MINUTES

Board	**Woomera Prohibited Area (WPA) Advisory Board Meeting**	
Date	Wednesday 03 May 2023	
Time	**Start:** 11:30am ACST	**Finish:** 1:30pm ACST
Venue	Keswick Barracks, Building 32, Conference Room 27 – Adelaide and Skype	
Members	**Name**	**Appointment**
	The Hon Amanda Vanstone AO	Chair
	Ms Andrea Slattery	Deputy Chair **(Apology)**
Ex-Officio Members	Mr Hugh Jeffrey	Deputy Secretary, Strategy, Policy and Industry, Department of Defence
	AVM Wendy Blyth AM	Head of Air Force Capability (representing AIRMRSHL Robert Chipman, AM, CSC, Chief of Air Force)
	Dr Paul Heithersay	Chief Executive, SA Department for Energy and Mining
	Mr Richard Price	Chief Executive, Defence SA
	Ms Jane Urquhart PSM	Deputy Secretary, Resources & Strategy, Department of Industry, Science and Resources
Support Staff	AIRCDRE Adrian Maso	Commander, Air Warfare Centre
	Ms Kate Leane	A/Assistant Secretary, Strategic Engagement and Corporate, Department of Defence
	Mr Reg Carruthers	Executive Director, Defence and Space, Defence SA
	Ms Tracee Martin	Director, Woomera Prohibited Area Coordination Office, Department of Defence
	Mr Benjamin Zammit	Acting Executive Director, Mineral Resources, SA Department for Energy and Mining
	Mr Darren Manser	Director, Air Force Ranges, Air Warfare Centre
	Ms Cathy Lacar	Senior Regulatory Advisor, Mineral Resources, SA Department for Energy and Mining

Opening and Acknowledgement of Country

Item	Discussion	Action Item	Owner
	After emailing Board members out-of-session inviting views on the continued participation of non-Board members at meetings, the Chair proposed forgoing an in-camera session in favour of continuing to allow advisors to attend.	Board agreed to continue allowing advisors to attend meetings at the discretion of each Board member and to conduct in-camera sessions when required.	Chair
1.0			
	Chair acknowledged the traditional custodians of the land on which attendees were gathered – the Kaurna and Ngunnawal people.	---	---
	Chair welcomed Advisory Board members and supporting staff attending in-person and remotely.	---	---

	Chair relayed the Deputy Chair's apology to members for being unable to attend.	---	---

SA Government's Northern Water Supply project update

Item	Discussion	Action Item	Owner
2.0	Infrastructure SA presented an update on the Northern Water Supply (NWS) project to support SA's renewable energy transition and provide a sustainable water supply to regional towns and the resources sector.	Infrastructure SA to continue to engage with Defence as they finalise their business case.	Infrastructure SA/SAG
	Infrastructure SA sought Defence's permission for prospective contractors to access the Red Zone to accommodate the NWS pipeline construction in 2024.	Defence and Infrastructure SA to explore options offline to facilitate access to the Red Zone during the pipeline's construction.	Defence SP&I/CAF/Infrastructure SA/SAG

Minutes from the previous meeting (2/2022)

Item	Discussion	Action Item	Owner
3.0	The Chair tabled the minutes from the previous Advisory Board meeting held on November 10 2022.	The Board endorsed meeting minutes and agreed Defence will publish the minutes on the WPA website.	Defence SP&I

Matters for WPA Advisory Board Decision

Item	Discussion	Action Item	Owner
4.1	***WPA Coexistence Framework Health Check report***		
	Defence presented the 2022 Health Check and requested the Board endorse the report.	The Board endorsed the 2022 Health Check.	Defence SP&I
	Defence recommended the Board agree to implement the 6 opportunities for improvement outlined in the Health Check's Dashboard.	The Board agreed to explore options to implement the 6 opportunities. Defence to work with WPA Working Group to develop a way forward.	Defence SP&I
4.2	***Flexible Green Zone paper***		
	Air Force presented the updated Flexible Green Zone concept paper to the Board for approval and noted input from the SA Government reflected the commercial interests and activities of the resources sector.	The Board agreed to endorse the edits made to the updated Flexible Green Zone concept paper.	CAF/SAG
	Air Force noted ongoing assessments will inform and refine the policy until there is an opportunity to include in the WPA Rule Review policy proposals.	Air Force to continue to provide the Board with regular updates on the Green Zone and the status of the WPA Framework Review.	CAF
4.3	***Aboriginal engagement in the WPA***		
	Defence and Air Force provided updates to Aboriginal engagement, including Defence's distribution of a new WPA Communications Protocol and Air Force's recruitment activities for the Regional Compliance Officer program.	Defence to organise meetings with the remaining two Aboriginal corporations from the Arabana and Gawler Ranges and report back to the Board at the next meeting.	Defence SP&I

	Defence proposed the Board close out Recommendation 9 of the 2018 WPA Review and that future updates be delivered through a standing agenda item at subsequent Board meetings.	The Board agreed to close out Recommendation 9 and transition engagement to business-as-usual practice, with ongoing reporting to continue as a standing agenda item.	Defence SP&I/CAF
	Maralinga Tjarutja Indigenous Protected Area proposal		
	Defence provided an update on the Maralinga Tjarutja Indigenous Protected Area (IPA) proposal first raised for discussion at the November 2022 Board meeting.	DISR and Defence to confirm offline that DISR's engagement with the Maralinga relates to the same IPA.	Defence SP&I/DISR
4.4	Defence proposed the Board agree to support the Maralinga IPA proposal and for the Chair to send a letter of support on behalf of the Board to the Maralinga people.	The Board agreed to support the IPA proposal and for the Chair to send a letter to the Maralinga to express Board support.	Defence SP&I/Chair
	Defence recommended Director WPACO represent the Advisory Board's views and interests on the IPA Advisory Committee.	The Board agreed to appoint Director WPACO as the Board's representative on the IPA Advisory Committee.	Defence SP&I

Item 5 – Other business

Item	Discussion	Action Item	Owner
	2018 WPA Review Implementation Plan		
	Defence reiterated it will transition Recommendation 9 to business-as-usual in accordance with the Board's decision for agenda item 4.3.	The Board to receive ongoing reporting on Aboriginal engagement as a standing agenda item at meetings.	Defence SP&I
5.1	Defence provided updates on the progress made on two other recommendations outstanding from the 2018 WPA Review, including: • Recommendation 2 – Flexible Green Zone (agenda item 4.2). • Recommendation 12 – the WPA Coexistence Framework Health Check (agenda item 4.1).	Defence agreed to progress Recommendation 11, modernising administration of the Coexistence Framework, and update the Board on developments at the next meeting.	Defence SP&I
	WPA exclusion periods and range update		
	Air Force provided an update on the WPA exclusion periods and range activities covering October 2022 to March 2023.	The Board noted range activities, including test and evaluation, range remediation, training exercises and patrols.	CAF
5.2	Air Force flagged demands for greater testing and collaboration in the WPA would continue to increase, with Defence seeking to develop and test current and emerging capabilities alongside international partners and industry.	The Board noted Defence's testing schedule will require more frequent activation of the Green and Amber Zones (within the designated number of days) throughout the 2023-24 financial year and beyond.	CAF
	WPA Framework Review update		
5.3	Defence provided an update on the WPA Framework Review's revised approach and shortened timeframes due	The Board noted the revised approach adopted by the WPA Framework Review team to	Defence SP&I

	to the Defence Act project's reform deadline being brought forward. Defence noted that the stakeholder engagement approach for the sunsetting of the WPA Rule 2014 was still not agreed.	accommodate the Defence Act's shortened timeline. The Board noted that Defence will engage the Board on the approach for sunsetting of the Rule once agreed.	Defence SP&I
5.4	***Resources industry activities in the WPA*** The SA Government provided an update on resources sector activities in the WPA. The presentation focussed on: • Renewable energy initiatives and the Hydrogen Jobs Plan to create jobs, enhance energy security, support the hydrogen industry and promote the state's transition to renewable energy. • The acquisition of OZ Minerals by BHP for AUD $9.6bn after receiving shareholder and court approvals. • An update on the Gawler Phase 2 project – the second phase of the SA Gawler Craton project outlined in Recommendation 5 of the 2018 WPA Review. • Mineral exploration and mining production in the WPA emphasising copper and iron ore.	The Board noted the economic potential of the WPA as well as current and planned resources sector activities. The Board agreed that Defence continues to effectively balance the WPA's commercial prospects with Defence's testing requirements.	SAG Defence SP&I
5.5	***WPA Dashboard Report October 2022 – March 2023*** Defence presented the WPA Dashboard for the October 2022 – March 2023 reporting period.	The Board noted the WPA Dashboard and the contributions made to the report by Defence SP&I, Air Force and the SA Government.	Defence SP&I

Item 6 – Other business

Item	Discussion	Action Item	Owner
6.0	N/A	---	---

Item 7 – Next meeting – November 2023 in Canberra

Item	Discussion	Action Item	Owner
7.0	Chair invited Board input on potential dates for the second and final Board meeting of the year in November 2023.	Defence to consult members out-of-session via email correspondence to determine suitable dates for the November 2023 meeting.	Defence SP&I

Meeting concluded at 1:30pm ACST