

## Middle East FTAs ( s 22(1)(a)(ii) Israel)

### Issue

Government's consideration of FTAs with s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
Israel. s 22(1)(a)(ii)

### Headline Response

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

We are engaging Israel to build our trade and investment relationship but not currently considering an FTA. s 22(1)(a)(ii)

### Talking Points

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

## Middle East FTAs (Israel)

### Israel

- Officials have held exploratory FTA discussions with Israel
  - and most recently discussed a possible FTA or other form of agreement during Senior Officials Talks in Israel on 31 July.
- There are currently no plans to commence FTA negotiations with Israel

**Contact:** s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
**Contact No:** s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
**Division:** FSD  
**Date Updated:** 24/11/23

**Cleared by:** Richard Emerson-Elliott  
**Contact No:** s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
**Cleared by Adviser:**  
**PDR Number:** s 47E(d)

- Australia is engaging closely with Israel on other ways to enhance our trade and investment relationship

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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s 22(1)(a)(ii)

**(and Middle East FTAs)**

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

**Headline Response**

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**Talking Points**

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Contact: s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
Contact No: s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
Division: FTD/RSB/FCO  
Date Updated: 23/01/2024

Cleared by: Ravi Kewalram  
Contact No: s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
Cleared by Adviser:  
PDR Number: s 47E(d)



## Israel

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s 22(1)(a)(ii)

**(and Middle East FTAs)**

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s 22(1)(a)(ii) (and Middle East FTAs)

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s 22(1)(a)(ii)







## BPB - Middle East Free Trade Agreements – s 22(1)(a)(ii) Israel

**Handling Note:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) . FAS MAD to lead on bilateral relationships with s 22(1)(a)(ii) Israel, including geo-political issues s 22(1)(a)(ii) relating to prospective FTAs.

### Strategic Message

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

- We are engaging with Israel to build our trade and investment relationship, but not currently considering an FTA.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)



## Israel FTA

- Exploratory discussions with Israel were held at Ministerial-level on 27 October 2021 [then Ministers Teahan-Barbivay] and at officials' level on 19 January 2022 and 19 January 2023 about the benefits and challenges of a potential FTA.
- DFAT Officials have held further exploratory FTA discussions with Israel
  - and most recently discussed a possible FTA or other form of agreement during Senior Officials Talks in Israel on 31 July 2023.
- There are currently no plans to commence FTA negotiations with Israel
  - Australia is engaging closely with Israel on other ways to enhance our trade and investment relationship.

## Israel Feasibility study and potential FTA

- On 2 February 2021, DFAT completed a feasibility study on how best to strengthen trade and investment directly with Israel
  - this does not include the Palestinian Territories (West Bank and Gaza).
- A public consultation process was launched on 1 March 2021 and ran until 30 April 2021
  - we saw notable interest from business and community groups
  - 28 public submissions were received and are published on the DFAT website
  - DFAT received submissions from sectors such as medical technology, agriculture (wine), NGOs and private citizens
  - submissions noted a trade agreement could increase bilateral collaboration, trade and people-to-people links
  - some submissions from NGOs and private citizens expressed concerns at the prospect of an FTA due to their views regarding Israel's policies towards the Palestinian Territories.

## Public release of the Israel feasibility study

- While the study is not a public document, all submissions received from businesses, community groups and individuals are currently published on DFAT's website
  - other than submissions provided in-confidence, as per the terms set out on the portal for receiving submissions.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

## Background

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 33(a)(iii)



Division: TIG   FSD   FCO	
PDR No:	
Prepared by: s 22(1)(a)(ii) Mob: s 22(1)(a)(ii) Date: 23 January 2024	Cleared by Branch/Division Head: s 22(1)(a)(ii) – Ag. Assistant Secretary - RSB s 22(1)(a)(ii) Date: 30 January 2024
Consultation:	Date:
Name:	Mob: Ext:

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s 33(a)(iii)



Division: TIG   FSD   FCO	
PDR No:	
<div>Prepared by: s 22(1)(a)(ii) Mob: s 22(1)(a)(ii) Date: 23 January 2024</div>	<div>Cleared by Branch/Division Head: s 22(1)(a)(ii) – Ag. Assistant Secretary - RSB Mob: s 22(1)(a)(ii) Date: 30 January 2024</div>
Consultation:	Date:
Name:	Mob: Ext:



Australian Government  
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

## QUESTION ON NOTICE FOR: SENATOR THE HON PENNY WONG; SENATOR THE HON DON FARRELL

**SQ23-000593**

Question Submitted by:	Jordon Steele-John		
Question Number:	082		
Question Date:	02 November 2023		
Committee Due Date:	23 November 2023		
Subject:	082 - Israel		
Clearance:	Gemma Huggins	Date:	23 November 2023
	ISG   MAD   Middle East Branch		
Contact Officer:	s 22(1)(a)(ii)	Phone:	s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Information Minister:	Choose a Minister.		

### Background for Advisers:

The attached response to this question is

APPROVED / NOT APPROVED

PENNY WONG

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

DON FARRELL

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

QUESTION ON NOTICE / Written

082 – Supplementary Budget Estimates

Topic: 082 - Israel

Senator Jordon Steele-John

Question

During discussions with Israel on trade agreements on 31 July, has the government considered how to ensure a free trade agreement doesn't lead to Australian trade supporting illegal settlements?

Answer

The Government does not disclose the detail of diplomatic discussions undertaken with representatives of other Governments.

Division: ISG   MAD   Middle East Branch	
PDR No: s 47E(d)	
Prepared by: s 22(1)(a)(ii)	Cleared by Branch Head: Gemma Huggins
Date: 21 November 2023	Date: 22 November 2023
Consultation: MAD/MEB/LVS	
Cleared by FAS: Gemma Huggins, a/g FAS MAD      Date: 22 November 2023	

Pages 55-57 (incl) - s 22(1)(a)(ii)





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s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Israel and the OPTs Bilateral Relationship  
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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## Israel and the OPTs Bilateral Relationship

### Israel

s 33(a)(iii)

Following a feasibility study in 2021, both Australia and Israel expressed interest in continuing discussions on a possible Free Trade Agreement (FTA); s 33(a)(iii)

s 33(a)(iii), s 33(b)

Pages 169-194 (incl) - s 22(1)(a)(ii)