



OFFICIAL

**TASK REQUEST**  
**-Support to Search for missing Capsule containing radioactive material - Western Australia --**  
**2023288**  
**Task Request #001**

<b>Event Title:</b>	Radiological Incident Western Australia
<b>Activated Plan:</b>	COMDISPLAN activated on 28 <sup>th</sup> January 2023
<b>NSR Task Request No.:</b>	#001
<b>Time/Date:</b>	28 January 2023
<b>Agency/Jurisdiction:</b>	WA

**Situation:**

A 19.9 Gigabequerel (GBq) industrial radiation source in a level gauge was transported by road on a trailer from s 22 - Irrelevant the Pilbara to the Perth metropolitan area s 22 - Irrelevant. The ceramic radioactive material was inside a metal capsule which is 6 mm diameter and 8 mm long.

The source was packed on 10 January 2023 - secured in the gauge housing, then inside a transport box (to which it was bolted), this was mounted on a pallet and initially stored s 22 - Irrelevant. The pallet was collected and loaded on a trailer s 22 - Irrelevant on 12 January 2023 for transport by road to Perth. It travelled through some intermediate depots before arriving at the premises s 22 - Irrelevant in Malaga on 16 January 2023. The pallet was stored at those premises until being opened on 25 January 2023, when the source was found to be missing. The source is thought to have fallen through a hole in the damaged box and then from the trailer to the road.

Investigations by s 22 - Irrelevant including physical and instrumental searches of various sites and a section of the Great Northern Highway near Bindoon, have been conducted and are continuing. These efforts to find the source have not been successful. The Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) is the Hazard Management Agency for the incident.

The potential search area could cover approximately 1400 km of regional and metropolitan roads, and this task is beyond the direct capability of the State in a suitable timeframe.

**Task Description:**

Australian Government assistance is requested to locate the missing radiation source, namely:

- Specialised radiation detection capability, to locate 20 giga-bequerel of Caesium-137 up to 10 to 15 metres off the side of road.

Assistance for this task is being sought from a number of authorities s 22 - Irrelevant who will need to work collaboratively and collectively in support of lead WA authorities to locate the missing radiation source.

**Delivery Location:**

The total distance of road being considered in the search area is estimated as 1350km of regional highways, and would also include some metropolitan road routes.

**Timeframe:**

The Specialised radiation detection capability is to be delivered to Perth and then subsequently deployed at the direction of WA authorities.

**Duration:**

Support is requested as soon as possible, due to the risk to public safety.

The requirement is for the equipment to be on the ground into Perth by no later than Wednesday 1 February 2023.

The duration of the request is unknown at this stage and would be dependent on the ground coverage area of capability provided.

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<b>Jurisdiction/Agency Point of Contact:</b>	s 22 - Irrelevant
<b>Assigned To:</b>	Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency (ARPANSA)

<b>Authorisation</b>	
<b>NSR Contact Officer:</b>	s 22 - Irrelevant
<b>Authorising Officer:</b>	National Emergency Management Agency

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