



Australian Government

Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency

# ARPANSA

Protecting people and the environment  
from the harmful effects of radiation

## REGULATORY SERVICES



**Statement of Regulatory Intent  
January 2015**

# Purpose

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This statement establishes a high-level framework for ARPANSA's regulatory activities under the *Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Act 1998* (the Act). It also sets the directions of ARPANSA's regulatory activities and informs the establishment and maintenance of assessment, monitoring, licence holder guidance and enforcement activities.

# Scope

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This document applies to the CEO and staff of ARPANSA.

# Statement of Intent

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A prime goal of regulation by ARPANSA is to provide assurance to the public and stakeholders about the safe management of radiation and nuclear activities of the Australian Government.

The Act and the *Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Regulations 1999* (the Regulations) clearly define the responsibilities of controlled persons and licence holders.

The CEO is responsible for ensuring that controlled persons and licence holders comply with the Act and the Regulations. To fulfil this responsibility, ARPANSA will:

1. Establish and publish clear regulatory requirements, monitor and enforce compliance, and appropriately assist licence holders to improve safety.
2. Make independent, objective, informed and consistent regulatory decisions.
3. Operate cost-effectively by basing regulatory action on the level of risk to people and the environment.
4. Work transparently, with strong accountability to the Australian Government, the Parliament and the public.

**Establish and publish clear regulatory requirements, monitor and enforce compliance, and appropriately assist licence holders to improve safety.**

To meet this outcome ARPANSA will:

- Produce codes, guides, and recommendations in accordance with the mechanisms established by the Act and Regulations, including through consultation with stakeholders and the general public.

- Promote compliance with regulatory requirements and improvements in safety through educating and assisting licence holders and a graded approach to enforcement.
- Monitor the compliance of licence holders with the requirements of the Act and Regulations through a program of inspections and regular monitoring.
- Review incidents, accidents and breaches to ensure that lessons learned are circulated to other licence holders.
- Promote continuous improvement and the implementation of international best practice.

### **Make independent, objective and informed regulatory decisions on a consistent basis**

To meet this outcome ARPANSA will:

- Undertake a timely and objective assessment of information provided by applicants or licence holders and information obtained from public submissions.
- Ensure that there is an adequate level of competence available within ARPANSA and through networks of contacts to inform the regulatory assessment process.
- Make transparent and consistent regulatory decisions in accordance with the Act and Regulations, using a risk-based approach.
- Cooperate with other Australian jurisdictions to improve ARPANSA's regulatory practices and contribute to improved regulatory processes adopted by other radiation regulators and interact, as appropriate, with overseas radiation protection and nuclear safety regulators.

### **Operate in a cost-effective manner, basing regulatory action on the level of risk to people and the environment**

To meet this outcome ARPANSA will:

- Regulate activities that are subject to the Act and Regulations in a manner that is consistent with the risk posed by the regulated activity.
- Make regulatory decisions and allocate regulatory and compliance resources in a way that takes risks into account.
- Ensure that the costs of regulation are measured and allocated to licence holders (cost recovery) and that there are regular reviews to ensure that regulatory costs are appropriate.
- Conduct the regulatory process in an effective and efficient manner and within a quality management system.
- Establish performance indicators for the regulatory process in consultation with stakeholders and report achievement against these performance indicators.
- Receive, act and report on stakeholder feedback.

## Work in a transparent manner with strong accountability to the Australian Government, the Parliament and the public

To achieve this outcome ARPANSA will:

- Make timely and effective reports of ARPANSA's regulatory performance to the Minister, the Parliament, and the public.
- Seek and take into account views of the Radiation Health and Safety Advisory Council, the Nuclear Safety Committee and the Radiation Health Committee on matters relevant to regulatory decisions.
- Use the ARPANSA website and other communication tools to inform stakeholders and the public of ARPANSA's regulatory activities.
- Seek public submissions as required under the Act and Regulations and take these into account in regulatory decision-making.

## Responsibilities

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The CEO is responsible for establishing and maintaining a high level regulatory and policy framework.

The Branch Head, Regulatory Services is responsible for:

- Implementing processes and procedures to achieve the outcomes defined in this statement
- Advising the CEO with respect to delivery of the outcomes

Regulatory Services staff are responsible for:

- Undertaking activities as directed by the Branch Head
- Informing the Branch Head of ways to improve the delivery of outcomes.