MINUTES

Board	**Woomera Prohibited Area (WPA) Advisory Board Meeting**	
Date	Friday 27 May 2022	
Time	**Start:** 11:30 ACST (12:00 AEDT)	**Finish:** 13:00 ACST (13:30 AEDT)
Venue	Building 32 Room 27 at Keswick Barracks and Teams teleconference – Adelaide and Canberra	
Members	**Name**	**Appointment**
	The Hon Amanda Vanstone AO	Chair
	Ms Andrea Slattery	Deputy Chair
Ex-Officio Members	Dr Peter Sawczak	First Assistant Secretary, Strategic Policy Division, Department of Defence (representing Mr Peter Tesch, Deputy Secretary Strategic Policy and Industry Group)
	Mr Richard Price	Chief Executive Officer, Defence SA
	AIRMRSHL Mel Hupfield	Chief of Air Force, RAAF
	Ms Michelle Croker	Head of Onshore Resources Division, Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources (representing Sean Sullivan, Deputy Secretary, Energy Group)
	Dr Paul Heithersay	Chief Executive, Department for Energy and Mining
Attendees	Ms Kate Leane	A/Assistant Secretary, National & Defence Resilience Branch, Department of Defence
	Ms Taylor Seawright	A/Director, WPA Coordination Office, Department of Defence
	Ms Paige McFadden	A/Assistant Director, WPA Coordination Office, Department of Defence
	AIRCDRE Ross Bender	Commander, Air Warfare Centre HQ, RAAF
	GPCAPT Steven Parsons	Director Security Air Force, Air Force HQ
	Mr Darren Manser	Director, Air Force Ranges Directorate, RAAF
	WGCDR Peter Tame	Deputy Director, Woomera Range Complex, Air Force HQ
	WGCDR Kevin Rowlatt	Executive Officer, Air Force Ranges Directorate, RAAF
	SQNLDR Richard Gardiner	Woomera Range Complex, Air Force HQ
	Ms Eliza McConville	Senior Policy Officer, Resources Strategy and Stewardship Unit, Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources
	Ms Annie Smedley	Assistant Manager, Resources Strategy & Stewardship Unit, Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources
	Ms Sarah Ball	Senior Policy Officer, Resources Strategy Branch, Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources
	Mr Benjamin Zammit	Director, Mineral Resources Division, SA Department for Energy and Mining
	Ms Cathy Lacar	Senior Regulatory Adviser, Mineral Resources Division, SA Department for Energy and Mining
	Mr Reg Carruthers	Executive Director, Defence and Space, Defence SA

Security Briefing

Item	Discussion	Action Item	*Owner*
0.0	Adelaide in-person attendees participated in a WPA security briefing at Keswick Barracks.	---	---

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Opening and Acknowledgement of Country

Item	Discussion	Action Item	*Owner*
1.0	Chair acknowledged the traditional custodians of the land on which attendees were gathered, the Kaurna and Ngunnawal people. Chair also welcomed Advisory Board members and their supporting staff joining either in person or virtually.	---	---

Minutes from the last meeting

Item	Discussion	Action Item	Owner
2.0	Following FOI request for the Advisory Board's meeting minutes, the Board agreed to publish minutes on the WPA website as a matter of course. The Advisory Board also endorsed the previous meeting minutes, subject to a minor correction.	Defence to publish meeting minutes on the WPA website. Defence to adopt minor correction to surname of the DISER representative in previous meeting minutes.	Defence

Matters for WPA Advisory Board Decision

Item	Discussion	Action Item	Owner
3.1	***WPA Health Check report*** Defence presented the first annual WPA Health Check report, which found the Coexistence Framework remained fit for purpose. It also identified 21 proposed recommendations to ensure the Coexistence Framework remains contemporary. The Health Check report received very positive feedback from the Board. The Chair requested feedback be provided in writing to the WPACO Secretariat to finalise the report. Feedback on the report at the Board included: • Recent media reporting concerning the WPA and whether a system like Defence's Commander Critical Information Reports could be used to define the criteria for when media reports are to be provided to the Advisory Board for their situational awareness • Internal audits and reviews of the WPA Following the strong performance of the Coexistence Framework, the Board expressed their thanks to the creators of the framework, including Dr Allan Hawke AC, Ms Rebecca Skinner and Dr Gordon de Brouwer (in leading the 2018 WPA Review). The Chair requested a letter be drafted from the Board to Dr Hawke, Ms Skinner and Dr de Brouwer to provide an update on the Coexistence Framework's implementation and express thanks from the Board for their work.	Defence to circulate Health Check report recommendations to Advisory Board members for feedback. Feedback to WPACO Secretariat by Friday 24 June. Defence to circulate revised Health Check with feedback from Board. The report to be finalised out of session prior to next Board meeting. Defence and SA Government to define criteria for circulating sensitive media to the Board. Defence to draft a letter from the Chair to the original proponents of the Coexistence Framework.	Defence / SAG
3.2	***WPA Dashboard Report*** Defence gave an overview of the WPA Dashboard Report for the October 2021 to March 2022 reporting period. The Dashboard Report noted that a stakeholder had provided feedback on the short-notice cancellation of an exclusion period being disruptive to their planning. The	---	RAAF

	Board discussed communication with stakeholders and how the use of the WPA would only increase in future. RAAF will work collaboratively with WPA stakeholders to provide advanced notice, where possible.		
3.3	***Managing non-Defence technologies*** Defence provided an overview of the 24-month technology trial in the WPA and its very positive outcomes, following close consultation with WPA stakeholders. The Board also noted the strong working relationships with trial participants from the pastoralist, academic and resource sectors. The Board endorsed the non-Defence use of technology framework to be implemented in the WPA, along with the development of a technology management policy to support WPA stakeholders. The Board also discussed the OZ Mineral's Akarni Ngura Innovation and Technology Centre, as a key informant to the evolution of the endorsed framework. The opportunities for a range of sectors in the WPA to use the Centre were also discussed.	Defence to progress the implementation of the non-Defence use of technology framework and policy. Update to be presented to the Board at November 2022 meeting.	RAAF/ WPACO
3.4	***Gawler Craton Survey – Gawler Phase 2 Work Program*** SA Government presented an update on the Gawler Craton Work Program, which could inform an understanding of the geological and economic potential of the Gawler Craton area in the WPA. The Board endorsed the Gawler Craton Work Program, noting additional survey work would extend the completion timeframe to 2024.	SA Government to present update on the findings of Gawler Craton Phase 2 work program in first Board meeting of 2024. Subject to the progress of the work program, the Board will be updated as required.	SAG

Matters for WPA Advisory Board Noting/Information

Item	Discussion	Action Item	Owner
4.1	***Aboriginal Engagement in the WPA*** Defence provided an update on the Board's meeting with Aboriginal corporations. It was noted two meetings, with Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara (APY) and Antakirinja Matu-Yankunytjatjara (AMY), had been conducted, with a meeting scheduled with Kokatha Aboriginal Corporation (KAC). The Board provided feedback on the productive meetings and confirmed the outcomes would be incorporated in to the broader WPA Aboriginal Engagement Strategy. The Board also discussed that the SA Government was exploring a treaty process to understand and address key issues with Aboriginal communities, including cultural heritage and land management.	Defence to progress the remaining meetings with the Aboriginal corporations. An update on the meetings will be presented at the November 2022 meeting. Defence to incorporate outcomes from the meetings in the Aboriginal Engagement Strategy.	Defence
4.2	***WPA exclusion periods and range update*** Defence provided an update on WPA exclusion periods and range activities. The Board noted the demand for Defence use of the WPA was continuing to increase as a result of the changing strategic environment.	---	---

4.3	***2018 WPA Review Implementation Plan*** Defence considered the progress of 2018 WPA Review recommendations, including • Five recommendations were completed or transitioned to business-as-usual • Seven recommendations are on track for completion • Updates on four recommendations were presented during the meeting	---	---
4.4	***Recent flooding impacts on the WPA*** SA Government presented a brief update on the recent flooding impacts on the WPA. The flooding caused major operational disruptions to pastoral and resources sectors, where sections of the Stuart and Olympic Dam Highways were closed to traffic and access to towns had been cut. Repairs to public and private infrastructure is ongoing.	---	---
4.5	***Northern Water Supply Project*** SA Government provided a presentation on the Northern Water Supply Project, co-funded by OZ Minerals, BHP and SA Water. It will provide a sustainable water supply for mining and renewable energy companies and displace demand for water from the Murray River and Great Artesian Basin. The Board also discussed how the pipeline will extend to Woomera to provide much needed water infrastructure and unlock economic and environmental value to regional communities.	---	---
4.6	***Resources industry activities in the WPA*** SA Government provided a presentation on resources industry activities. The presentation focused on: • SA Government's shift to a hydrogen-based economy with plans for a hydrogen-powered power plant by 2025 • SA Government's export portfolio • Engagement with Aboriginal communities	---	---
4.7	***Defence Industry activities in the WPA*** Defence SA presented a short update on its new organisational structure and raised a potential opportunity arising from a Gravity Challenge for road condition monitoring from space.	---	---
4.8	***Update on resource market trends in the WPA*** DISER provided a presentation on resource market trends in the WPA, speaking to global economy trends and demands for SA minerals, in particular iron, copper, gold, uranium.	---	---

Item 5 – Other business

Item	Discussion	Action Item	Owner
5.0	No other business items were raised.	---	---

Item 6 – Next meeting

Item	Discussion	Action Item	Owner
6.0	The Board agreed the next meeting would be held in November 2022, with dates to be agreed out of session.	Defence to work with Board members on dates for the November 2022 meeting.	Defence

Meeting concluded at 13:00 ACST/13:30 AEDT