

OFFICIAL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE VISITING SHIPS PANEL  
(NUCLEAR) HELD VIA GOVTEAMS ON 06 OCTOBER 2021

Present:

s 47F - privacy

Head Navy Engineering (Chair)  
International Policy Division  
Master Attendant  
JHC  
MAROPS  
ARPANSA  
ARPANSA  
ARPANSA  
ARPANSA  
ARPANSA  
ANSTO  
ANSTO  
AGNSR  
Health  
Health  
Health  
International Policy Division  
NPSO (Secretary)  
Secretary Desig

Apologies:

DSTG  
Dept of Agriculture and the Environment  
DFAT

ITEM 1 – INTRODUCTION

1. The Chair declared the meeting open at 1302.

ITEM 2 – WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

2. The Chair welcomed panel members to the meeting and asked they remain cognisant of the role and responsibility of the VSP(N) as each agenda item is discussed. The Chair also provided a brief overview on developments since the May 2021 meeting. The Chair invited the members to introduce themselves. The Secretary tendered apologies from Panel members who were unable to attend the meeting.

ITEM 3 – MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

3. The Chair welcomed the attendees and requested Panel members to confirm the minutes of the last meeting. Acceptance of the Minutes was proposed by s 47F - privacy and seconded by s 47F - privacy

**Decision:** Minutes accepted

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**ITEM 4 – MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

**4/3/Jun 14 – 2018 NPW Seminar—Status of Outcomes**

4. Secretary provided an overview of the open Functional Model (FM) Recommendations and Seminar Outcomes (SO) and advised the Technical Working Group (TWG) continued to address the open items and where possible recommending closure to the VSP(N). The open items are:

- a. FM Recommendation 4 *Conduct Sociological and Economic Assessment*. The template has been forwarded to Brisbane, WA and Darwin for completion. The template will be forwarded to the remaining jurisdictions by 31 Oct 21. The TWG will utilise the completed assessments as part of the port validation process. – ongoing;
- b. FM Recommendation 9 *Exercise Port Safety Organisation*;
- c. FM Recommendation 14 *Conduct monitoring and sensing*;
- d. FM Recommendation 15 *Respond to emergency*;
- e. SO Actions 18 and 20 *NPW Visit Policy and Procedures*;
- f. SO Action 26 *Radiation Hazard Warnings*; and
- h. SO Action 43a *Australian Radiation Monitoring System*. Buoy mounted EWS to be trialled by ARPANSA and Navy.

**Decision:** TWG to continue actioning the open recommendations and provide an update to the next meeting.

**Action:** TWG

**4/1/Mar 17 – MAROPS Report**

5. MAROPS § 47F - privacy provided a report on known and possible visits for the short to medium, term. There are no known visits in the 42-90 day timeframe, but it can be expected that the number of visits § 33 - security. The Panel noted the information.

**Decision:** Update to be provided at the next VSP(N) Meeting.

**Action:** MAROPS

**4/2/Feb 20 – 2022 NPW Seminar**

6. § 47F - privacy (ARPANSA) provided an update on TWG actions. As the Seminar has been postponed until Q2 2022, this has allowed the TWG to further enhance the program to include radiation monitoring best practice, moving to a digital MONREP and the Early Warning System to improve and standardise this aspect of NPW support activities. A discussion followed on a number of aspects of the Seminar, including inviting all States and Territories, § 33 - security and if the timeframe is achievable to enhance the program. HNE informed the Panel the Seapower Conference will be held in Sydney during period 2-9 May, as a result it was agreed the ideal date for the Seminar would be during period 30 May – 03 June 2022.

s 47F - privacy (AGNSR) informed the Secretary the NSR will not be available during the identified timeframe. The Secretary to ensure the Seminar invitation includes all States and Territories. TWG to identify a suitable venue and provide an update at the February 2022 meeting.

**Decision:** TWG to refine the Seminar program and identify a suitable venue. Secretary to ensure all States and Territories are invited to the Seminar.

**Action:** TWG and Secretary

#### 4/1/Feb 21 – Reference Accident

7. s 47F - privacy (ARPANSA) provided a presentation on the scope, funding requirements and timeline for the review of the Reference Accident. s 47F - privacy and s 47F - privacy provided additional comment and it was agreed the scope may need to be widened as a result of the Government announcement and the presentation should be uploaded to VSP(N) GOVTEAMS page. A discussion followed on the presentation with a particular emphasis on the framing of the RA, legislative framework and if the s 33 - security and requirements would have applicability to the Australian processes.

8. s 47F - privacy (MA) informed the Panel the Royal Navy (RN) was in the process of reviewing ports world-wide as part of the RN routine port approval processes. The Chair thanked ARPANSA for the informative presentation and summarised this item and it was agreed s 33 - security should be involved in the review process with out of session discussions between ARPANSA and s 33 - security to be conducted. It was agreed ARPANSA will initiate an exchange of letters to the Chair through the Panel by 31 Jan 22. The letter to define funding requirements, agility to re-define the scope and peer review timeframe.

**Decision:** ARPANSA to develop the letter and submit to the VSP(N) for review by 31 Jan 22. Update to be provided at the next meeting.

**Action:** ARPANSA

#### ITEM 5 – NEW BUSINESS

##### 5/1/Oct 21 – AUKUS New RAN Submarine Fleet

9. A discussion was held on the potential impact to VSP(N) activities as a result of the recent AUKUS announcement and s 33 - security. It was agreed that it is too early to determine any impacts to current procedures and more details would become known over the next 6-18 months with changes being initiated through s 33 - security.

10. The Chair summarised the item and concluded the Panel should be aware of additional public scrutiny and a consistent message needs to be Business as Usual. s 47F - privacy (ARPANSA) informed the Panel they had received two Questions on Notice (QoN) and coordinated their response through the NPWTF. The Chair requested any Questions on Notice, media requests that affect VSP(N) areas of Responsibility should be passed to the Chair through the Secretary to ensure a consistent message is provided.

11. [s 47F - privacy] (ANSTO) commented on increased visit frequency to multiple ports may result in an increased [s 33 - security] resources. It was agreed on the likelihood of increased visits from early 2022 onwards and it was agreed it would be prudent to identify these areas and supporting agencies to conduct contingency planning to support increased visits and in particular multiple port visits.

**5/2/Oct 22 – VSP(N) Membership**

12. [s 47F - privacy] (MA) asked if a representative for the NPW Task Force should attend future VSP(N) meetings and an invitation to the Seminar should be extended to the NPW TF. The Chair replied that [s 47F - privacy] will work with the TF to extend an invitation to the VSP(N) meetings and Seminar.

**Decision:** The Chair to discuss potential membership and attendance at the Seminar with the TF

**Action:** Chair

**5/3/Oct 22 – Review of OPSMAN1**

13. [s 47F - privacy] (MA) stated it would be prudent that OPSMAN1 is reviewed to ensure it remains current. [s 47F - privacy] provided comment on capability and capacity and ARPANSA’s project which includes Hazard Survey and gap analysis to be conducted in conjunction with the jurisdictions with the end state of having a consistent National approach presented at the Seminar. A discussion followed and it was agreed that a review is required. The TWG to commence the review of OPSMAN1 with the draft being circulated to the Panel members for comment by 31 Jan 22 and the draft circulated ahead of the February 2022 meeting.

**Decision:** TWG to commence the review of OPSMAN1 and circulate the draft to Panel Members for comment by 31 Jan 22.

**Action:** TWG and Panel Members

**ITEM 6 – NEXT MEETING**

14. **Conclusion.** The Chair expressed [s 47F - privacy] thanks for everyone’s attendance and concluded the meeting was successful with a number of items progressed. The next meeting will be held in [s 33 - security]

[s 33 - security] The meeting was closed at 1458.

[s 47F - privacy]

[s 47F - privacy] RAN  
Chairman

[s 47F - privacy]

[s 47F - privacy] RAN  
Secretary

19 November 2021

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