

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Sent: Friday, May 31, 2024 9:00 AM
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Subject: Trump lines [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Anna and team, please see below. We'll continue to monitor international reactions and work with WH Post.

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

- Note the verdict in the state criminal trial in New York State against Donald Trump.
- These are matters for the US legal system and you would not expect me to run commentary.
- The 2024 Presidential election is a matter for the United States Government and its people
 - we will not be drawn into hypothesising about the outcomes.
- There is strong bipartisan support for the Alliance within both Australia and the United States
- We are committed to working with the United States Government and the Congress of the day to pursue Australia's interests and strengthen our Alliance, as successive Australian governments have always done.

Background

On 31 May AEST, a New York jury found Donald Trump guilty of 34 felonies for falsifying business records to cover up hush money paid to a porn star. Trump is the first former president ever convicted of a crime. In the United States, being a convicted felon does not render you ineligible to run for the presidency.

Sentencing has been scheduled for 11 July, four days before the start of the Republican National Convention (15 to 18 July) where the Party is due to select its Presidential nominee for the 5 November elections. None of the felonies carry mandatory punishment, and penalties may range from fine to a maximum sentence of four years in prison. Others convicted of similar crimes have received fines or probation.

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In response, Trump has said, "This was a rigged, disgraceful trial. The real verdict is going to be November 5th by the people. He also commented that the verdict was "done by the Biden administration in order to wound or hurt an opponent". He has previously called the prosecution politically motivated. s 33(a)(iii)

A spokesperson for President Biden's campaign said the verdict proved "no-one is above the law".

Trump faces three other prosecutions. There are two federal criminal indictments underfoot - 40 felony charges relating to removal of classified documents from the White House, and the four felony charges relating to Trump's alleged attempts to interfere with the outcome of the 2020 election in the District of Columbia. The state criminal indictment is a Georgia state case on efforts to reverse the election outcome in Georgia in 2020. These are unlikely to go to trial ahead of the 5 November US elections.

Australian Government comments

On 31 May, Education Minister Jason Clare said, "I am reticent to comment on court proceedings in another country or to say anything about the domestic politics of the United States. Obviously it's a decision for the American people to make later this year about who the next president is."

NDIS Minister Bill Shorten said, "I think governments of both sides in Australia will deal with whoever the American political system elects. I think the alliance is stronger than the personalities."

Opposition Leader Peter Dutton said, "If you look back to 2016, he [Trump] won no electoral votes in New York. He's despised there. There's obviously two tribes here, and the one tribe who detest him and hate him. And you saw some of the emotion in some of the interviews, just then. And the other tribe love him and adore him, and for different reasons on both sides. And all it will do is reinforce the views on both of those camps, but obviously it will make for an even, you know ... more exciting election, I suppose, in November."

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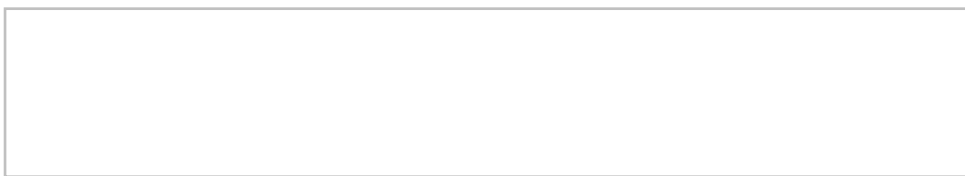
Director | US Political Section

US, UK & Canada Branch | Geostrategic & Partnerships Division

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

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