MINUTES

Board	**Woomera Prohibited Area (WPA) Advisory Board Meeting**	
Date	Thursday 10 November 2022	
Time	**Start:** 14:30 AEDT	**Finish:** 16:30 AEDT
Venue	Russell Offices Building R1, State Room and Skype – Canberra	
Members	**Name**	**Appointment**
	The Hon Amanda Vanstone AO	Chair
	Ms Andrea Slattery	Deputy Chair
Ex-Officio Members	Mr Hugh Jeffrey	Deputy Secretary, Strategy, Policy and Industry , Department of Defence
	Mr Richard Price	Chief Executive Officer, Defence SA
	AIRMRSHL Robert Chipman	Chief of Air Force
	Dr Paul Heithersay	Chief Executive, Department for Energy and Mining
Support staff	Dr Peter Sawczak	First Assistant Secretary, Strategic Policy Division, Department of Defence, Deputy Secretary Strategic Policy and Industry Group (representing Mr Hugh Jeffrey from 15:00 onwards)
	Ms Kate Leane	A/Assistant Secretary, Strategic Engagement and Corporate Branch, Department of Defence
	Mr Reg Carruthers	Executive Director, Defence and Space, Defence SA
	Mr Benjamin Zammit	Director, Mineral Resources Division, SA Department for Energy and Mining
	Mr Shon Fletcher	Manager, Resources Strategy and Stewardship, Resources Division, Department of Industry, Science and Resources
	Mr Darren Manser	Director, Air Force Ranges, Air Warfare Centre HQ
	Mrs Tracee Martin	Director, WPA Coordination Office, Department of Defence
	GCAPT Steven Parsons	Director Security Air Force, Air Force HQ Woomera Range Complex, Air Force HQ
	WGCDR Peter Tame	Deputy Director, Woomera Range Complex, Air Force HQ Manager
	WGCDR Gary Rains	Commanding Officer, Air Force Test Ranges Squadron, Air Warfare Centre HQ
	Ms Cathy Lacar	Senior Regulatory Adviser, Mineral Resources Division, SA Department for Energy and Mining
	SQNLDR Richard Gardiner	Woomera Range Complex, Air Force HQ

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	The Chair tabled the minutes from the previous Advisory Board meeting, dated 27 May 2022. The Advisory Board endorsed meeting minutes and noted that they were to be published on WPA website.	Defence to follow up the action to schedule two (separate) meetings with the Arabana and Gawler Ranges Aboriginal Corporations	Defence

Matters for WPA Advisory Board Decision

Item	Discussion	Action Item	Owner
3.1	***WPA Annual Report 2021 – 2022*** Defence spoke to the Final Draft WPA Annual Report 2021 – 2022 and noted it included an overview of the Board's meetings for the 2021-2022 period and reports on achievements for the Coexistence Framework. The Board endorsed the publication of the WPA Annual Report 2021-2022, commended its quality, and noted distribution.	Finalise Advisory Board Chair's Report out of session before publication. Defence to publish the WPA Annual Report 2021-2022 on the website and provide hard copies to the Advisory Board members.	Defence SP&I
3.2	***WPA Framework Review*** Defence provided information on a proposal for a WPA Framework Review including legislative and Coexistence considerations to ensure the Framework is fit-for-purpose.	The Board noted and supported proposal for a holistic review of the WPA Framework. Chair/WPACO Director/FASSP and SA Government (SAG) to discuss proposal for WPA Framework Review out of session and prior to the next Advisory Board meeting. Defence to brief SA Premier if review is approved by government. WPA Review Team to coordinate with SAG.	Defence SP&I SAG
3.3	***Revised WPA Coexistence Framework Health Check*** Defence presented a proposed approach to the next WPA Coexistence Framework Health Check including revised objectives, key results and key performance indicators.	The Board noted the proposed approach and agreed the proposed improved measures for the Health Check.	Defence SP&I
3.4	***Non-Defence Use of Technology Update*** Air Force presented an update on the Non-Defence Use of Technology trial designed to minimize cross technology interference, to be as non-intrusive as possible and ensure the safety and security of all WPA users. SP&I presented the proposed Non-Defence Use of Technology Framework and policy that integrates the management of technology into the regulatory system for the WPA.	The Board agreed to implement the Non-Defence Use of Technology Framework to be implemented over the coming months. The Board agreed to close Recommendation 3 of the WPA Coexistence Review and transition the policy to business-as-usual.	Defence SP&I / Air Force

	Flexible Green Zone update Air Force provided an update on the desktop trial exercise with the Flexible Green Zone. CAF proposed the idea of expanding the exercise to reassure stakeholders and demonstrate minimal impact to stakeholder activities.	The Board noted the Flexible Green Zone update and agreed consultation on this concept be progressed as part of any WPA Framework Review as it requires legislative changes.	
3.5		Air Force and SAG to work together to rework the policy paper to include wording that is more accessible to the resources sector and conducive to their interests. Air Force to continue to provide updates to the Board and hold regular meetings out of session to monitor the progress of the Flexible Green Zone.	Air Force/ SAG

Matters for WPA Advisory Board Noting/Information

Item	Discussion	Action Item	Owner
4.1	***2018 WPA Review Implementation Plan*** Defence presented the progress of 2018 WPA Review recommendations, including: • Recommendation. 2 – Flexible Green Zone • Recommendation. 3 – Technology Trial • Recommendation. 5 – Further geological and economic analysis of Gawler Craton • Recommendation. 7 – Strengthen the role of the WPA Advisory Board • Recommendation. 9 – Engaging with Aboriginal communities • Recommendation. 11 - Modernise administration of the Coexistence Framework. • Recommendation. 12 – Review of WPA arrangements by 2025.	The Board agreed to close Recommendation 3 and Recommendation 7. The Board agreed that Recommendation 2 would be rolled into the proposed WPA Framework Review. The Board agreed to measure Recommendation 9 through including data in the Dashboard Report. The Board noted the need to differentiate between ongoing, business-as-usual items and items that can be marked as complete or incomplete. This was agreed to be incorporated in future Implementation Plans and as a matter discussed between WPACO and Air Force out of session.	Defence SP&I
4.2	***Aboriginal engagement in the WPA update*** Defence updated the Board on meetings with Aboriginal corporations and actions arising. Noted two meetings, with Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara (APY) and Antakirinja Matu-Yankunytjatjara (AMY), had been conducted, with a	The Board noted Defence is to arrange for the Chair and Deputy Chair to meet with the two remaining groups – the Arabana and Gawler Ranges Aboriginal Corporations.	Defence SP&I / SAG

	meeting scheduled with Kokatha Aboriginal Corporation (KAC). Defence provided an update on the completion of the WPA Heritage Management Plan. Board members were invited to provide updates on their Aboriginal engagement, and Air Force presented an update on the Regional Compliance Officer Program.	The Board requested Defence publish the Heritage Management Plan on the WPA website, without the classified annexes that contain confidential information as requested by the Aboriginal groups.	
4.3	***WPA Exclusion periods and range update*** Air Force updated on the WPA exclusion period and range activities, noting a 25 percent increase in trials compared with the previous year. Note that WPACO will continue to support Air Force by engaging with non-Defence stakeholders, and administering exclusion periods.	The Board noted the increase in Woomera range testing activities.	Air Force
4.4	***Dashboard reporting*** Defence presented the WPA Dashboard Report for April to September 2022 reporting period.	The Board requested Defence to publish the Dashboard Report on the WPA website, following correction of errors and amending pie chart to change display permits issued. Defence to liaise with SA Government to add economic value of significance such as South Australia's export values to the Dashboard report.	Defence SP&I
4.5	***WPA Advisory Board Forward Work Program*** Defence presented the Forward Work Program's agenda for both the May 2023 and November 2023 meetings.	The Board agreed the Forward Work program for 2023.	Defence SP&I
4.6	***Media Coverage of the WPA*** Media guidance developed for circulating sensitive media articles to Advisory Board members out of session. The guidance relates to events in the WPA and activities and incidents relating to key WPA stakeholders, including the Commonwealth and South Australian governments, resources permit holders.	The Board agreed for Defence to circulate sensitive media articles to the Advisory Board out of session.	Defence SP&I
4.7	***Resources Industry Activities in the WPA*** SA Department of Energy and Mining (DEM) presented a SA resources industry activities update for the WPA. The presentation focussed on: • Renewable energy opportunities, with an emphasis on hydrogen, wind and solar. • Updates on the Gawler Phase 2 project, the second phase of the SA Gawler Craton project.	Presentation noted	SAG - DEM

	Defence Industry Activities in the WPA		
4.8	Defence SA provided an update on Defence industry activities in the WPA. It was noted that South Australia's Defence sector grew 11 percent last year, and noted the ship building project will facilitate more job opportunities for SA, and a comprehensive skills package is set to be rolled out in the next few months.	Presentation noted	SAG – Defence SA

Item 5 – Other business

Item	Discussion	Action Item	Owner
5.0	The Board discussed the Maralinga Tjarutja Aboriginal group's proposal for an Indigenous Protected Area (IPA).	Defence to seek an official proposal plan from Maralinga Tjarutja for the Board's consideration as an action item. The Board agreed that representatives from the Maralinga Tjarutja group be invited to present the IPA proposal at the next Board meeting.	Defence SP&I

Item 6 – Next meeting

Item	Discussion	Action Item	Owner
6.0	The Board agreed the next meeting would be held in May 2023, with dates to be agreed out of session.	Defence to work with Board members out of session to identify a suitable Board meeting date for May 2023.	Defence SP&I

Meeting concluded at 16:30 AEDT