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**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE VISITING SHIPS PANEL (NUCLEAR)
HELD AT [REDACTED] ON
23 FEBRUARY 2022**

Attendees:

[REDACTED] s 47F - privacy

- Head Navy Engineering (Chair)
- NPSTF
- JHC
- NPSO
- MAROPS
- ANSTO
- ANSTO
- ANSTO
- ARPANSA
- ARPANSA
- DFAT
- IPDIV
- IPDIV
- SONPW
- NPSO (Secretary)

Apologies:

[REDACTED] s 47F - privacy

- JHC
- AGNSR
- DFAT
- Environment
- Health

ITEM 1: OPENING

1. The Chair declared the meeting open at 1301, and before the usual welcoming remarks, the Chair asked those in attendance to declare any conflicts of interest that would prevent the meeting from advancing, of which there were none declared.

ITEM 2: WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

2. With such a large number of new members to the Visiting Ship Panel (Nuclear) (VSP (N)), the Chair invited every member present to introduce themselves, provide a short summary of what their organisation does, and how they contribute to the Panel. Commencing with the Chair, each member as per the attendance list introduced themselves. The secretary tendered apologies from Panel members who were unable to attend the meeting.

ITEM 3: CONFIRMATION OF THE PREVIOUS MINUTE'S MINUTES

3. The Chair requested those Panel members present at the previous VSP (N) meeting to confirm the minutes of the last meeting. Acceptance of the minutes was proposed by [REDACTED] (ARPANSA) and seconded by [REDACTED] (ANSTO).

Decision: Minutes accepted.

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ITEM 4: MATTERS ARISING

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

4. The Secretary stated that the Technical Working Group (TWG) continues to progress the open outcomes of the 2018 NPW Seminar, which are expected to be closed out either prior to or during the NPW seminar scheduled for the last quarter of 2022.

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

For Action: TWG.

4/1/Feb 22 – Maritime Operations Report

5. [s 47F - privacy] (Maritime Operations (MAROPS)) provided a report on known and possible visits for the short to medium term. At the time of the meeting, MAROPS was [s 38 - secrecy], and were not expecting anything beyond that. However, [s 47F - privacy] also stated that [s 38 - secrecy].

6. The Chair reminded [s 47F - privacy] that any visit in mid-April is approaching the 42 day notification requirement IAW OPSMAN 1, and sought assurances that this timeline would be met. [s 47F - privacy] stressed that the partner nation was very much aware of the 42 day notification requirement and is confident this will be met.

4/2/Feb 20 – 2022 NPW Seminar

7. The Secretary notified the Panel that the 2022 NPW seminar had been confirmed for 26 to 28 October 2022 in Canberra, ACT. The Secretary noted that the [s 33 - security] has been tentatively booked for the seminar, however following feedback from the TWG, [suitable] alternate venues that can accommodate a larger number of attendees was being investigated. The Secretary also confirmed that following consultation with the Chair, the intent is to invite 3 representatives from each jurisdiction, which will include New South Wales and South Australia, along with the routine attendees ((VSP(N) members).

8. [s 47F - privacy] (ARPANSA) noted that the NSR may not be an appropriate venue owing to its [s 33 - security] therefore consideration of a larger venue, such as a lecture theatre might be more appropriate; particularly for day one of the seminar. [s 47F - privacy] also highlighted that following the AUKUS announcement, ARPANSA expects greater interest in the seminar, particularly from the various jurisdictions around the country.

9. The Chair agreed, and noted that the objective of the seminar is to ensure our receiving jurisdictions truly understand how [NPW] visits are managed, and their role. Therefore, the seminar is not about the VSP (N) members, it is about the VSP (N) working with the receiving jurisdictions and that those receiving jurisdictions understand the scale of the [NPW] undertaking and in some cases the sensitivities of the [NPW] undertaking. The Chair

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also apologised for postponing the seminar until the last quarter of 2022, stating that this was unavoidable owing to competing **§ 33 - security**

Decision: Secretary to identify a suitable venue and confirm attendance at the 2022 NPW seminar.

For Action: Secretary.

4/1/Feb 21 – Reference Accident

10. **§ 47F - privacy** began by briefing the Panel on the nature of the reference accident; how and by whom it was created and its purpose. **§ 47F - privacy** stated that the reference accident was last updated in the year 2000, and that following an independent review in 2021, although the reference accident was still considered ‘fit for purpose’, an update was required within 3 years. Subsequently, ARPANSA and Defence signed a memorandum of understanding in mid-December 2021 to conduct a holistic review of the reference accident within the next 3 years.

11. **§ 47F - privacy** stated that the project is currently in the recruitment phase, along with an associated [internal] restructure of the ARPANSA radiation health services branch. Following a query from the Chair, **§ 47F - privacy** stated that the restructure was a result of the new positions established within ARPANSA for both the reference accident project and AUKUS obligations. **§ 47F - privacy** noted that the restructure would have a positive impact on Defence, by allowing ARPANSA to provide greater support to Defence.

Decision: Updated organisational structure at the next meeting.

For Action: ARPANSA.

12. Following a query from **§ 47F - privacy** the Nuclear Powered Submarine Taskforce (NPSTF) regarding the reference accident parameters and application across NPW visits, **§ 47F - privacy** confirmed that ARPANSA will develop one [updated] reference accident, which will have application across all NPW visits. **§ 47F - privacy** and **§ 47F - privacy** stated that the modelling utilised to develop the reference accident will consider all [credible] worst case scenarios to ensure the reference accident can be applied to any visit, regardless of the time a vessel spends in port. Importantly, **§ 47F - privacy** and **§ 47F - privacy** noted that the updated reference accident will then lead to a review of the different management/response strategies following a NPW incident.

13. **§ 47F - privacy** stated that as part of the review, ARPANSA will consult with relevant stakeholders, including ANSTO, who will join ARPANSA on a steering group for the project. Lastly, **§ 47F - privacy** stated that as part of the review, ARPANSA intends utilising an updated data set for calculating radiation doses. Historically ARPANSA have utilised a ‘collective dose’, however this is no longer utilised internationally, because if you have a large population and very small doses, you can exceed that criteria despite the dosage having no impact on the population base. Therefore, ARPANSA intends applying an updated data set based on the ability to respond; which translates to when considering a population base, do authorities have the ability to evacuate based on access, population density and available resources (in terms of first response). This was supported by ANSTO.

14. The Chair thanked ARPANSA for the update and indicated that this will now become a standing item at future VSP (N) meetings. For the next VSP (N) meeting, the Chair requested ARPANSA specifically provide an update as to the status of the [reference accident] project management plan. Importantly, the Chair noted that with [s 33 - security] within ARPANSA and the scope of work before them; the review of the reference accident alongside a [potential] [s 33 - security] [s 47F - privacy] requested that ARPANSA consider the creation of branch plans to identify how they will manage the workflow moving forward. [s 47F - privacy] stated that he would take for action, for presentation at the next VSP (N).

Decision: Update to be provided at the next VSP (N) meeting (standing item).

For Action: ARPANSA.

5/1/Oct 21 – AUKUS RAN Future Submarine Fleet

15. Following up from the last VSP (N) meeting on 06 Oct 21, the Secretary reiterated the Chair's previous comments regarding the need for a consistent message when addressing NPW and VSP (N) matters. The Secretary noted that following Senate Estimates on 17 Feb 22, Navy received a number of questions on notice, specifically relating to NPW visits [s 33 - security] [redacted]. In line with the Chair's intent, the Secretary was in the process of drafting a response on behalf of the Chair, which will be circulated with the relevant Panel members for comment/consultation.

16. The Chair reiterated the importance of maintaining a level of [public] confidence in what the Panel does. Thus, whilst NPW and VSP (N) questions will often be directed towards Defence, with a response provided by [s 47F - privacy] within [redacted] capacity as Chair and HNE, as Chair, [s 47F - privacy] will always consult formally with the relevant Panel members to ensure any written response does not run contrary to any messaging provided by the other respective organisations holding a position on the Panel.

17. The Chair sought clarification on the primary points of contact within ARPANSA and ANSTO for such matters, which were confirmed as follows:

- a. ANSTO [s 47F - privacy]
- b. ARPANSA [s 47F - privacy]

Decision: Item closed.

5/2/Oct 21 – VSP (N) Membership

18. The Chair confirmed that the NPSTF will receive a standing invitation to all future VSP (N) meetings and the 2022 NPW seminar as observers. The Secretary will coordinate in consultation with the NPSTF to ensure an appropriate representative attends each meeting and the seminar.

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19. The Chair took the opportunity to welcome the Taskforce as observers.

Decision: NPSTF to receive a standing invite to all future VSP (N) meetings and the NPW seminar.

For Action: Secretary.

5/3/Oct 21 – Review of OPSMAN 1

20. [s 47F - privacy] raised a concern regarding the current review of OPSMAN 1 (edition 11). [s 47F - privacy] noted that following agreement at the 2018 NPW seminar, the intent was to conduct a holistic review in order to contemporise the document, however to date he was of the opinion that the current review was falling short of the intent.

21. The Chair reminded/informed those present that OPSMAN 1 is the policy that guides how the VSP (N) functions. The Chair noted that the policy has not had a significant refresh for some years, and that some elements within the document; specifically areas concerned with various [responsible] agencies are [s 33 - security]. Further, the Chair noted that whilst the general processes remain consistent and agreed, how the policy is enacted must be contemporised to align with our [responsible agencies] structures, our authorities and our accountabilities. Therefore, the Chair acknowledged the feedback from ARPANSA and accepted the need to conduct a holistic review of OPSMAN 1, which is currently being led by [s 47F - privacy].

22. [s 33 - security] (SONPW) confirmed that as agreed at the 2018 NPW seminar, he is in the process of coordinating the review of OPSMAN 1 (edition 11), which includes dividing the document into NPW policy and NPW procedures. [s 47F - privacy] noted that in the future, this could allow the policy document to be owned by an agency with cross-government responsibilities, whereas the procedures will be owned by the VSP (N), which was a key recommendation of the 2018 NPW seminar. [s 47F - privacy] confirmed that chapter 1 of OPSMAN 1 edition 11 will become the policy document, with the remainder of the document becoming the procedures. [s 47F - privacy] expects the draft document to be finalised by the TWG by the end of March for distribution to the remaining Panel members and the State and Territory jurisdictions, with final ratification at the 2022 NPW seminar.

23. Following a query from [s 47F - privacy] the Chair confirmed that OPSMAN 1 is currently owned and has always rested with the Department of Defence, noting that it is Defence, through the diplomatic clearance process are the Government agency who welcomes [s 33 - security] to Australia. The Chair also noted that although Defence owns the document, it is the States who are required to enact the relevant procedures, such as emergency response based on the requirements of OPSMAN 1. [s 47F - privacy] (Master Attendant) reminded the audience that OPSMAN 1 has been developed to support [s 33 - security]. [s 47F - privacy] also noted that OPSMAN 1 does not place a limit on the number or duration of NPW visits to Australia. This was acknowledged by [s 47F - privacy].

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

For Action: SONPW.

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ITEM 5: BUSINESS ITEM 1: ANSTO LETTER NPW RAN RESOURCE ANALYSIS AND COSTING

24. [§ 47F - privacy] noted that following discussions around an [§ 33 - security] to Australia, ANSTO developed a resourcing impact study to support any [§ 33 - security] (enclosure 1).

25. The Chair thanked ANSTO for proactively investigating this issue, however noted that Defence cannot guarantee what [if any] [§ 33 - security] will look like, and therefore sought to understand how can ANSTO can build a budgeting mechanism within the organisation in the event [§ 33 - security] is realised.

26. [§ 47F - privacy] stated that ANSTO, not unlike other government agencies are subject to an [§ 33 - security] within the organisation. [§ 47F - privacy] noted that this is the key resource limitation within the organisation that will limit their support to any [§ 33 - security]. Following a query from the Chair, [§ 47F - privacy] confirmed that [§ 33 - security] is not regulated but set by the Department of Finance, therefore there are funding mechanisms available; whether within ANSTO or from other government departments.

27. Importantly, [§ 47F - privacy] noted that this analyse only considers the augmentation ANSTO would require [§ 33 - security] to their existing resources to support an [§ 33 - security] without impacting their other responsibilities. For example, the additional resources will ensure business continuity is [§ 33 - security]. [§ 47F - privacy] also noted that currently, within [§ 33 - security] NPW activities are not specifically listed. Following questions from the Chair, [§ 47F - privacy] proposed that [§ 33 - security], which would guarantee ANSTO's support to any [§ 33 - security].

28. [§ 47F - privacy] noted that ARPANSA was in a similar situation, stating that ARPANSA currently budgets for [§ 33 - security]. However [§ 47F - privacy] highlighted that this was a short term solution that is [§ 33 - security] which not unlike ANSTO is required to support an [§ 33 - security]. Therefore, [§ 47F - privacy] offered an alternate proposal, whereby the VSP (N); ARPANSA and ANSTO, develop an integrated consideration for [§ 33 - security] (from the 2022-2023 financial year) under the AUKUS initiative.

29. The Chair noted that in light of AUKUS, and the [§ 33 - security] ARPANSA's proposal was more appropriate because it will capture the enduring resource requirements for both organisations. Thus, in the short term, both organisation may seek [§ 33 - security]. However, the Chair also noted that without having clearly defined the resource implications within their respective budgets (ARPANSA and ANSTO), [§ 33 - security]. Therefore, in the immediate term, the Chair recommended that both ARPANSA and ANSTO seek to clearly define VSP (N) (NPW) activities within their respective budgets. Separate to this, the Chair will engage with the

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NPSTF (Head NPS Capability, s 47F - privacy to explore s 33 - security
[REDACTED]

Decision: Discuss with the NPSTF the augmentation of whole of government partners to assist with an s 33 - security in support of AUKUS objectives.

For Action: Chair s 47F - privacy

**ITEM 6: BUSINESS ITEM 2: s 33 - security OF
NPW VISITS TO AUSTRALIA**

30. The Panel agreed this was covered under business item 1. The Chair reminded the MAROPs representative of the 42 day notification timeline for NPW visits.

Decision: Item closed.

ITEM 7: OTHER BUSINESS

Annual Report

31. The Chair provided a brief summary to the new Panel members of the intent and purpose of the Annual Report. s 47F - privacy confirmed [REDACTED] was awaiting final input from ARPANSA before [REDACTED] can finalise the 2021 Annual Report. The Chair requested this be actioned as a matter of urgency.

Decision: SONPW to finalise the Annual Report for consideration by the Chair by Monday 28 Feb 22.

Action: SONPW/ARPANSA

NSW NPW Status

32. As a member of the NSW Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) Advisory Group, ANSTO (s 47F - privacy) noted that following the AUKUS announcement, NSW are rethinking their status on NPW visits to NSW. s 47F - privacy stated that in the short term, the Advisory Group will likely brief their [NSW] Ministers on the current status of NPW visits, with the view of giving consideration to a change in their current status. s 47F - privacy posited the Panel give consideration to preparing some materials for use by the Advisory Group to allow briefings within their jurisdiction.

33. Following discussion led by the Chair, the Chair stated it was not for the Panel to influence any internal [NSW] discussions regarding the status of NPW visits to NSW, and that any briefings provided to the NSW Minister(s) will be the responsibility of the NSW CBRN Advisory Group. Importantly, the Chair stated that neither [REDACTED], nor the panel will interfere with the pathway another jurisdiction receives advice. However, the Chair noted that as per para 7, along with the other jurisdictions, NSW will receive an invitation to attend the NPW Seminar and it is during this forum that the Panel can provide Commonwealth advice to

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NSW. If in the interim NSW wishes to engage the Panel, NSW can formally correspond with the Panel.

Decision: ANSTO are to provide the Secretary with the relevant NSW points of contact for inclusion in the 2022 NPW Seminar attendance list.

For Action: Secretary/ANSTO

ITEM 8: NEXT MEETING

34. The Chair concluded by thanking everyone for their attendance. The next meeting will be held in the **s 33 - security**
[Redacted] The meeting was closed at 1454.

s 47F - privacy
[Redacted]

s 47F - privacy RAN
Chairperson

s 47F - privacy
[Redacted]

s 47F - privacy, RAN
Secretary

Enclosure:

1. ANSTO Nuclear Powered Vessel (NPV) Visit to Australian Ports: Resourcing Impact

Distribution List:

- HNE
- NPSTF
- JHC
- NPSO
- MAROPs
- SONPW
- AGNSR
- ANSTO
- ANSTO
- ARPANSA
- ARPANSA
- DFAT
- ENVIRONMENT
- HEALTH
- IPDIV
- IPDIV

s 47F - privacy
[Redacted]

For Information:

- IP DIV
- JHC
- ANSTO
- DFAT

s 33 - security, s 47E - operations

s 33 - security, s 47E - operations

s 33 - security, s 47E - operations



s 47E - operations, s 33 - security

s 47E - operations, s 33 - security

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s 33 - security, s 47E - operations

s 47E - operations, s 33 - security

s 33 - security, s 47E - operations

s 33 - security, s 47E - operations

s 33 - security, s 47E - operations