



Nuclear Safety Committee

Minutes

Date	3 June 2026
Time	09:30 – 16:00
Location	The meeting was held online.
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, Mr Stuart Parr, Mr Cameron MacPhail, Mr Peter Wilkinson
Apologies	Mr Brent Rogers
Secretariat	Mr John Ward, Mr Lachlan Whittle
Invitees/Observers	ARPANSA: Mr Jim Scott, Ms Christina Arthur, Ms Shazz Duijkers-Mahood (item 3.2), Mr Sean Hewson (Item 3.3), Mr Andrew McCormick (Item 5.2), Mr Vaz Mottl (Item 5.1), Mr James Wheaton (Item 7.1, 7.2), Mr Louis Casey (Item 7.2) ANNPSR: AIRCDRE Joe Medved, Mr Michael Drake (Item 4)

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, present and emerging.

1.2 - Attendance and apologies

An apology was noted for Mr Brent Rodgers. All other 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 minutes of the March 2026 meeting were circulated out of session and confirmed at this meeting.

1.5 - Meeting dates

The Committee noted the following future meeting dates:

- Wednesday 18 November - Friday 20 November 2026 (Melbourne).

Dates for meetings in the new triennium, commencing in 2027, will be proposed.

2 - Business arising

2.1 - Outstanding actions

The Committee noted that the actions arising from previous meetings were completed or were covered at this meeting. No additional actions were raised.

2.2 - Incoming correspondence

Nil.

2.3 - Outgoing correspondence

Nil.

3 - Chief Executive Officer (CEO) update

3.1 - ARPANSA significant activities

The CEO provided an update on significant ARPANSA activities, including:

- International travel remains reduced due to active conflicts and increased travel costs. Online attendance is used where possible to support ARPANSA's engagement.
- The ARPANSA budget has been confirmed for 2026-27, including funding for work associated with the nuclear submarine program for FY2026-27 and 2027-28.
- ARPANSA recently hosted its Licence Holder Forum and two associated workshops on regulatory expectations and support for the ARPANSA RAD portal. The forum theme was security.

3.2 - Media enquiries update

ARPANSA provided an update on media enquiries received to date in 2026, including trends, sentiment and thematic analysis of the data. The analysis is useful to planning and development of communication strategies. The Committee noted that sentiment analysis based solely on the tone of an article may be of limited value, as it does not necessarily indicate which media engagements are most important to ARPANSA or how ARPANSA is portrayed publicly.

3.3 - Public enquiries update

ARPANSA provided an update on public enquiries received in 2026 through its Talk to a Scientist program.

A member of the Committee noted that, in relation to both media and public enquiries, it may be useful for the Committee to be provided with a case study (or studies) to demonstrate how ARPANSA receives these enquiries and responds to different issues. The CEO noted this could be considered for a future meeting.

3.4 - *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 discussion of new and emerging technologies such as AI and lasers; guidance on the use of potassium iodide in radiological and nuclear emergencies; and two letters of advice, one on sustainability and radiation protection in Australia, and one on minerals reprocessing and radium waste for theranostics.

4 - ANNPSR Update

The Committee received an update from the Australian Naval Nuclear Power Safety Regulator (ANNPSR). ANNPSR continues to build capacity with additional recruitment. ANNPSR also continues to utilise ARPANSA technical expertise to support regulatory work, and other training opportunities including observing ARPANSA inspections.

5 - Update on major controlled facilities and inspections

5.1 - *Facility safety section update*

The Committee was updated on the regulation of major controlled facilities. No significant issues were raised beyond those covered under separate items.

5.2 - *Actinide Suite improvement notice*

ARPANSA provided the Committee with an update on regulatory activities related to the Actinide Suite, which is subject to an improvement notice. Immediate safety issues have been addressed, and an action plan has been prepared, the implementation of which ARPANSA is monitoring.

The Committee was informed that ANSTO had applied to use another laboratory in the same building, which shares a common ventilation system. ARPANSA is considering whether the risks associated with the potential for cross-contamination through the common ventilation system can be appropriately managed through appropriate licence conditions. The Committee noted the importance of ensuring that safety actions continue to be carried out in the intended sequence. The Committee also discussed the need to assess the application with regard to the unmitigated scenario, rather than relying solely on a likelihood-based risk matrix, and to give due consideration to alternatives such as using an alternate location. The Committee also noted that efficiency testing of ventilation components in comparison to pressure testing of ventilation components may provide greater assurance of safety.

5.3 - *ANSTO Waste Operations*

ARPANSA provided the Committee with an overview of recent regulatory activities associated with a direction issued to ANSTO Waste Operations. The direction was issued on 22 April 2026 and is expected to be tabled in Parliament before July. ANSTO is progressing actions under the direction in accordance with the required timeframe, including submission of contingency plan information and the appointment of an external independent review team.

5.4 - *Waste, Decommissioning and Transport section update*

The Committee was updated on the regulation of major waste facilities, decommissioning and transport activities, 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 is engaging with the Australian Radioactive Waste Agency (ARWA) on a range of activities including framework updates, inventory data and near-surface disposal requirements.
- Contributions to the development of the Radioactive Waste Management Code, discussed in more detail at item 7.1.

6 - *International travel update*

An update was provided on recent international engagements, including:

- The 10th Review Meeting of the IAEA Convention on Nuclear Safety (CNS), which was held in Vienna 13 to 24 April 2026. ARPANSA led the delegation and delivered the Australian national presentation.
- The IAEA International Conference on Effective Nuclear and Radiation Regulatory Systems in Vienna from 27 to 30 April 2026. ARPANSA contributed to the conference program committee, delivered two presentations and participated in panel sessions during the conference.
- The upcoming Nuclear Energy Agency webinar on the role of regulatory agencies in radioactive waste management and decommissioning.

7 - *Radiation Protection Series updates*

7.1 - *Radioactive Waste Management Code*

ARPANSA provided an overview of a Radiation Health Committee (RHC) project to develop a new Radioactive Waste Management Code of Practice. The code will set out Australian-specific radioactive waste management requirements for operators who produce, store or manage radioactive waste, providing a single national framework for the lifecycle of radioactive waste management. The CEO requested the Committee provide input during development of the code.

7.2 - *National glossary*

The Committee was briefed on the project to develop a National Glossary of Terms that has been initiated by the Radiation Health Committee (RHC) as a means of promoting national consistency in terminology by providing a single reference source that can be adopted and used by Australian regulatory authorities. The Committee noted the project and welcomed progress towards completion of the glossary.

8 - *Reports and updates*

8.1 - *Update from the member representing the interest of the public*

The Committee noted the update from the member representing the interests of the public, and that no new matters had been raised by members of the public since the previous meeting.

8.2 - *Update from local government representative*

The Committee noted an update from the local government representative. This included the following:

- The Submarine Discovery Centre, a new community information hub, is set to open in Rockingham.
- The recent HMAS Stirling open day was well received.
- Several information sharing events/forums related to the submarine program are expected to be held and ARPANSA is intending to participate in some of these events.

8.3 - *Radiation Health Committee*

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

The Committee noted that the RHC is due to meet in two weeks. Key items include a proposal to revise the National Directory for Radiation Protection (NDRP), continuing work on the glossary of terms, the national competency framework, and updates on draft codes under development and review.

9 - Other business

9.1 - *Graded approach*

ARPANSA provided an update on the advice received from the NSC to support a business process review of its graded approach to regulation, noting that implementation of such an approach is important to align regulatory effort with the hazard and risk being considered.

The NSC advice included strengthening guidance and support to staff on the application of the approach, how it is applied to governance and approvals, and how discretion and sampling are reflected in guidance and training.

10 - Meeting close

The next meeting will be held in Melbourne during the period 18 to 20 November 2026. The exact date to be confirmed.

The Chair closed the meeting at 16:00.