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**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE VISITING SHIPS PANEL (NUCLEAR)
HELD AT s 33 - security ON 10
MARCH 2022**

Attendees:

s 47F - privacy

Head Navy Engineering (Chair)
NPSTF
IP DIV
HNE COS
NPSO
JHC
SONPW
NPSO (Secretary)
ANSTO
ANSTO
ARPANSA
ARPANSA
NEMA
DSTG
DFAT
DFAT
DHAC
IP DIV
IP DIV

Analogies:

s 47F - privacy

MAROPS
DAFF
DCCEEW
DFAT

ITEM 1: OPENING

1. The Chair, s 47F - privacy (RAN), declared the meeting open at 1013.

ITEM 2: WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

2. The Chair welcomed Panel members to the meeting and thanked all for their attendance. The Chair noted the importance of managing the meetings time to allow for a discussion of lessons learnt from Western Australia's 'missing source' event. The Secretary, s 47F - privacy (RAN) tendered apologies from Panel members who were unable to attend the meeting.

ITEM 3: CONFIRMATION OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS MINUTES

3. The Secretary outlined that the minutes had been distributed for comment and requested those Panel members present at the previous Visiting Ship Panel (Nuclear) (VSP(N)) meeting to confirm the minutes of the last meeting. Acceptance of the minutes was proposed the Secretary and seconded by s 47F - privacy (RAN).

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Decision: Minutes accepted.

ITEM 4: MATTERS ARISING

4/1/Feb 21 – Reference Accident

4. s 47F - privacy (ARPANSA) provided an update on two sub-projects of interest to the committee being conducted by ARPANSA. The first was outlined as work with consultants to provide a ‘core estimate comparative analysis’ with an interim report expected Apr 23. That report will be distributed to the Panel for comment; s 47F - privacy (ARPANSA) requested a quick response to the review of that report so project can progress as planned. The second sub-project discussion outlined the development of the ‘accident sequence comparative analysis’ looking at accident scenarios and their subsequent likelihood. As part of this process the term ‘accident’ may be changed to the term ‘incident’. The interim report is expected in Jul 23 and will be submitted to the Panel for comment. Again, s 47F - privacy (ARPANSA) requested an expedited response to that report to progress its development in a timely matter. Delivery of the final product is scheduled for release in Dec 23.

Decision: ARPANSA to continue development of the two reports with submission to the Panel for comment in Apr 23 and Jul 23, respectively.

For Action: ARPANSA.

4/2/Oct 21 – Review of OPSMAN 1

5. s 47F - (RAN) stated that OPSMAN 1 - Edition 11 has been reviewed by the relevant stakeholders and had been submitted to be included as part of the defence policy admin framework. s 47F - (RAN) outlined that the document was ready for review and approval by the Chair. The Chair confirmed with the Panel that there were no outstanding matters of concern and indicated that s 47F - office would approve the document for publication.

Decision: OHNE to review and formally approve the current drafted version of OPSMAN 1 – Edition 11.

Action: SONPW/OHNE

4/3/Jun 22 – NPW Resource Analysis and Costing: NPW Visit Vignettes

6. HNE Chief of Staff, s 47F - privacy (RAN) thanked the relevant parties for their input which resulted in a generation of a staff paper at the end of 2022 to seek supplementary funding for the new financial year. This funding request included support for internal supplementation for OHNE, the reference accident, operational support and test equipment. s 47F - privacy (RAN) stated that the request had progressed and is at the final stage of internal defence approval with an expectation to receive feedback and subsequent formal approval in the next month. s 47F - privacy (RAN) highlighted that he would then discuss the outcome with ARPANSA and ANSTO with the view of acquiring previously discussed equipment this financial year, limited to what will be achieved for delivery by 30 Jun 23.

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7. s 47F - privacy (ANSTO) stated that ANSTO has incorporated the resource impact statement for procurement of equipment in support of Defence to their finance group. Feedback received internally is that the request is progressing well. The ANSTO legal department has outline there is an MOU for shared resources and that may be used to support the request. Further detail to be shared between OHNE and ANSTO outside the meeting.

8. s 47F - privacy (ARPANSA) outlined that ARPANSA had budgeted for the current NPW visit, however future funding to support visits would be billed on an 'as required' basis. s 47F - privacy (RAN) outlined that funding of operational support may cover items including travel, accommodation, and movement of stores. s 47F - privacy (RAN) stated that funding can be approved for future activities but not used to reimburse historical activities.

s33(a)(iii)

s33 - security

11. The Chair acknowledged the tension in the forecast increase to NPW visit frequency and stated the system to support funding needs to be actively managed; The Chair stated s 47F - P believed this matter to be in-hand and understood by the COS.

Decision: COS to seek funding approval and liaise with ANSTO and ARPANSA to discuss outcomes of the submission.

For Action: COS

4/4/Aug 22 – Darwin NPW Validation

12. The Secretary outlined that that the previous Chair had stated that the Port Of Darwin NPW port validation was to be conducted in the first quarter of 2023. The Secretary highlighted that due to extenuating circumstances the Northern Territory had formally requested the validation be deferred and re-scheduled for 27 Apr 23. OHNE had approved the request and the TWG would conduct the assessment on the prescribed date.

Decision: TWG to conduct the validation on the prescribed date.

For Action: TWG

ITEM 5: NEW BUSINESS

5/1/Mar 23 – MAROPS Report

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13. s 47F - privacy (RAN) provided advice on behalf of MAROPS outlining that they were not tracking an NPW visit in the proceeding 90 days. Further advice indicated there would likely be an NPW visit as part of Exercise Talisman Sabre 23, scheduled Jul-Aug 23. The location of the visit is yet to be confirmed with further details in due course.

5/2/Oct 22 – 2022 Seminar Outcomes

14. The Secretary outlined that the 2022 Seminar Outcomes tracking spreadsheet had been distributed to the Panel by email for comment. The Chair asked for feedback on the delivery of the 2022 Seminar with s 47F - privacy (ARPANSA) indicating a really positive and engaging response from state-based participants who don't contribute to the VSP(N) on a quarterly basis. s 47F - privacy indicated that the National Exercise Program discussed at the seminar was being adopted as part of the 'after action review' by ARPANSA and ANSTO in response to the WA 'missing source' event. Such a National Training and Exercise Program is under discussion by ARPANSA and ANSTO as a possible future new policy proposal. s 47F - privacy (ANSTO) outlined the significance of networking among the States and highlighted the importance of the ability to discuss their shared experiences in the forum.

15. s 47F - privacy (RAN) outlined that there may be merit to holding a shortened or compressed version of the NPW seminar. s 47F - privacy (RAN) and s 47F - privacy (ARPANSA) outlined their concerns noting the forecast NPW activities already scheduled for the proceeding calendar year. The Chair requested consideration for the continuation of a compressed variation of the VSP(N) Seminar to progress the outstanding outcomes.

16. s 47F - privacy (NEMA) outlined that NEMA continues to develop a plan for broader review of their emergency response plans as per the outcomes tracker and further advice would be sought on completion of the meeting. Roles and responsibilities for a media strategy would need further consideration and NEMA would look at providing further advice at the next meeting. s 47F - privacy (DFAT) outlined that DFAT would be interested in being involved in the progression of that outcome with regard to the legal implications at an international level.

Decision: TWG to consider the continuation of a compressed variation of the VSP(N) seminar to progress the outstanding outcomes.

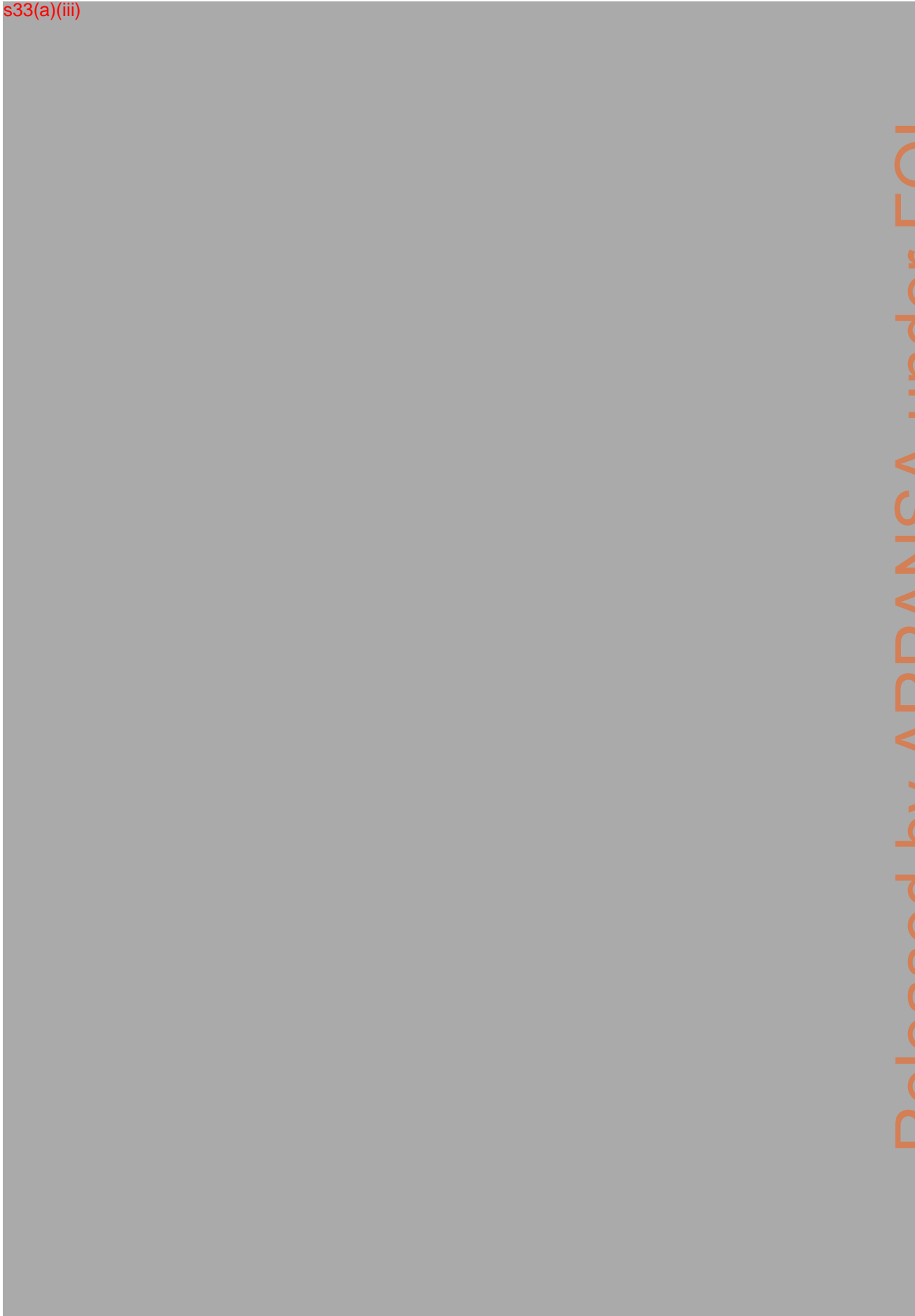
For Action: TWG

s33(a)(iii)



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s33(a)(iii)



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s33(a)(iii)

s22(1)(a)(ii) or s47F(1)

Change

24. s 47F - privacy (RAN) outlined the clear guidance outlining Defence priorities for validating ports for NPW visits. As such, Port of Gladstone will be validated initially as a secondary port in 2023 and then as a primary port in 2024. The validation of Gladstone as a primary port will provide an example of how a large commercial port can be developed and subsequently validated to support NPW visits. s 47F - privacy (RAN) outlined the interest in validating HMAS *Coonawarra*'s new wharf in 2024 to support NPW. s 47F - p outlined the planning constraints for that validation with special reference to the proximity of accommodated Defence members and their families in service accommodation adjacent the wharves.

25. s 47F - privacy (RAN) outlined the extensive level of planning, modelling, assessment and infrastructure development involved in validating a new berth at Barney Point in Gladstone, QLD. As a result of constraints to berthing NPW at other facilities including Boyne Smelter and Fisherman's Landing, consideration is sought for the development of Barney Point.

26. s 47F - privacy (RAN) indicated that the preferred course of action to validate the new primary ports (Gladstone and Darwin) would mean awaiting the promulgation of the new Reference Accident and assess against the updated policy in 2024; The Chair endorsed the plan.

Decision: TWG to plan validation of the Port of Gladstone (Barney Point Wharf) as a primary port prior to 30 Jun 24 under the new reference accident.

For Action: TWG

s33(a)(i)

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s33(a)(i)

5/7/Mar 23 – WA Missing Source Lessons Learnt

29. [s 47F - privacy] (ANSTO) provided a detailed recount of the sequence of events involving the loss and consequent search for the missing radiation source in Western Australia. [s 47F - p] outlined the importance of media liaison for consistent messaging to manage public concern, highlighting the effectiveness of the State, ANSTO and ARPANSA's collaborative approach to public relations.

30. [s 47F - privacy] (ANSTO) outlined the importance of responding agencies operational readiness and how that needs to be implemented to meet the requests for support from a state at short notice (sighting ANSTO's policy of three-hour's notice to deploy). [s 47F - p] indicated in his response that he would like to see state requests for assistance arrive earlier, noting the likelihood of eventual deployment of Commonwealth intervention was inevitable.

31. [s 47F - privacy] (ANSTO) outlined that each of the states have Chemical Biological Radiation Nuclear (CBRN) committees and that he would like to see ARPANSA and ANSTO in advisory representation, resulting in participation in their respective community of practice.

32. [s 47F - privacy] (ARPANSA) outlined that ARPANSA had conducted an after action review indicating that the operational readiness to support an incident of this nature had been eroded due to efficiency dividends and staffing level caps. [s 47F - p] indicated that the organisation would like to rectify these deficiencies to be in a better position to respond. The Chair asked [s 47F - privacy] (ARPANSA) about the time frame to reform the deficiencies to which he responded by indicating that there were several avenues they would review to support. Despite having the appropriately trained personnel and appropriate equipment, [s 47F - privacy] (ARPANSA) cited changes to operational readiness would support a better outcome in future. [s 47F - p] echoed and supported the lessons learnt outlined by [s 47F - privacy] (ANSTO).

33. [s 47F - privacy] (ARPANSA) outlined the concept of Commonwealth-led 'road-shows' conducting training and exercise programs with all states and territories biennially. [s 47F - p] indicated that it may eventuate as a new policy proposal within ARPANSA or a joint policy proposal with ANSTO in the 'emergency preparedness and response' area. [s 47F - p] indicated conceptual support from Defence and would provide further detail in due course.

34. [s 47F - privacy] (ANSTO) highlighted the overall success in inter-organisational operability between Defence, ANSTO and ARPANSA but outlined there may be need to further understand each of our equipment resources for appraisal within the partnership. [s 47F - p] outlined the importance of growing the cooperation between agencies so that when we are required to deploy there exists a common understanding with regard to roles and responsibilities. [s 47F - p] outlined that if we required assistance from other nations in support of an incident, we would have a better capacity to support their involvement.

35. [s 47F - privacy] (ARPANSA) outlined ARPANSA's planning of an Emergency Preparedness Review over the coming three to five years. This initiative is an International Atomic Energy Agency peer-reviewed process of reviewing procedures and arrangements in response to incidents. Further details with regard to this process would be provided as information to the Panel in future.

36. s 47F - privacy (ARPANSA) stated the importance of pre-visit and validation activities in response to WA’s missing source. The Chair agreed with s 47F - privacy (ARPANSA) comments.

37. s 47F - privacy (ANSTO) wanted it known by the Panel that the ‘Coris360®’ device developed by ANSTO had located the missing source. In s 47F - D admission though, s 47F - D outlined that any one unit involved in the search would have located the source also. s 47F - D highlighted that the device could be useful for both commercial and governmental purposes.

s33(a)(iii)

39. The Chair asked the Panel whether they were aware of any consequences as a result of the actions by the civilian organisation to which s 47F - privacy (ARPANSA) indicated that the state-based regulatory investigation is ongoing. Additionally, s 47F - privacy (ARPANSA) indicted that the lessons ‘learnt’ would preferably be referred to as lessons ‘identified’.

40. The Chair thanked ARPANSA and ANSTO for the opportunity to hear about the demonstration of their respective capabilities.

ITEM 6: OTHER BUSINESS

41. The Chair offered an opportunity to identify other business. Nil further business was raised.

ITEM 7: NEXT MEETING

42. The Chair concluded by thanking everyone for their attendance, acknowledging the positive work prior to s 47F - D commencement in the role of Chair. The Chair acknowledged the adaptability of the teams responsible for NPW visits, with special reference to s 47E - operations in their response to changes in the visiting NPW’s program.

43. The next meeting will be held in s 33 - security. The meeting was closed at 1149.

s 47F - privacy
s 47F - privacy RAN
Chair

s 47F - privacy
s 47F - privacy RAN
Secretary

Enclosure:

- 1. ARPANSA Reference Accident Project Report – March 2023

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s 47F - privacy



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