



## URANIUM FORUM

June 2014

### CODE OF PRACTICE & STEWARDSHIP

The Minerals Council of Australia – Uranium Forum Code of Practice and Stewardship defines principles of behaviour and standards of best practice to guide improvements in performance in the Australian uranium industry.

All members of the Forum agree to adhere to this Code.

The Forum intends that the Code exemplify its Members' aim of seeking to improve industry practice in every facet of operations and in regard to every obligation that they are required to meet in Australia or elsewhere.

The Code is in addition to and builds on the Minerals Council of Australia's sustainable development statement, Enduring Value, which statement is the benchmark that applies to the Australian minerals industry generally, in recognition of the need to manage the specific properties of uranium.

The Code reflects the need for the industry to operate with discipline in establishing and maintaining a strong record of performance. The Code seeks to build community confidence and knowledge in the industry by demonstrating the industry's commitment to operating at the highest standards of excellence.

The Code is intended to encourage continuing improvement in the practice of managing radioactivity and its risks, and to encourage the industry to continue sharing its experience and knowledge in this area.

The Forum endorses and adopts the *High Level Framework for Engagement with Indigenous Communities of the Indigenous Working Group* of the Uranium Council with a view to maximising the benefits to indigenous communities from their engagement with the uranium industry.

The key elements of this Code are as follows:

#### 1. Continual improvement to best practice in management

- Seek continual improvement in performance
- Support continual improvement to quality assurance approaches
- Identify leading practices and apply them where they will improve the performance of the business
- Identify, characterise, assess and manage risks that can impact upon health and safety
- Mitigate risks to safety by appropriate controls in engineering, management and other relevant measures of protection commensurate with risk
- Monitor, review and act on assessments of safety and environmental performance
- Continual improvement of our quality, health, safety, security and environmental performance to minimise the impacts of our activities on people and the environment
- Train employees and, where necessary, contractors in safety and environmental issues to prevent and actively reduce risks to themselves and others. Update this training when indicated by review and feedback
- Operate ethically with sound corporate governance
- A Forum commitment to provide information and facilitate activities to enable Members to pursue best practice measures - share knowledge to encourage widespread adoption of best practices

#### 2. Safely manage, contain and transport all hazardous material, tailings and other wastes

- Build radiation management, waste management and environmental management plans into the business planning cycle
- Use best practice and technologies to minimise risk to people and the environment over the life of a project and after closure
- Use site-specific risk analysis to account for current and long-term stability of waste and waste containment
- Put in place systems to secure radioactive sources and substances
- Develop and implement site-specific water management practices which meet defined water quality objectives for surface and ground waters
- Develop and implement site-specific air and dust management practices
- Minimise the amount of hazardous waste and contaminated material
- Continue to improve where possible [practicable] security and safety for radioactive sources and substances during their transport
- Re-cycle and re-use wastes and materials, to keep waste disposal to a minimum

**3. Provide adequately for mine closure and rehabilitation**

- Ensure appropriate provision is made for mine closure and site rehabilitation and integrate into project planning to effectively manage the close-out of a project.
- Apply best practice procedures on project closure programmes

**4. Continual improvement in best practice in radiation control**

- Aim to minimise occupational and public dose limit exposures by applying the principles of Justification, Optimization and Limitation in radiation control
- Monitor radiation doses to employees and contractors and monitor radioactive discharges, emissions, environmental concentrations and exposure rates
- Determine potential radiological impacts on the public and the environment
- Provide stakeholders, freely and transparently, with information about radiation control performance
- Cooperate with government initiatives to measure and monitor the impact of radiation doses

**5. Support fit-for-purpose Regulatory Arrangements**

- Work with governments, industry and other stakeholders to achieve fit-for-purpose public policy, laws, regulations and procedures that facilitate the contributions of uranium exploration, mining, processing and exporting to sustainable development within Australia's sustainable development strategies
- As a minimum, adhere to the applicable international and national laws, regulations and codes that govern the industry
- Notwithstanding this commitment, the Members will adopt continual improved practices to increase standards of operation where practicable

**6. Provide information about uranium and its properties to stakeholders**

- Provide accurate and current scientific information about uranium, its properties and risks and its impact in site-specific, activity-specific or community-specific circumstances
- Share the information with stakeholders in forms that best meet their needs
- Explain how those properties which generate risks are to be managed in the specific circumstances
- Inform employees, contractors and the community to the extent necessary regarding radioactivity

**7. Support the safe and peaceful use of nuclear technology**

- Provide information to Federal regulators as required to facilitate the monitoring of all Australian Obligated Nuclear Material (AONM)
- Protect individuals, society and the environment from any harmful radiological effects
- Engage others in the nuclear fuel cycle to support their efforts to do likewise

**8. Active engagement with local and indigenous communities**

- Work with local and indigenous communities to build relationships based on integrity and trust
- Balance the social and cultural needs of the communities within which Members operate, with the business and economic imperatives of shareholders
- Contribute to social and economic development of the communities in which we operate

**9. Implement effective and transparent reporting**

- Implement effective and transparent engagement, open and honest communication, and independently verified reporting arrangements with stakeholders
- Regularly communicate progress on the implementation of the Code to our stakeholders and review and update them as necessary

**10. Engage collaboratively with other sectors of the nuclear fuel cycle**

- Support responsible stewardship initiatives and guidelines of the WNA and the IAEA.
- Provide responsible sourcing, use and management of uranium and all its by-products