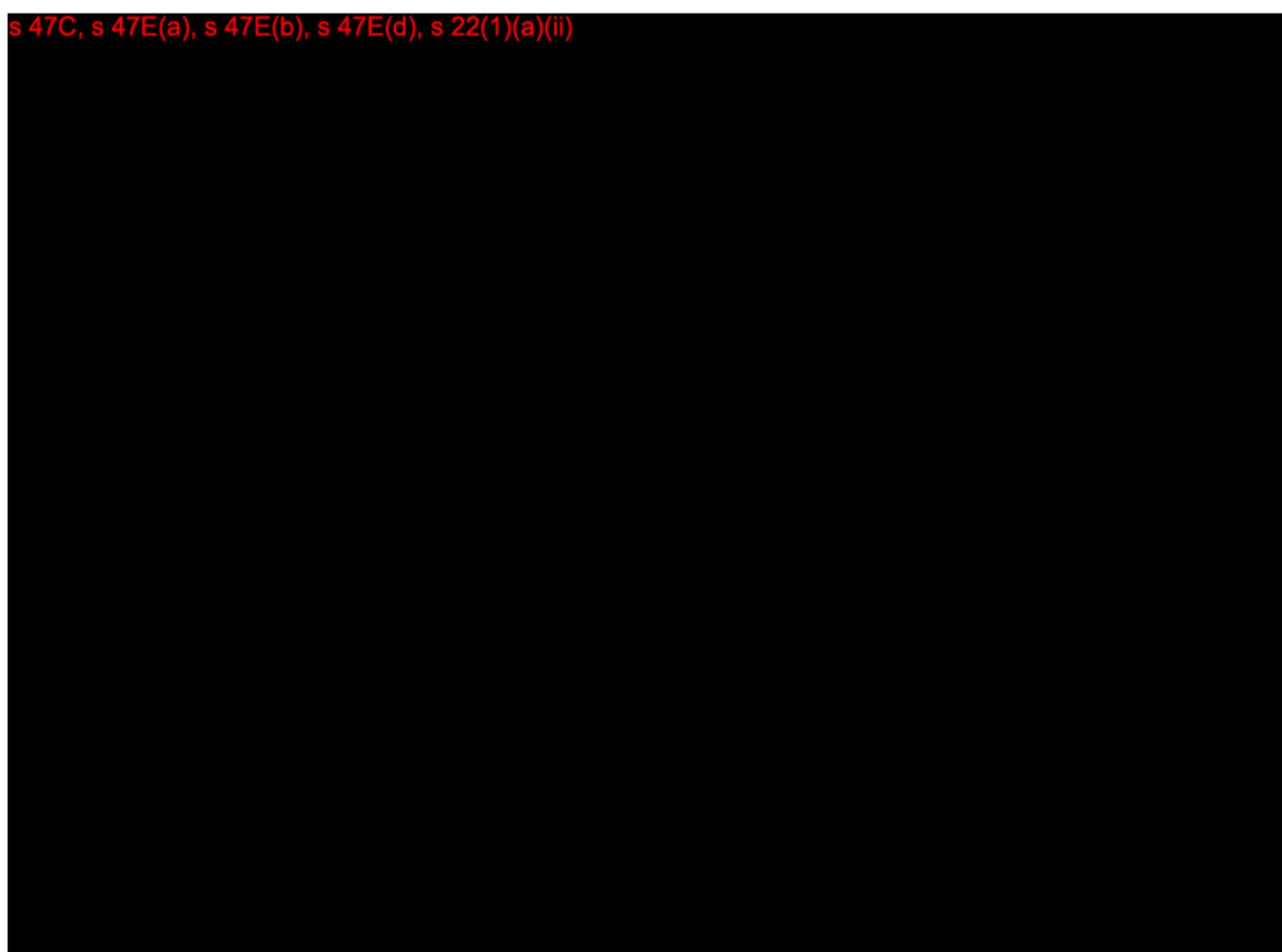
s 47C, s 47E(a), s 47E(b), s 47E(d), s 22(1)(a)(ii)



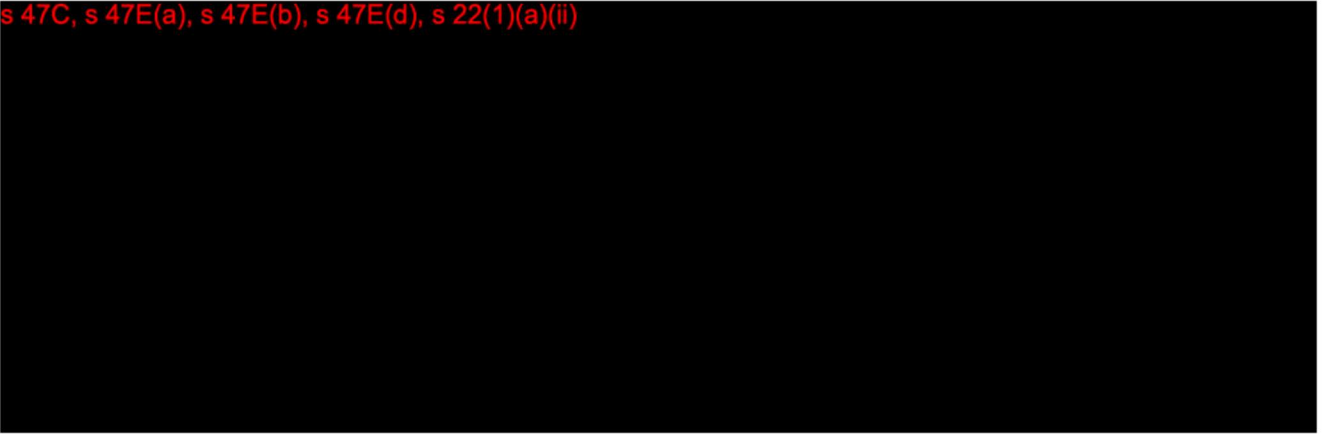
Engagement

ARPANSA leads Australia's involvement in international and domestic government forums that supports the setting and maintenance of Australian EME standards and provision of expert scientific advice on EME and health to stakeholders.

s 47C, s 47E(a), s 47E(b), s 47E(d), s 22(1)(a)(ii)



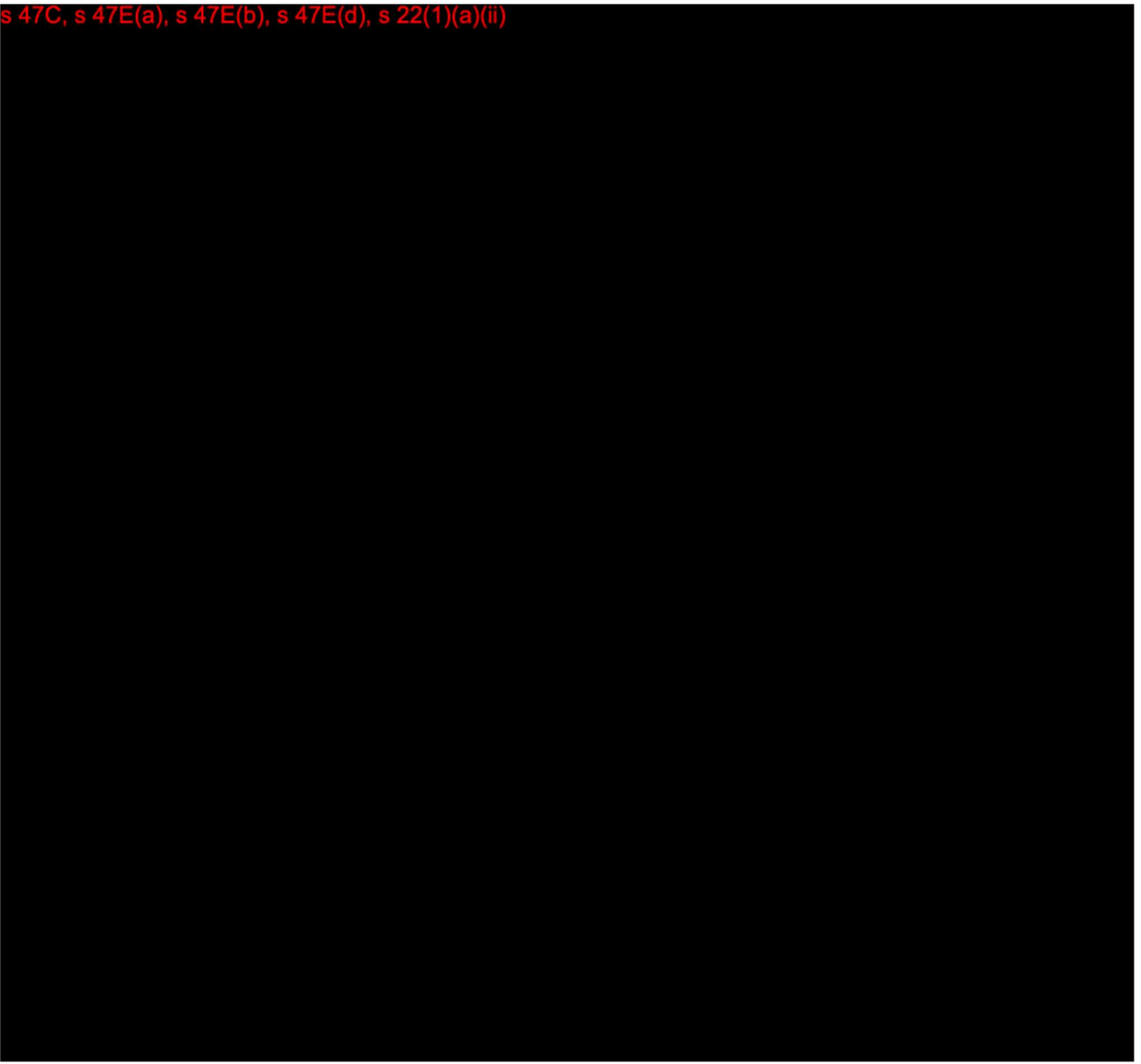
s 47C, s 47E(a), s 47E(b), s 47E(d), s 22(1)(a)(ii)



Recommendation 3: Agree to continue the same line of effort to maintain international and domestic relationships to ensure Australian EME standards remain fit for purpose.

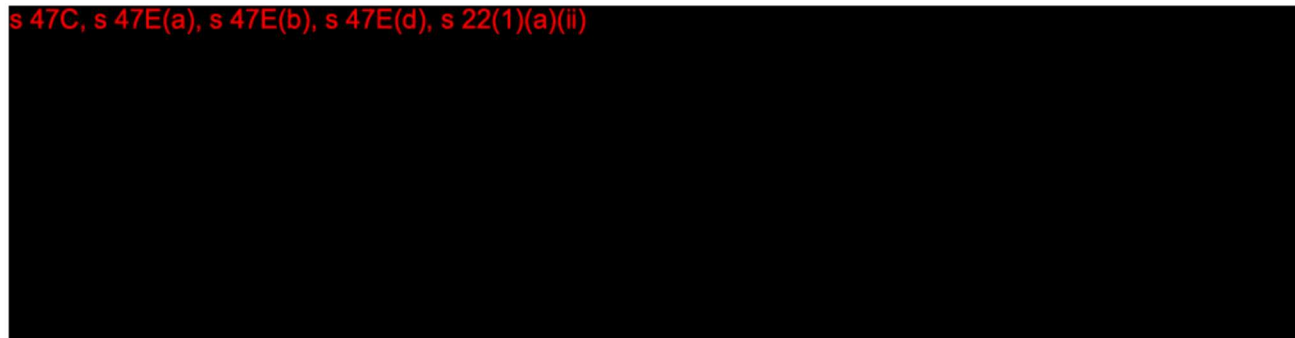
Communication

s 47C, s 47E(a), s 47E(b), s 47E(d), s 22(1)(a)(ii)

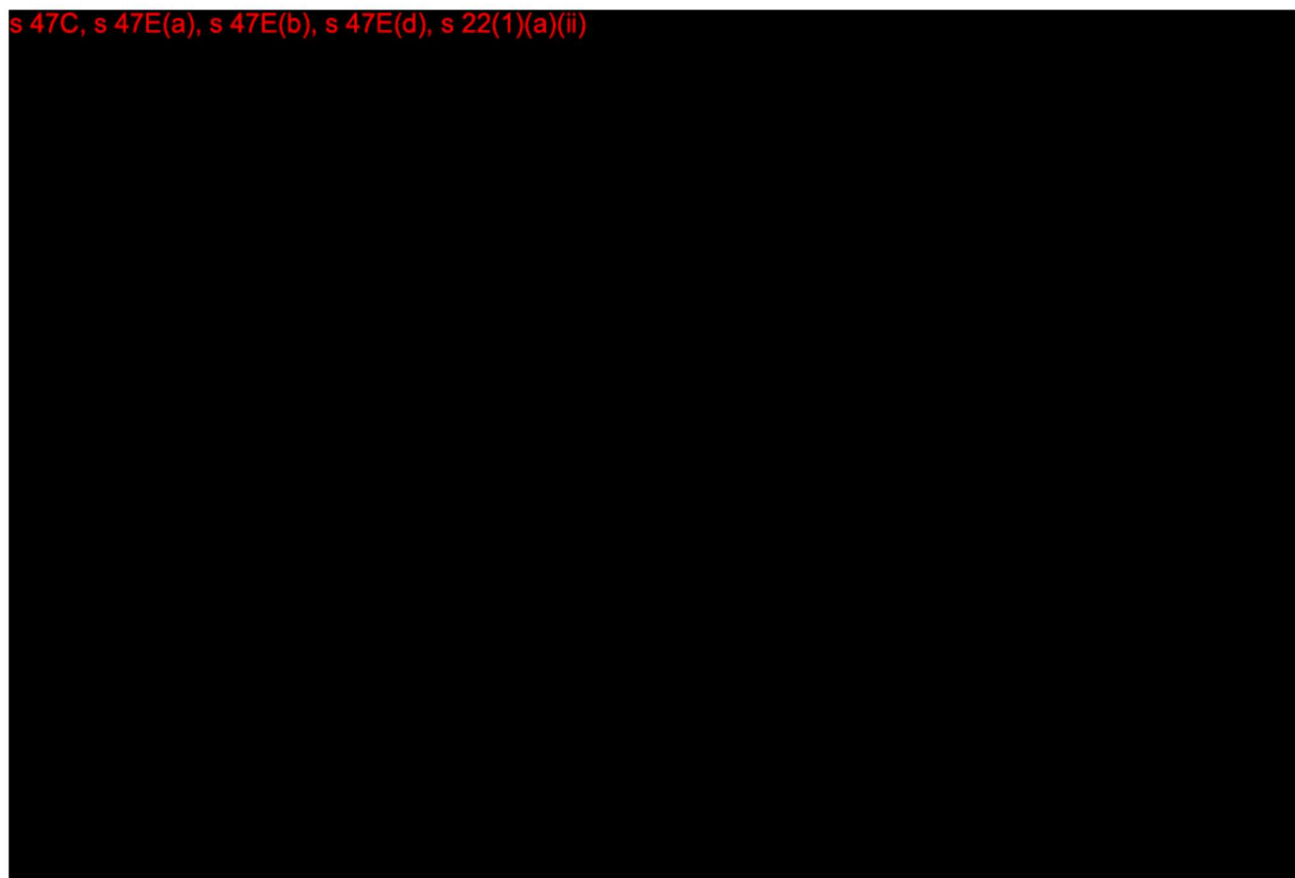


- The ARPANSA website hosts the [Radiation literature survey | ARPANSA](#). The survey continues to provide a platform for ARPANSA to provide evidence-based reviews on key research publications. The EME Program will continue to use this service as required.

s 47C, s 47E(a), s 47E(b), s 47E(d), s 22(1)(a)(ii)



s 47C, s 47E(a), s 47E(b), s 47E(d), s 22(1)(a)(ii)



Recommendation 4: Agree to maintain a baseline ARPANSA communication capacity and capability to support the EME Program, commensurate with any other ARPANSA service or function.

New EME Program Action Plan

s 47C, s 47E(a), s 47E(b), s 47E(d), s 22(1)(a)(ii)



The 2020 EME Action Plan identifies the following five key functions that drive the objectives of the program and how it is delivered.

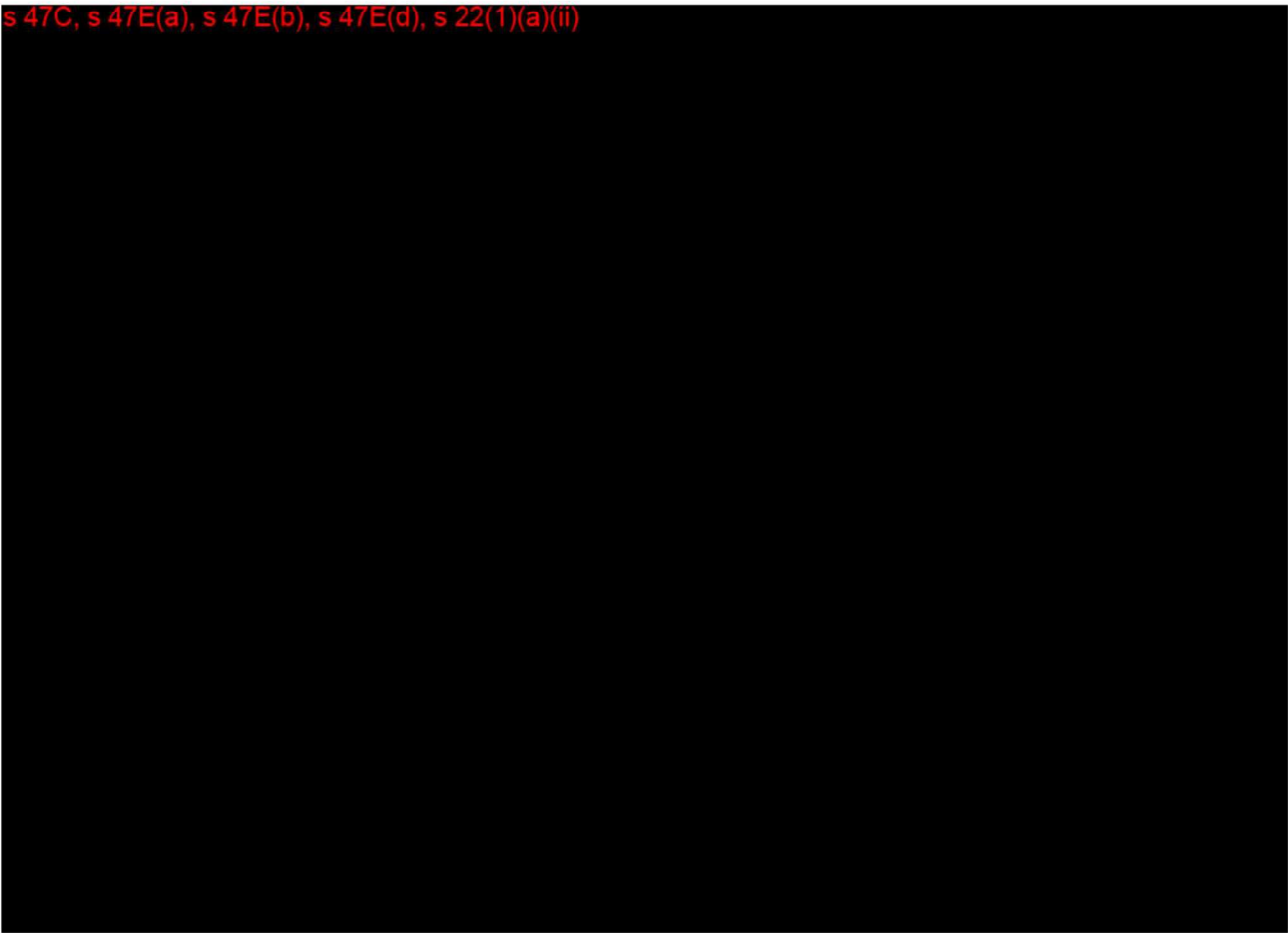
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- Assess EME exposure in the community
- Conduct research on EME and health
- Engage with international health authorities
- Develop national EME safety standards
- Provide information on EME and health

It is proposed that the 2025 to 2028 EME Action Plan continue to deliver the same five key functions with different priority (Draft attached in Attachment 2). A priority of the proposed new action plan will be to place high priority on delivering, coordinating and developing EME research activities within the EME Program at ARPANSA.

Recommendation 5: Agree to seek internal feedback on the proposed 2025 to 2028 EME Action Plan, including an updated EME Research Framework. The updated EME Research Framework will require consultation with external stakeholders.

s 47C, s 47E(a), s 47E(b), s 47E(d), s 22(1)(a)(ii)



Recommendations

That the EG APPROVE:

Recommendation no.	Recommendation	Chair comments
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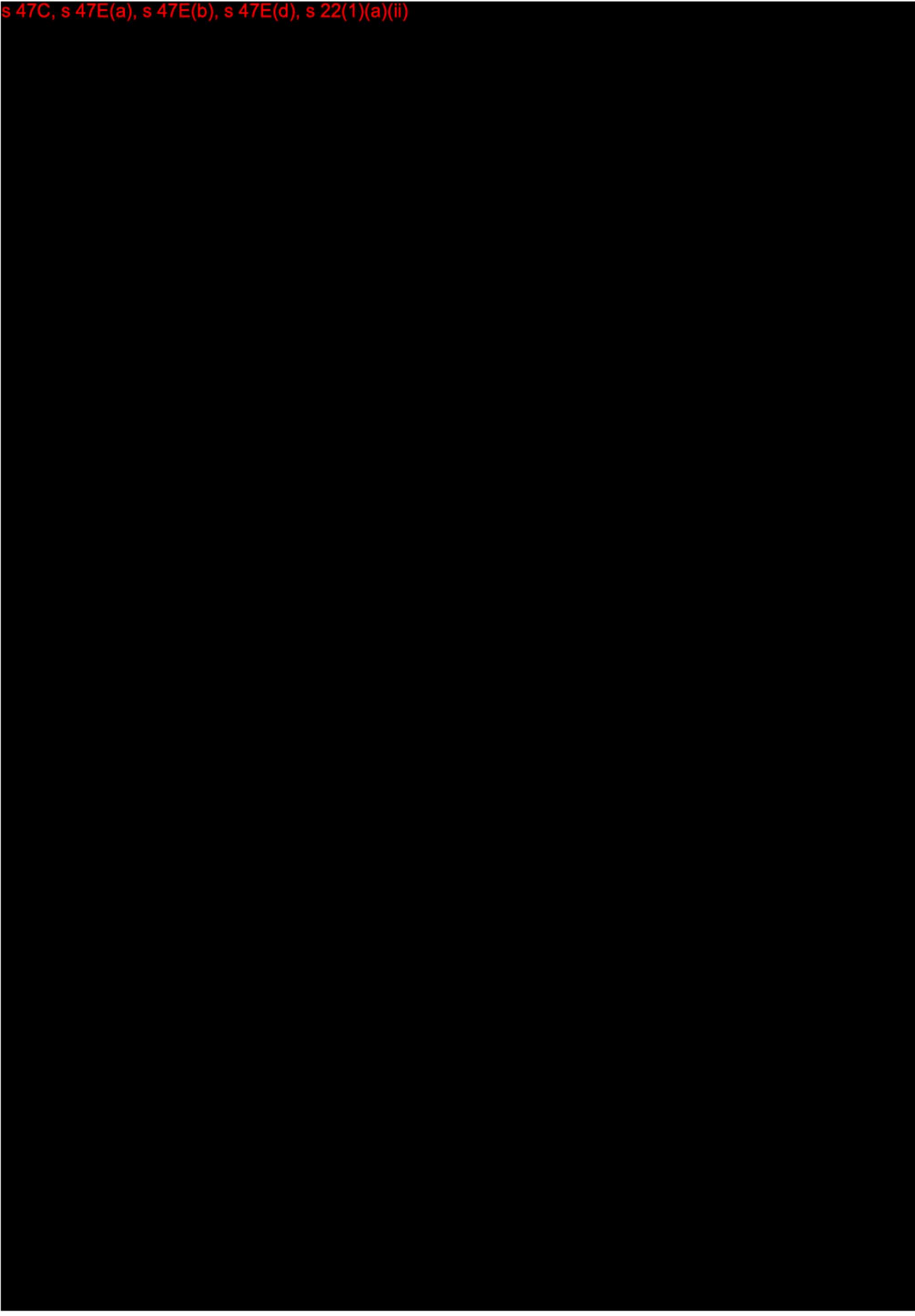
R1:	s 47C, s 47E(a), s 47E(b), s 47E(d), s 22(1)(a)(ii)	
R2:		
R3:		
R4:		
R5:	Agree to seek internal feedback on the proposed 2025 to 2028 EME Action Plan, including an updated EME Research Framework. The updated EME Research Framework will require consultation with external stakeholders.	

Contact

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Branch/office: Radiation Health Services	Branch/office: Radiation Health Services

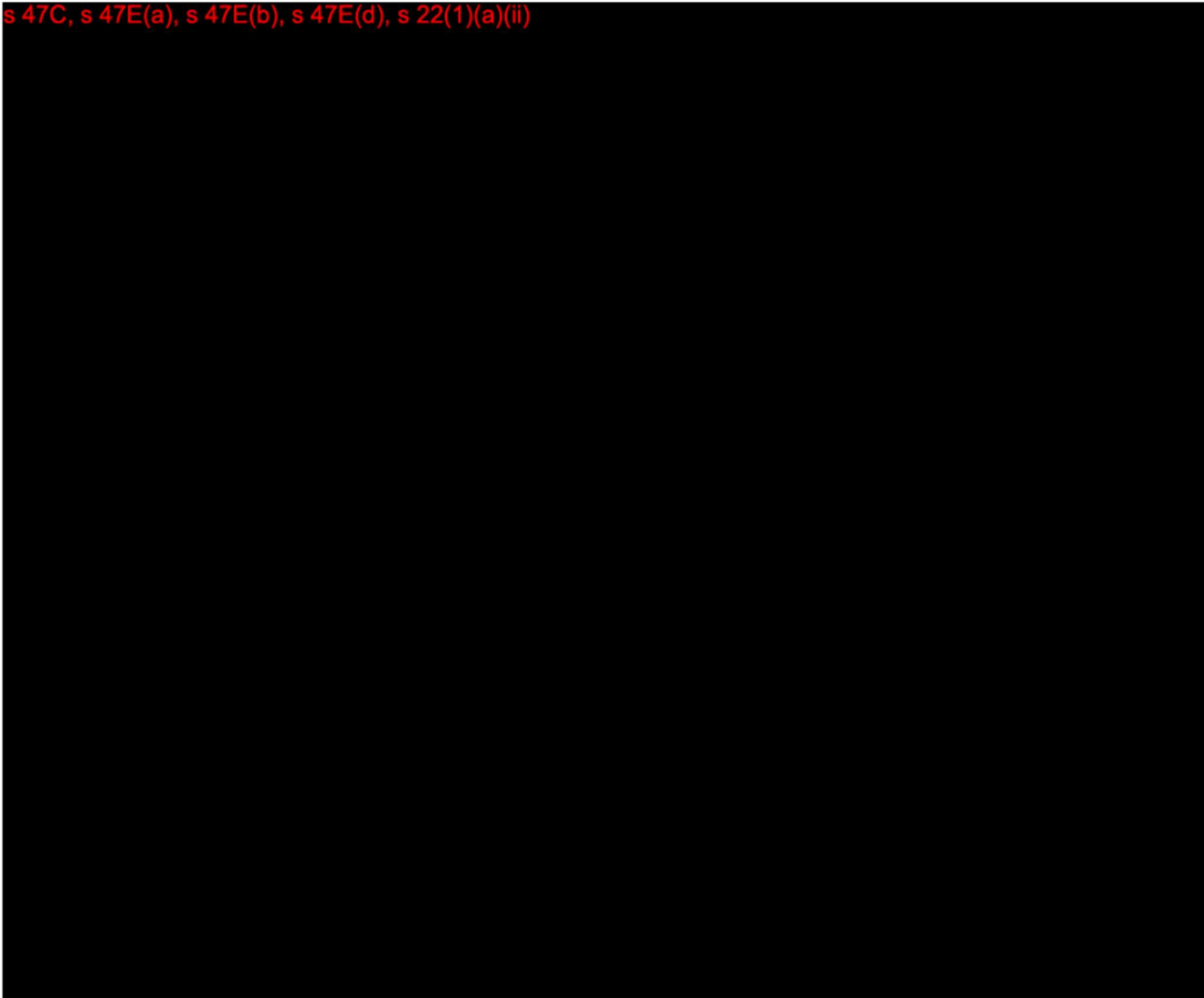
Attachment 1: Research SWOT Analysis

s 47C, s 47E(a), s 47E(b), s 47E(d), s 22(1)(a)(ii)



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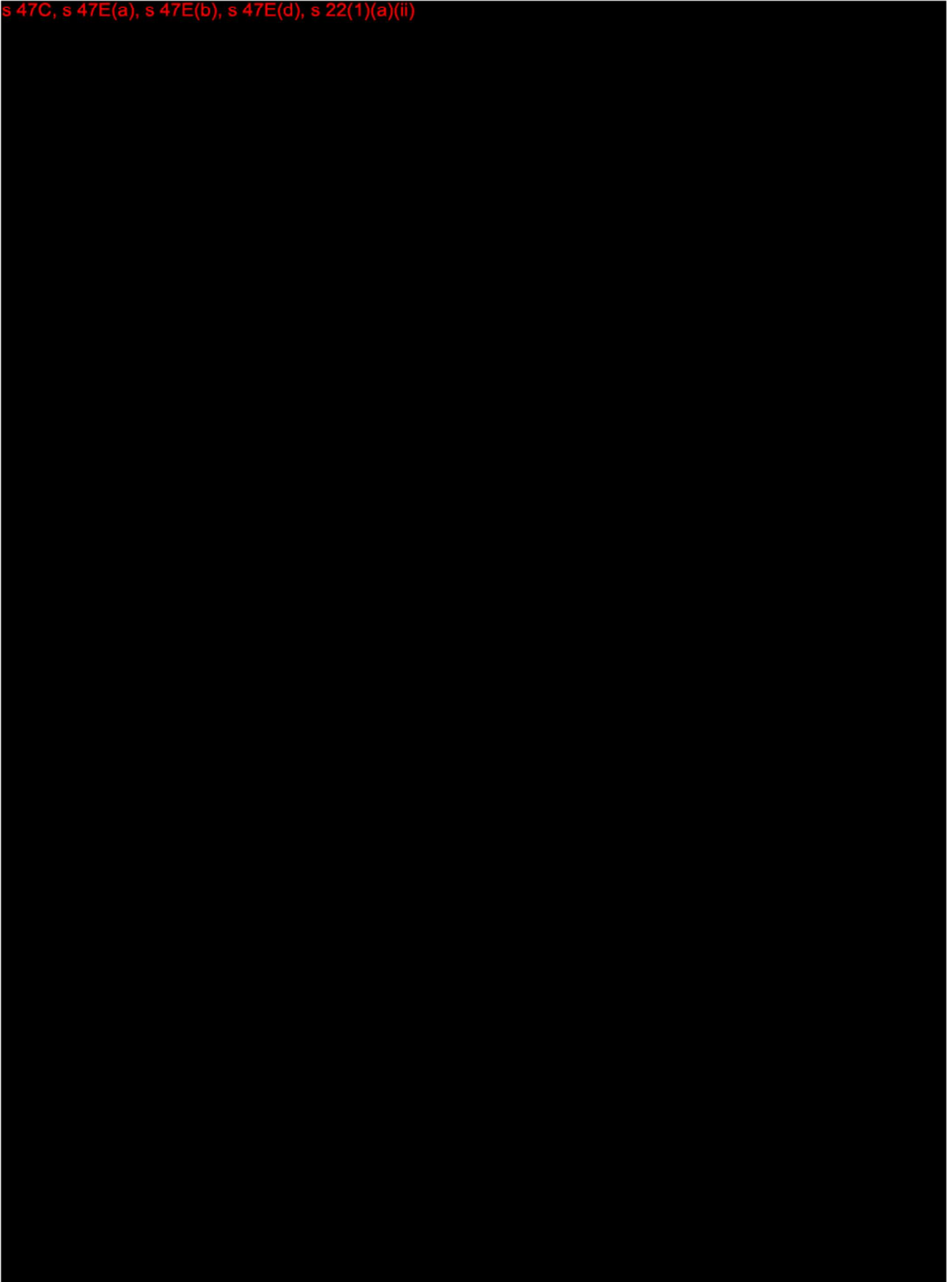
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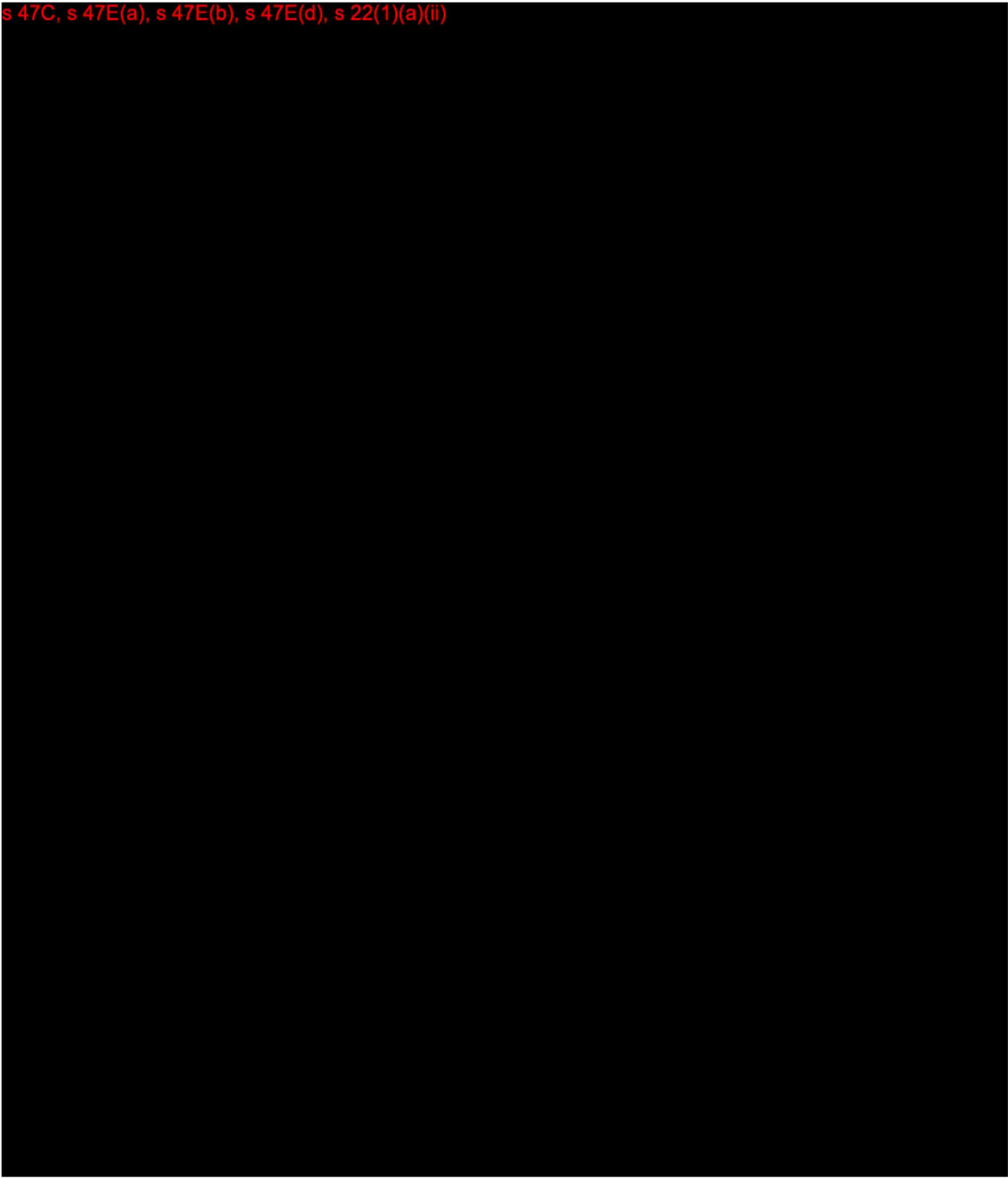
Attachment 2: Proposed EME Action Plan for 2025 to 2028

s 47C, s 47E(a), s 47E(b), s 47E(d), s 22(1)(a)(ii)



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s 47C, s 47E(a), s 47E(b), s 47E(d), s 22(1)(a)(ii)



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Executive Group meeting

EME Program Proposed Changes

Title: EME Program Proposed Changes
Date: 8 January 2025
Item no: 10

Purpose:

For approval of changes to the EME Program Research Framework and s 47E(d), s 22

Issue

The EME Program Action Plan concluded at the end of 2024. A review of the EME Program was undertaken and while the program was deemed to be successful s 47C, s 47E(a), s 47E(b), s 47E(d), s 22(1)(a)(ii)

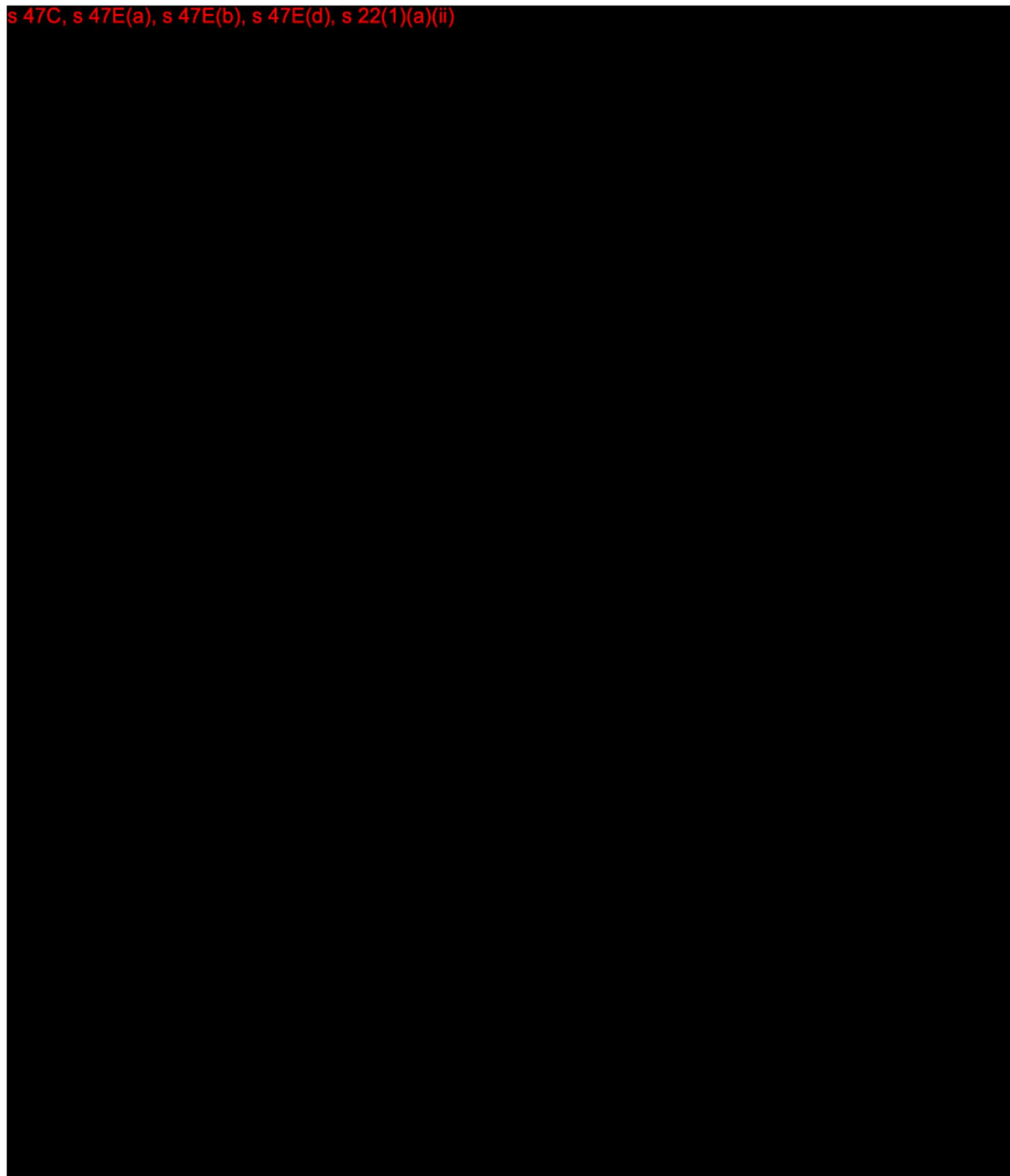
Background

The main objective of the research component of the EME Program is to continue research into EME and health to ensure that health policies and regulation are based on the most up-to-date information. This includes a focus on key research needs that form the basis for safety standards, as well as addressing areas of public concern that may benefit from additional evidence. s 47C, s 47E(a), s 47E(b), s 47E(d), s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Comment

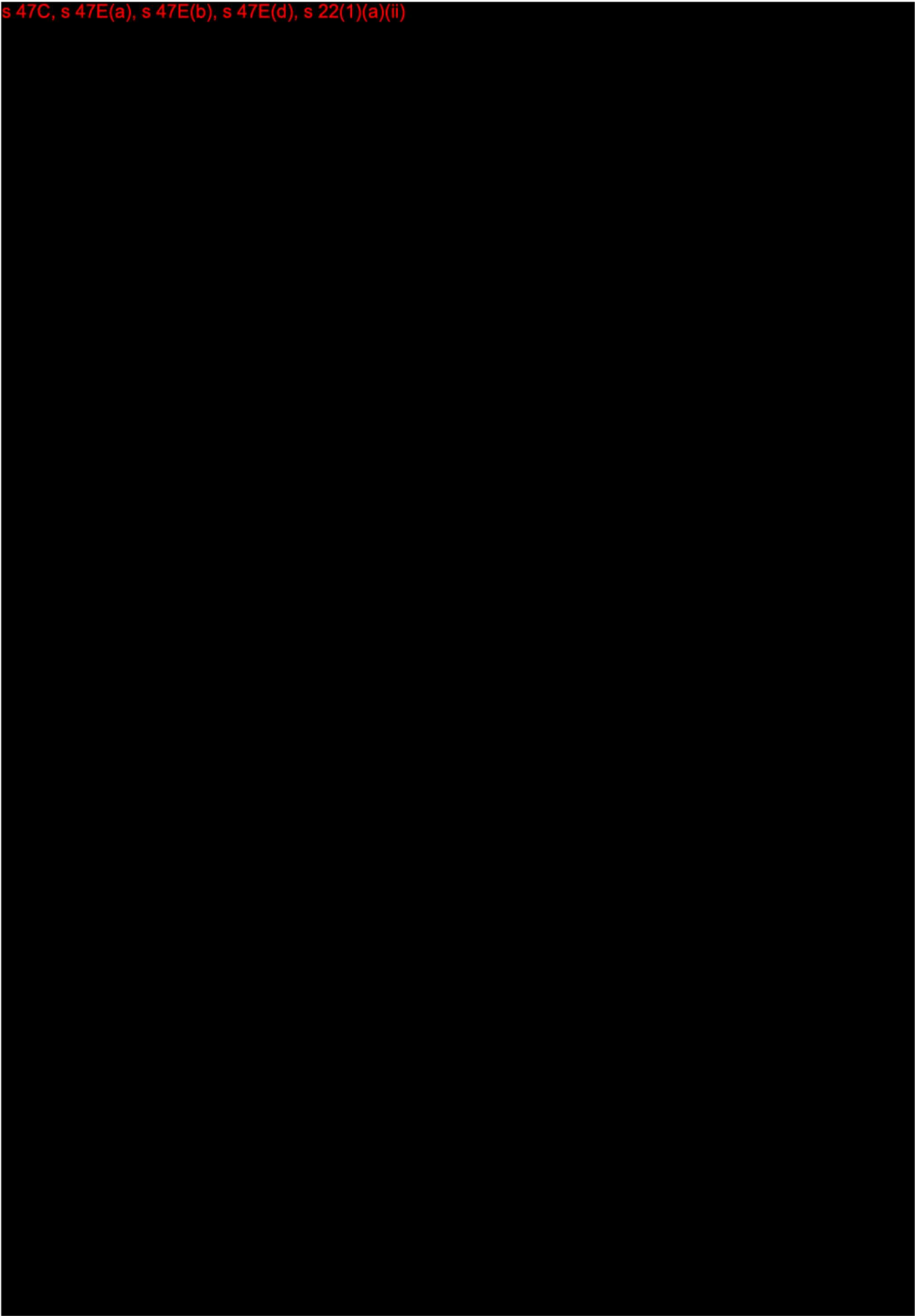
s 47C, s 47E(a), s 47E(b), s 47E(d), s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 47C, s 47E(a), s 47E(b), s 47E(d), s 22(1)(a)(ii)



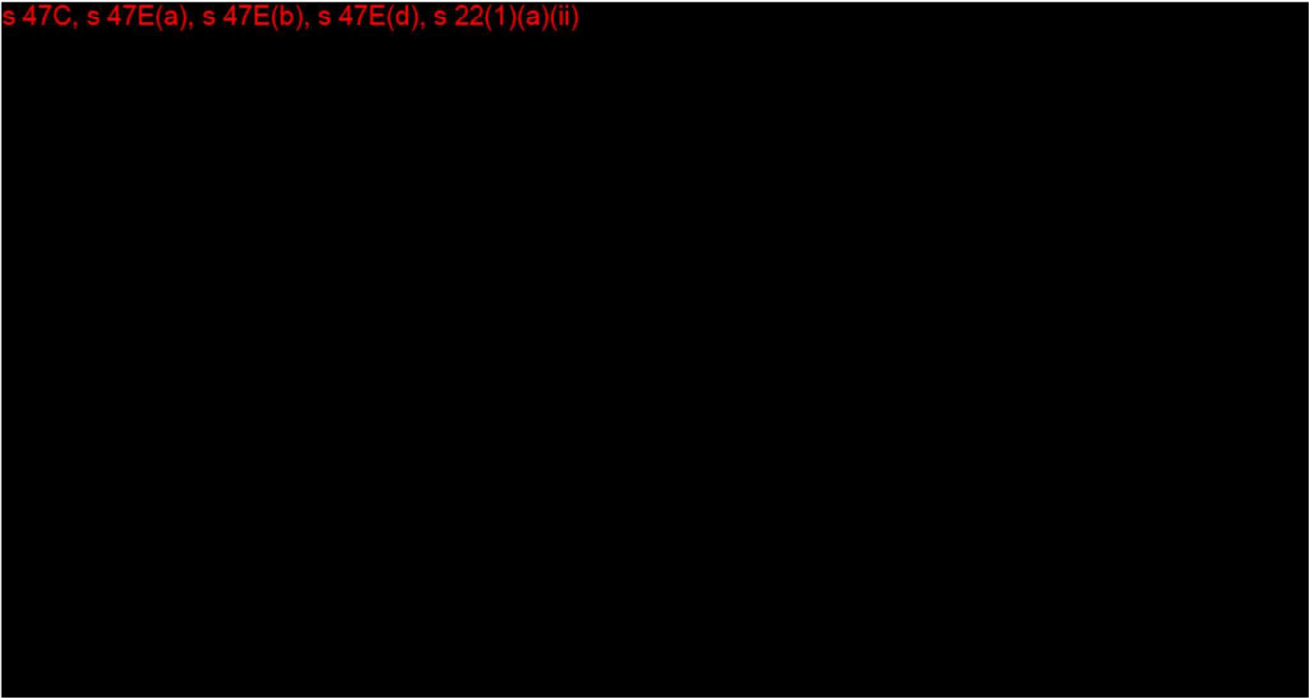
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s 47C, s 47E(a), s 47E(b), s 47E(d), s 22(1)(a)(ii)



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s 47C, s 47E(a), s 47E(b), s 47E(d), s 22(1)(a)(ii)



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Branch/office: Radiation Health Services	Branch/office: Radiation Health Services

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Item 6. ARPANSA Service – EME Program Review and proposed changes

Rick Tinker s 47E(d), s 22

s 47E(d), s 22 EME Program review and proposed changes to the EG for approval of the recommendations to change the EME Program. s 47C, s 47E(d), s 22

The Proposed Structures SWOT analysis was previously presented at the June EG meeting

s 47C, s 47E(a), s 47E(b), s 47E(d), s 22(1)(a)(ii)

This option s 47C, s 47E(a), s 47E(b), s 47E(d), s 22(1)(a)(ii)

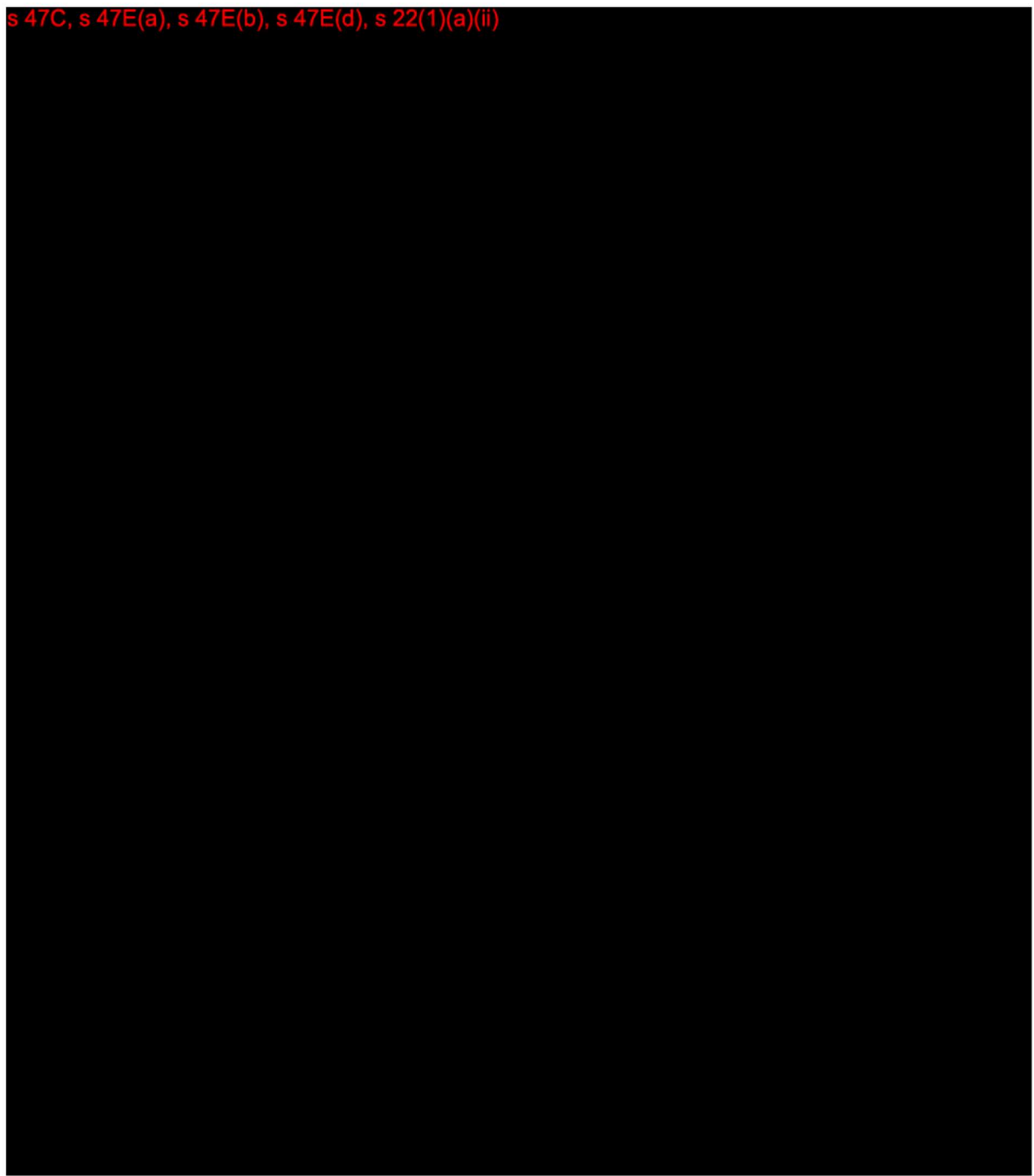
s 47C, s 47E(a), s 47E(b), s 47E(d), s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Item 8.2 EME

Rick Tinker

RT conducted a deeper review of the EME program, in answer to the EG's request for further information on the priorities of the EME program that will inform the next EME Action Plan for 2025 to 2028, and the risks to the delivery of the EME program.

s 47C, s 47E(a), s 47E(b), s 47E(d), s 22(1)(a)(ii)



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Item 11. EME Program Proposed Changes

s 47E(d), s 22

s 47E(d), s 22 an overview of proposed changes to the EME Program Research Framework and overall team structure, for EG endorsement.

The Research Framework that was established to support external research of the program has been identified as a weakness and the following proposals are presented to improve overall research quality and the adoption of a more agile approach.

s 47C, s 47E(a), s 47E(b), s 47E(d), s 22(1)(a)(ii)



The EG noted the paper.