

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii) <[s 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)@dfat.gov.au](mailto:s 22(1)(a)(ii)@dfat.gov.au)>
 Sent: Wednesday, 24 May 2023 2:26 PM
 To: s 22(1)(a)(ii) <[s 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)@dfat.gov.au](mailto:s 22(1)(a)(ii)@dfat.gov.au)>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) <[s 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)@dfat.gov.au](mailto:s 22(1)(a)(ii)@dfat.gov.au)>
 Subject: Re: Football Australia [SEC=OFFICIAL][SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

As an FYI, we asked the research team, and Austrade to look at its due diligence database, to dig up what they could on Rainbow (Beijing event promoter, appears to have limited experience organizing matches). Perhaps more useful late last week, but for reference. Thanks to ^{s 22(1)(a)(ii)} for coordinating.

Company's general history

Established in 1991 and located in central Beijing (Chongwen district), China Rainbow International Investment Co., Ltd (China Rainbow) was formerly known as the China Hongqiao Travel Agency – the company originally was set up as a travel agency. China Rainbow is a direct subsidiary of the All-China Federation of Returned Overseas Chinese, a vice-state-level agency.

The All-China Federation of Returned Overseas Chinese was first set up in 1937 as the Returned Overseas Representative office in Yan'an for supporting the anti-Japanese war. After the PRC was founded, the organisation was restructured as an association representing returning overseas Chinese nationals in 1950. It is one of the member entities of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference.

Alongside, the Federation, Chairman Li Dacan is the ultimate beneficiary of Rainbow (we understand he owns about 25% of the company's shares). Mr Li is a member of the Shaanxi Political Consultative Conference.

Business operations in China (or abroad)

It currently invests in 11 subsidiaries, none of them are abroad. Austrade has no record of interaction with the company. We understand Chairman Li may have some investments in Australia (unconfirmed).

Based on their license, their business scope covers investment, engineering consulting services, foreign contracted projects, engineering management services, organizing cultural and artistic exchange activities, information

consulting services, information technology consulting services, social and economic consulting services, conference and exhibition services, ticket agency services, technical services, technical development, technical consulting, technical exchange, technology transfer, technology promotion, sports competition organisation; sports event planning; sports intermediary agency services; sports agent services; sports health services; sports security organisation; retail of sports goods and equipment; organizing sports performance activities, sales of arts and crafts and ceremonial articles; professional design services; warehousing equipment leasing services; import and export of goods and technology.

Recent news

In August 2022, Chairman Li Dacan [accompanied the Argentine ambassador to China on his visit](#) to the Xi'an International Football Centre project. Following the visit there was a [recently-leaked letter](#) showing China Rainbow is responsible for organising two international football matches, which are on 18 June at the Beijing National Stadium (China-Argentina) and on 22 June at the Xi'an Olympic Sports Centre (Argentina-Iran). The file also shows that the China Rainbow is seeking assistance from the State Council, stating that it encountered "blockages" from Western countries, including Japan and the US, who offered high prices to "lure" the Argentine Football Association after signing a cooperation agreement with China Rainbow in March 2023."

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Supplementary Budget Estimates: October 2023

China - Bilateral Relations

China - Bilateral Relations FAS Expanded Brief

s22(1)(a)(ii)

Prepared By:

Name: s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Branch: China Bilateral Section/East Asia Division

Phone s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Cleared By:

Name: Daniel Sloper

Position: First Assistant Secretary

Group: SCG | East Asia Division

Phone: s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Supporting information

Questions on Notice

- QoN 37 – Budget Estimates (June 2023) – Senator Chandler – DFAT engagement with Football Australia ahead of Socceroos match in Beijing.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Questions on notice referred to within the hot topic brief:

QoN 37 – Football Australia - Beijing

Senator Claire Chandler

Question

Senator CHANDLER: I will work through my questions and we'll see if we can get answers for them on the basis of the conversations that you've had with FA. This brings me to my next question quite nicely. Was DFAT briefed by Football Australia or did Football Australia brief any other part of the government about this game in Beijing?

Mr Yip: They told us of their intent to play the game in Beijing, yes.

Senator CHANDLER: They told the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade of their intent to play the game? Do you know if they had any further interactions with other government departments? I recognise you can't always know.

Mr Yip: A lot of that engagement happened with our embassy in Beijing, so I'm not aware of other engagements with other agencies.

Senator CHANDLER: Engagement through the Australian embassy in Beijing?

Mr Yip: And DFAT in Canberra as well.

Senator McCarthy: As our relationship with China begins to stabilise, a lot of the relationship is largely people-to-people, so perhaps some of those questions could also be for Football Australia.

Senator CHANDLER: Football Australia doesn't come to estimates, but I'm sure you'll find a way to get questions to them.

Senator McCarthy: I have no doubt.

Senator CHANDLER: I'll progress. Were these briefings conducted before or after the deal was concluded?

Ms Lawson: The deal with?

Senator CHANDLER: The deal for the Socceroos to play a football match in Beijing?

Mr Yip: I'm not aware.

Senator CHANDLER: Could you take on notice, perhaps, the date of those briefings and

Prepared By:

Name: s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Branch: China Bilateral Section/East Asia Division

Phone: s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Cleared By:

Name: Daniel Sloper

Position: First Assistant Secretary

Group: SCG | East Asia Division

Phone: s 22(1)(a)(ii)

conversations. I think it would be good to know when they occurred in relation to this agreement.

Answer

On 8 May, Football Australia contacted the Australian Embassy in Beijing to discuss what assistance the Embassy might provide if the Socceroos were to play a friendly match in Beijing in June. On 15 May, Football Australia advised the Australian Embassy in Beijing that it had executed a match agreement with China Rainbow International Investment Co. Ltd. DFAT officials (including officials in Canberra and from our Embassy in Beijing and Consulate in Hong Kong) held a range of meetings with Football Australia to discuss practical support and logistics, including visa, consular and travel advice. These meetings took place on 9 May, 12 May, 18 May, 19 May, 24 May and 30 May.

Prepared By:

Name: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Branch: China Bilateral Section/East Asia Division
Phone s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Cleared By:

Name: Daniel Sloper
Position: First Assistant Secretary
Group: SCG | East Asia Division
Phone: s 47E(d)

Senate Standing Committees on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2023-2024

QUESTION ON NOTICE / Spoken

036 – Supplementary Budget Estimates

Page: 65

Topic: 036 - Beijing Socceroos Football Match

Senator Claire Chandler

Question

Senator CHANDLER: Okay. I am also interested in knowing—I suspect on notice—whether anybody in those meetings was aware that China Rainbow is a united front controlled belt-and-road facilitation company and whether anybody in those meetings was aware of the nature of China Rainbow's business activities?

Ms Lawson: Again, I will take that on notice.

Answer

No, DFAT staff in the meetings held with Football Australia on 9 May, 12 May, 18 May, 19 May and 24 May 2023 were not familiar with any affiliations of China Rainbow International Investment Co. Ltd.

On 24 May 2023, DFAT staff became aware that China Rainbow International Investment Co. Ltd had origins as China Hongqiao Travel Agency and was a direct subsidiary of the All-China Federation of Returned Overseas Chinese, a vice-state-level agency.

From:
Sent: Friday, 2 June 2023 4:44 PM
To: s22(1)(a)(ii)
Cc: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Subject: Update: Government involvement in Socceroos match [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hi s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Thanks for the call. A quick update: we've advised the promoter that the best way to follow up on requests for Australian Government involvement is via Football Australia making a direct request. They told me that Football Australia are aware of this request, which comes from the match organiser.

Just to clarify (it would be still useful for us here to get advice on part 1):

1. The match promoter's "official" partner (Modun Group) made a formal approach to HOM EA, then with me to (call, emails):
 - request the Embassy to extend an invitation for an Australian Minister or State/Territory "dignitary" to attend.
 - propose Argentine Ambassador, Mayor of Beijing and Ambassador as kick-off guests
 - [I note: this is the element they have consistently followed up on in emails].
 - propose Australian Ambassador to China record a 2-minute congratulatory VCR, which would be played on the big screen at the venue
 - note the game will be filmed by CCTV 5, and
 - The promoter would like a confirmation letter from the Embassy regarding our involvement.
2. Football Australia told us the promoter (Rainbow) asked FA to (understand this is with Football Australia, no further action on our part):
 - try secure senior state parliamentarian participation to visit (given Federal Parliament is sitting)
 - secure a PM video message of support for the Socceroos.

Thanks
 s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Counsellor, Public Affairs and Culture | 参赞, 新闻文化

Australian Embassy Beijing | 澳大利亚驻华大使馆

Telephone s 22(1)(a)(ii)

china.embassy.gov.au

[Weibo 微博](#) | [WeChat 微信](#)

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Sent: Friday, 17 November 2023 2:17 PM
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Cc: Derek Yip; s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Subject: Football Australia QoNs - for FAS EAD clearance [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Attachments: s 22(1)(a)(ii)

SQ23-000477_for FAS EAD clearance.docx;

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

OFFICIAL

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Please find attached electronic copies of the Football Australia QoNs for Daniel's clearance. Printed copies to follow.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

| SQ23-000477 | 036 - Beijing Socceroos Football Match |
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Thanks,
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Assistant Director | China Bilateral Section
East Asia Political Branch | East Asia Division
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
T s 22(1)(a)(ii) | M s 22(1)(a)(ii)



Australian Government
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

QUESTION ON NOTICE FOR: SENATOR THE HON PENNY WONG

SQ23-000477

Question Submitted by: Claire Chandler
Question Number: 036
Question Date: 26 October 2023
Committee Due Date: 23 November 2023
Subject: 036 - Beijing Socceroos Football Match
Clearance: Elly Lawson **Date:** 24 November 2023
SCG | EAD | East Asia Political Branch
Contact Officer: s 22(1)(a)(ii) **Phone:** s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Information Minister: Choose a Minister.

Background for Advisers:

The Socceroos played Argentina at the Beijing Workers' Stadium on 15 June 2023. The match was facilitated by China Rainbow International Investment Co. Ltd. Scheduling and commercial arrangements were determined by Football Australia. Football Australia did not consult DFAT on its decision to engage with China Rainbow International Investment Co. Ltd. DFAT provided support to Football Australia on practical considerations for the match, including visa and travel advice, as it often does for touring Australian national teams.

DFAT staff in Canberra and the Australian Embassy Beijing met with Football Australia on the following dates:

- 9 May – DFAT Beijing virtual meeting with Football Australia, covering DFAT support on practical considerations for the match, including visa and travel advice
- 12 May – DFAT shared Chinese Embassy advice on visa options for the delegation with Football Australia
- 18 May – DFAT Hong Kong met Football Australia's advance team in Hong Kong
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- 30 May – DFAT Beijing held a virtual meeting with Football Australia, covering updates on visa arrangements, travel dates and possible public diplomacy elements around the Socceroos visit

s 22(1)(a)(ii)



Australian Government
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

On 24 May 2023, DFAT and Austrade staff in Beijing undertook open-source research on China Rainbow, as the Beijing event promoter appeared to have limited experience organising sporting matches. Research included background on the company's history, business operations in China, and recent news regarding the company.

On 8 November 2023, DFAT received a FOI request from Senator Chandler, seeking "*access to all emails, correspondence, briefing notes, meeting agendas and any other documents held by the Department and the Australian Embassy Beijing relating to the Australia vs Argentina match played in Beijing on 15 June 2023; and any meetings held by the Department with Football Australia or any other stakeholders, including other government agencies, about the match*". This is being managed in accordance with DFAT's FOI processes.

Note these QoNs from the October 2023 Estimates hearings focus on six meetings referred to in QoN 37 from the June 2023 Estimates (SQ23-000272 refers). DFAT held further meetings with Football Australia after June 2023 Estimates in the lead-up to the match, which included daily contact with Beijing Post once the team had arrived in-country. Our answers respond directly to the Questions as framed by Senator Chandler. Response prepared in consultation with Beijing Post.

The attached response to this question is

APPROVED / NOT APPROVED

PENNY WONG

...../...../.....

Senate Standing Committees on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2023-2024

QUESTION ON NOTICE / Spoken

036 – Supplementary Budget Estimates

Page:

Topic: 036 - Beijing Socceroos Football Match

Senator Claire Chandler

Question

"Senator CHANDLER: Okay. I am also interested in knowing—I suspect on notice—whether anybody in those meetings was aware that China Rainbow is a united front controlled belt-and-road facilitation company and whether anybody in those meetings was aware of the nature of China Rainbow's business activities?"

Ms Lawson: Again, I will take that on notice."

Answer

No, DFAT staff in the meetings held with Football Australia on 9 May, 12 May, 18 May and 19 May 2023 were not familiar with specific affiliations of China Rainbow International Investment Co. Ltd.

Following the 24 May 2023 meeting, on the same day, DFAT staff were made aware by email of China Rainbow International Investment Co. Ltd's origins as China Hongqiao Travel Agency and as a direct subsidiary of the All-China Federation of Returned Overseas Chinese, a vice-state-level agency.

Division: SCG EAD East Asia Political Branch	
PDR No: SQ23-000477	
Prepared by: s 22(1)(a)(ii)	Cleared by Branch Head: Derek Yip
Date: 17 November 2023	Date: 17 November 2023
Consultation: Beijing Post	
Cleared by FAS: Daniel Sloper	Date: 24 November 2023



Australian Government
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

QUESTION ON NOTICE FOR: SENATOR THE HON PENNY WONG

SQ23-000477

Question Submitted by:	Claire Chandler		
Question Number:	036		
Question Date:	26 October 2023		
Committee Due Date:	23 November 2023		
Subject:	036 - Beijing Socceroos Football Match		
Clearance:		Date:	
	SCG EAD China External and Coordination Branch		
Contact Officer:	s 22(1)(a)(ii)	Phone:	s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Information Minister:	Choose a Minister.		

Background for Advisers:

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Australian Government
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Supplementary Budget Estimates 2023-2024

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Topic: 036 - Beijing Socceroos Football Match

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Ms Lawson: Again, I will take that on notice."

Answer

No DFAT staff in the meetings held with Football Australia on 9 May, 12 May, 18 May and 19 May 2023 were familiar with China Rainbow International Investment Co. Ltd.

DFAT staff in meetings with Football Australia after 24 May 2023 were aware of information related to China Rainbow International Investment Co. Ltd's history and business activities, including its origins as China Hongqiao Travel Agency and as a direct subsidiary of the All-China Federation of Returned Overseas Chinese, a vice-state-level agency.

Division: SCG EAD China External and Coordination Branch	
PDR No: SQ23-000477	
Prepared by: s 22(1)(a)(ii)	Cleared by Branch Head: Derek Yip
Date: 17 November 2023	Date: 17 November 2023
Consultation: Beijing Post	
Cleared by FAS: Daniel Sloper	Date: 24 November 2023



Australian Government
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

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SQ23-000477

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Committee Due Date: 23 November 2023
Subject: 036 - Beijing Socceroos Football Match
Clearance: **Date:**
 SCG | EAD | China External and Coordination Branch
Contact Officer: s 22(1)(a)(ii) **Phone:** s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Information Minister: Choose a Minister.

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s 22(1)(a)(ii)

[@DFAT](#) [DFAT.GOV.AU](#)



Australian Government

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

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promoter appeared to have limited experience organising sporting matches. Research included background on the company's history, business operations in China, and recent news regarding the company.

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Senate Standing Committees on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2023-2024

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036 – Supplementary Budget Estimates

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Ms Lawson: Again, I will take that on notice."

Answer

[No. DFAT staff in the meetings on xxxx were familiar with China Rainbow International Investment Co. Ltd. \[insert info about due diligence\]](#)

DFAT participants in meetings with Football Australia after 24 May were aware of general open-source information related to China Rainbow International Investment Co. Ltd's history and business activities.

Division:	SCG EAD China External and Coordination Branch		
PDR No:	SQ23-000477		
Prepared by: s 22(1)(a)(ii)	Cleared by Branch Head: Derek Yip		
Date: 17 November 2023	Date: 17 November 2023		
Consultation:	Beijing Post		
Cleared by FAS:	Daniel Sloper		Date: Click to enter clearance date.



Australian Government
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

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SQ23-000477

Question Submitted by: Claire Chandler
Question Number: 036
Question Date: 26 October 2023
Committee Due Date: 23 November 2023
Subject: 036 - Beijing Socceroos Football Match
Clearance: **Date:**
SCG | EAD | China External and Coordination Branch
Contact Officer: s 22(1)(a)(ii) **Phone:** s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Information Minister: Choose a Minister.

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s22(1)(a)(ii)



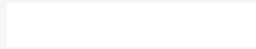
Australian Government
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

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Division: SCG EAD China External and Coordination Branch	
PDR No: SQ23-000477	
Prepared by: s 22(1)(a)(ii)	Cleared by Branch Head: Derek Yip
Date: 10 November 2023	Date:
Consultation: Beijing Post	
Cleared by FAS: Daniel Sloper	Date: Click to enter clearance date.



Australian Government
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

QUESTION ON NOTICE FOR: SENATOR THE HON PENNY WONG

SQ23-000477

Question Submitted by: Claire Chandler
Question Number: 036
Question Date: 26 October 2023
Committee Due Date: 23 November 2023
Subject: 036 - Beijing Socceroos Football Match
Clearance: **Date:**
SCG | EAD | China External and Coordination Branch
Contact Officer: Click to enter name **Phone:** Click to enter contact number
Information Minister: Choose a Minister.

Background for Advisers:

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Senate Standing Committees on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2023-2024

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036 – Supplementary Budget Estimates

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Topic: 036 - Beijing Socceroos Football Match

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Division: SCG EAD China External and Coordination Branch	
PDR No: SQ23-000477	
Prepared by: s 22(1)(a)(ii)	Cleared by Branch Head: Derek Yip
Date: 10 November 2023	Date:
Consultation: Beijing Post	
Cleared by FAS: Daniel Sloper	Date: Click to enter clearance date.

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Sent: Friday, 17 November 2023 8:16 AM
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Cc: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Subject: RE: Football Australia QoNs - for Beijing comment/input by OOB Fri 17 Nov [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Thanks, s 22(1)(a)(ii) – much appreciated. We'll update the QoNs and clear through Derek and Daniel today.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Assistant Director | China Bilateral Section
 East Asia Political Branch | East Asia Division
 Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
T s 22(1)(a)(ii) | **M** s 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 16 November 2023 8:49 PM
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Cc: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; Derek Yip <Derek.Yip@dfat.gov.au>; Jason Robertson <Jason.Robertson@dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Subject: FW: Football Australia QoNs - for Beijing comment/input by OOB Fri 17 Nov [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Our proposed amendments to the EAD QoN responses cut and pasted below (red text – our amendments, some highlights indicate uncertainty). Thanks, s 22(1)(a)(ii)

477

Question

"Senator CHANDLER: Okay. I am also interested in knowing—I suspect on notice—whether anybody in those meetings was aware that China Rainbow is a united front controlled belt-and-road facilitation company and whether anybody in those meetings was aware of the nature of China Rainbow's business activities?

Ms Lawson: Again, I will take that on notice."

>

Answer

DFAT participants in meetings with Football Australia after 24 May were aware of general open-source information related to China Rainbow International Investment Co. Ltd's business activities.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

OFFICIAL

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii) dfat.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 15 November 2023 3:49 PM
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii) dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Cc: Derek Yip <Derek.Yip@dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Subject: Football Australia QoNs - for Beijing comment/input by OOB Fri 17 Nov [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hi **s 22(1)(a)(ii)** and **s 22(1)(a)(ii)**

We have drafted proposed responses to the QoNs received at October Estimates related to the June 2023 Socceroos football match in Beijing.

Grateful for Beijing Post comment/input by OOB Friday 17 November (Canberra time) – noting **s 22(1)(a)(ii)** and we will need to submit to FAS EAD by 12 noon Friday.

Cleared QoNs are due to the Parliamentary team next week.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

| SQ23-000477 | 036 - Beijing Socceroos Football Match |
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Happy to discuss by phone/Teams tomorrow if any questions.

Thanks,

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Assistant Director | China Bilateral Section
East Asia Political Branch | East Asia Division

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

T +s 22(1)(a)(ii) | **M** s 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Sent: Wednesday, 15 November 2023 6:49 PM
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii) pe
Cc: Derek Yip; s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Subject: Football Australia QoNs - for Beijing comment/input by OOB Fri 17 Nov
[SEC=OFFICIAL]
Attachments: s 22(1)(a)(ii) SQ23-000477_v20231115.docx; s 22(1)(a)(ii)

OFFICIAL

Hi s 22(1)(a)(ii) and s 22(1)(a)(ii)

We have drafted proposed responses to the QoNs received at October Estimates related to the June 2023 Socceroos football match in Beijing.

Grateful for Beijing Post comment/input by OOB Friday 17 November (Canberra time) – s 22(1)(a)(ii)
and we will need to submit to FAS EAD by 12 noon Friday.

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s 22(1)(a)(ii)

| SQ23-000477 | 036 - Beijing Socceroos Football Match |
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Happy to discuss by phone/Teams tomorrow if any questions.

Thanks,
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Assistant Director | China Bilateral Section
East Asia Political Branch | East Asia Division
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
T s 22(1)(a)(ii) M s 22(1)(a)(ii)



Australian Government
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

QUESTION ON NOTICE FOR: SENATOR THE HON PENNY WONG

SQ23-000477

Question Submitted by:	Claire Chandler		
Question Number:	036		
Question Date:	26 October 2023		
Committee Due Date:	23 November 2023		
Subject:	036 - Beijing Socceroos Football Match		
Clearance:		Date:	
	SCG EAD China External and Coordination Branch		
Contact Officer:	s 22(1)(a)(ii)	Phone:	s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Information Minister:	Choose a Minister.		

Background for Advisers:

The Socceroos played Argentina at the Beijing Workers' Stadium on 15 June. The match was facilitated by China Rainbow International Investment Co. Ltd. Scheduling and commercial arrangements were determined by Football Australia. Football Australia did not consult DFAT on its decision to engage with China Rainbow International Investment Co. Ltd. DFAT provided support to Football Australia on practical considerations for the match, including visa and travel advice, as it often does for touring Australian national teams.

On 24 May, DFAT and Austrade officials from our Embassy in Beijing undertook open-source research on China Rainbow, as the Beijing event promoter appeared to have limited experience organising sporting matches. Research included background on the company's history, business operations in China, and recent news regarding the company.

On 8 November, DFAT received a FOI request from Senator Chandler, seeking "access to all emails, correspondence, briefing notes, meeting agendas and any other documents held by the Department and the Australian Embassy Beijing relating to the Australia vs Argentina match played in Beijing on 15 June 2023; and any meetings held by the Department with Football Australia or any other stakeholders, including other government agencies, about the match".

Note these QoNs focus on six meetings referred to at June 2023 Estimates (SQ23-000272 refers). DFAT held further meetings with Football Australia in the lead-up to the match, which included daily contact with Beijing Post once the team had arrived in-country. Our answers respond directly to the Questions as framed by Senator Chandler. Response prepared in consultation with Beijing Post.



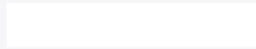
Australian Government
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

The attached response to this question is

APPROVED / NOT APPROVED

PENNY WONG

...../...../.....



Senate Standing Committees on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2023-2024

QUESTION ON NOTICE / Spoken

036 – Supplementary Budget Estimates

Page:

Topic: 036 - Beijing Socceroos Football Match

Senator Claire Chandler

Question

"Senator CHANDLER: Okay. I am also interested in knowing—I suspect on notice—whether anybody in those meetings was aware that China Rainbow is a united front controlled belt-and-road facilitation company and whether anybody in those meetings was aware of the nature of China Rainbow's business activities?

Ms Lawson: Again, I will take that on notice."

Answer

DFAT participants in meetings with Football Australia after 24 May were aware of general open-source information related to China Rainbow International Investment Co. Ltd's history and business activities.

Division: SCG EAD China External and Coordination Branch	
PDR No: SQ23-000477	
Prepared by: s 22(1)(a)(ii)	Cleared by Branch Head: Derek Yip
Date: 17 November 2023	Date: 17 November 2023
Consultation: Beijing Post	
Cleared by FAS: Daniel Sloper	Date: Click to enter clearance date.

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 31 May 2023 10:30 AM
To: s 47F(1) @footballaustralia.com.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>;
s 47F(1) @footballaustralia.com.au>
Subject: Update and Questions: Football Australia Visit and Match [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

s 47F(1)
HI

Thanks for taking the time to meet yesterday. A few updates, and questions in red, we are hoping you can help with today:

s 47G(1)(a), s 47G(1)(b)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 24 May 2023 5:56 PM
To: Jason Robertson <Jason.Robertson@dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>;
Susan Dietz-Henderson <Susan.Dietz-Henderson@dfat.gov.au>; Elizabeth
McGregor <Elizabeth.McGregor@dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii)
@dfat.gov.au>
Cc: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii)
@dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Subject: 24 May meeting with Football Australia - (15 June) Australia v Argentina match in Beijing
[SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

All,

For awareness, notes below from this morning's call s22(1)(a)(ii)

s22(1)(a)(ii)

- Australia will play Argentina on **15 June** at the Worker's Stadium in Beijing.
 - China Rainbow International is the Chinese promoter for the match.
 - The Football Australia delegation will comprise of players, officials and support staff (s 47F(1))

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

- We asked for any update regarding **announcements related to the match**
 - While Football Australia had originally planned a 27 May press conference, they were seeking an update from organisers whether this would take place or not.
If so, it may include Australian and Argentinian representatives with the Chairman of China Rainbow International (promoter). We said Beijing Post would need to seek advice from Canberra when the request was made.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Kind regards,
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

A/g Director | China Bilateral Section
East Asia Political Branch | East Asia Division
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

T s 22(1)(a)(ii) 7 | **M** + s 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Sent: Monday, 22 May 2023 9:12 AM
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @austrade.gov.au
Cc: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Subject: RE: Info on Rainbow Investments Group [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

OFFICIAL

Thanks s 22(1)(a)(ii) for this info – very useful

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @austrade.gov.au s 22(1)(a)(ii) @austrade.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, 22 May 2023 8:57 AM
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Cc: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Info on Rainbow Investments Group [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

OFFICIAL

Good morning, s 22(1)(a)(ii)

The team conducted some checks on the company, outcome below:

- Austrade has no record of interaction with the company.
- s 47G(1)(a)

- The organisation was first set up in 1937 as the Returned Overseas Representative office in Yan'an for supporting the anti-Japanese war.
- After the PRC was founded, the organisation was restructured as an association representing returning overseas Chinese nationals in 1950.
- It is one of the member entities of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference.
- s 47F(1), s 47G(1)(a)

- s 47G(1)(a)

Cheers,
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s22(1)(a)(ii)

s22(1)(a)(ii)

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii) <[s22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)@dfat.gov.au](mailto:s22(1)(a)(ii)@dfat.gov.au)>
Sent: Friday, May 19, 2023 10:29
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii) <[s22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)@austrade.gov.au](mailto:s22(1)(a)(ii)@austrade.gov.au)>
Cc: s 22(1)(a)(ii) <[s22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)@dfat.gov.au](mailto:s22(1)(a)(ii)@dfat.gov.au)>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) <[s22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)@dfat.gov.au](mailto:s22(1)(a)(ii)@dfat.gov.au)>
Subject: Info on Rainbow Investments Group [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

OFFICIAL

Dea s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Welcome any assistance you can provide on background information on Rainbow Investments Group (please see attached business licence for their different Chinese name). If you can run them through any due diligence

databases you have it would be greatly appreciated. HOM is after some more information on them, as they are involved in the upcoming potential Soccerroos match here in China as the event promoter s 47E(d)

Any info you can provide would be of great use.

Happy to discuss.

Regards
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

First Secretary, Public Affairs and Culture | 一等秘书, 新闻文化
Australian Embassy Beijing | 澳大利亚驻华大使馆
Phone s 22(1)(a)(ii) | Mobile s 22(1)(a)(ii)
china.embassy.gov.au
[Weibo 微博](#) | [WeChat 微信](#)

OFFICIAL

OFFICIAL

OFFICIAL

OFFICIAL

OFFICIAL

From: s 47F(1)

Sent: Monday, 29 May 2023 12:04 PM

To: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>

Cc: s 47F(1)

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Invitation for Ambassador to kick off match between Socceroos Vs Argentina 15 June in Beijing

CAUTION: This email originated from outside the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender.

Dear s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Nice to have the chat earlier, on behalf of match organizing committee China Rainbow International Investment and match Official Partner Modun Group, I'm extending an invitation to the Ambassador, to kick off the match with Argentinian Ambassador, minutes before the match which is at 8pm, 15 June 2023, in Workers Stadium, Beijing.

Details are being finalized by China Rainbow.

I'm most looking forward to meet you and the Ambassador when I arrive in Beijing in June.

Kind regards,

s 47F(1)

Managing Director

Modun Group

s 47F(1)

P.S. please find a few match official Media Releases and promotional material for your reference.

MEDIA RELEASE

Monday, 22 May 2023
Sydney/Gadigal, Australia

SOCZEROOS TO FACE ARGENTINA

The Subway Socceroos will take on reigning World Champions Argentina in a much-anticipated rematch following their Round of 16 exit at Qatar.

The international friendly will take place at The Workers' Stadium on Monday, 22 May, at 7.30pm AEST, and it will be the first time the two teams have met since 2011. The match will be the first of two encounters at Ahmed bin Ali Stadium, where Argentina will host Australia on Tuesday, 23 May.

Football Australia CEO James Johnson said that this match against the World Champions Argentina reflects the respect that the top nations have for both our senior men's and women's national teams.

"Football is truly the global game and for Australia to be the world number one, we hope this will open further opportunities both on and off the football field," Johnson said.

Australia's senior men's national team last played in China in a [2022 FIFA World Cup Qualifier in Kunming](#). Next month's match will be the first time an Australian national sporting team has competed in China since 2001.



OPTUS

SPC

Why are the Soccer Argentina in China

While a rather strange selection of things, there are a number of friendly is being played in China

In a press release, Football Australia clear that this friendly was a to event organisers China Real Investment Co. Ltd who were Group (Melbourne), Beijing F



The Sporting

The Cost of Funeral Services You

Funeral Services

"This match has been made possible by the organisers China Rainbow International Co. Ltd, with support from Melbourne (Melbourne), Beijing Football Association and Yiyang Gengyun Sports Culture

Sent from my iPhone

From: s 47F(1)
Sent: Tuesday, 30 May 2023 11:44 AM
To: s22(1)(a)(ii) s 47F(1) s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: ??????????????

CAUTION: This email originated from outside the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender.

Hi s 22(1)(a)(ii)

After my meeting with match organizer CRIIC and Football Australia last night, please find proposal from CRIIC below for the Ambassador to kick off match with Argentinian Ambassador and Beijing Mayor.

Colours, flags, and the 1000 tix for Australian fans are being finalized this week. I will keep you posted.

Kind regards,

s 47F(1)

Managing Director
Modun Group
www.modungroup.com.au

Modun Group is the deal broker, consulting firm and Official Partner for the 15 June match between Argentina and Australia in Beijing, China.

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: s 47F(1)
Date: 30 May 2023 at 1:34:53 pm AEST
To: s 47F(1)
Subject: 邀请澳大利亚大使担任开球嘉宾

杨总:

关于6月15日在北京工人体育场进行的“2023阿根廷VS澳大利亚国际足球邀请赛”，组委会这边有一些请求，请您协调，具体如下：

1. 比赛当天晚上8点正式开赛前由阿根廷驻华大使牛望道先生、澳大利亚驻华大使傅关汉先生和北京市市长担任开球嘉宾。将由工作人员带开球嘉宾上场到达指定位置，开球结束后，比赛正式开始，由工作人员带开球嘉宾下场。

2.现场国内由CCTV5全程直播，并向全球转播，有大量中国及国际媒体现场报道。

3.请澳大利亚驻华大使录制一段2分钟的祝贺类VCR（中文字幕）我们将在赛场大屏幕播放。

谢谢杨总！



虹桥组委会

s 47F(1)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)



s 22(1)(a)(ii)

From:
Sent: Monday, 5 June 2023 9:35 AM
To: Graham Fletcher
Cc: Jason Robertson; s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Subject: FW: 关于邀请傅关汉大使担任开球嘉宾的函 [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Attachments: 关于邀请傅关汉大使担任开球嘉宾的函.pdf; Invitation Letter.pdf

hptrimdataset: BJ

OFFICIAL

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

For your information: a formal invitation from China Rainbow to participate in the kick-off activity for the 15 June football match.

s 47C(1)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: s 47F(1)
Sent: Sunday, 4 June 2023 5:34 PM
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] 关于邀请傅关汉大使担任开球嘉宾的函

CAUTION: This email originated from outside the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender.

Dear s 22(1)(a)(ii) ,

I am s 47F(1) from the organizing committee of the "2023 Argentina vs Australia International Football Invitational" and it is an honor to meet you in the email.

This letter is mainly to invite the Australian ambassador to China as the kick-off guest, China Rainbow sincerely invites the ambassador to serve as the kick-off guest at the match site with the Beijing municipal leaders and the Argentine ambassador to China, please convey the warm invitation of China Rainbow to the ambassador. If the ambassador is confirmed as the kick-off guest, please send a letter confirming the kick-off to China Rainbow.

Many thanks.

Yours sincerely,

s 47F(1)



s 47F(1)

签名由 [网易灵犀办公](#) 定制

s22(1)(a)(ii)

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>

Sent: Monday, 5 June 2023 4:35 PM

To: s 47F(1)

Cc: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 47F(1)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

@dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii)

@dfat.gov.au>

Subject: RE: 15 June match - Kick-off activity, tickets [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

s 47F(1)

Just a post script on the “kick-off activity” question. Rainbow has asked for confirmation the Ambassador would participate by 1400 AEST tomorrow. In order to get appropriate approvals – and I would expect that approval to participate in a non-speaking role would not be a problem – we would appreciate your advice as soon as possible if the invitation is in line with Football Australia’s wishes.

Kind regards,

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Sent: Monday, 5 June 2023 1:05 PM

To: s 47F(1)

Cc: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 47F(1)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii)

@dfat.gov.au>

Subject: 15 June match - Kick-off activity, tickets [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

s 47F(1)

Hi

The Australian Ambassador to China has received the attached invitation to participate in a kick-off activity at the start of the 15 June match.

In order to consider our position we would like to know whether having the Ambassador participate in this way would be Football Australia's request?

For the avoidance of doubt in relation to the text of the invitation we received, we do not see the match being linked to the 50th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Australia and China, which took place last year.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Thanks in advance for your assistance s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Kind regards,

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Director | China Bilateral Section
East Asia Political Branch | East Asia Division
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
T s 22(1)(a)(ii) | M s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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[We acknowledge](#) the Traditional Custodians of Country throughout Australia, and their continuing connection to land, waters and community. We pay our respects to all First Nations peoples, their cultures and to their Elders, past, present and emerging.