

**From:** s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
**To:** s 22(1)(a)(ii); [Dougal McInnes](#); [Paul Myler](#); [Elizabeth Le Bas](#); [s 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)](#)  
[Tom Mooney](#); [s 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Michael Growder](#); [s 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)](#); [Peter Sawczak](#); [Stevens, Edwina](#); [s 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)](#) [Global Watch Office](#); [Suzanne Mccourt](#); [Chris Elstoft](#); [s 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Trump attack TPs [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]  
**Date:** Tuesday, 16 July 2024 5:27:51 PM  
**Attachments:** [Talking Points US Elections 2024 at as 16 July 511PM AEST.docx](#)  
[image002.png](#)

**OFFICIAL: Sensitive**

Dougal, [s 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)](#) and Post Colleagues

Many thanks for the cabling and reporting below on the attempted assassination. We have updated and paired back the background to the talking points, below and attached. Latest updates include [s 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)](#) briefing by Secretary of Homeland Security, [s 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)](#). No updates to the TPs.

At this stage, we are not planning to update these with more details unless there are further major developments.

[s 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)](#) - apologies for accidently dropping you off the list last night.

Thank you all.

[s 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)](#)

OFFICIAL:Sensitive



**MEDIA  
TALKING  
POINTS  
DISTRIBUTION:  
STANDARD**

**Topic:** POLITICAL-ECONOMIC  
**Subject:** United States Elections 2024

**Originating Division:** GPD

**Version Date:** 16/7/2024

**Reason for Update:** New talking points

**Version:** 2.01

**Expiry:** 15/09/2024

**Talking Points**

[s 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)](#)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

#### Attempted assassination of former US President Trump

- The Australian Government is deeply shocked at the attempted assassination of former US President, Donald Trump.
  - We condemn this attack in the strongest terms. Violence should never be part of political expression or protest. Political violence has no place in our democracies.
- We are saddened by news of the death of a rally participant [identified as Corey Comperatore], and that others remain injured [identified as David Dutch and James Copenhaver]
  - we extend our sincere condolences to their loved ones.
- We are aware that the suspected shooter [who the FBI has identified as Thomas Matthew Crooks] was shot and killed by authorities.
- We are all relieved that President Trump has not been seriously injured
  - we hope for his quick recovery
  - our thoughts are with him and his family.
- The FBI's investigation is ongoing. The shooter's motive is not yet known. It's important to refrain from speculation.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

#### Attempted assassination of former US President Trump

Former President Trump was shot in his ear during an election campaign event in Butler, Pennsylvania on 13 July 2024 EST. Shots were fired from outside the perimeter of the event. Mr Trump was treated for his injury and checked out of a medical facility on 13 July.

The FBI is investigating the incident as an attempted assassination **and possible domestic terrorism attack**. On 14 July, the FBI identified the suspected gunman as 20-year-old

Thomas Matthew Crooks of Bethel Park, Pennsylvania. State voter records show Crooks was a registered Republican, *though had not yet voted in a presidential race*. An FBI official said investigators had not yet determined a motive. US authorities confirmed that Mr Crooks was shot and killed at the scene.

The US Secret Service has confirmed the death of a rally participant [Corey Comperatore, 50] and that two others were critically injured, now both in a stable condition [David Dutch, 57 and James Copenhaver, 74].

*On 15 July, the Secretary of Homeland Security, Alejandro Mayorkas, said the Department of Homeland Security and the US Secret Service were leveraging resources across federal, state and local law enforcement to reinforce security, including for President Biden, Vice President Harris and Trump.*

#### US responses

*Initial reactions across the political spectrum have mostly consisted of calls for unity and avoiding charged rhetoric. Former President Trump posted on Truth Social several times following the events. He stressed the need to 'stand United, and show our True Character as Americans, remaining Strong and Determined, and not allowing Evil to Win.'*

*President Biden has made several statements calling for unity.* In his address from the Oval Office on 14 July, President Biden called for Americans to 'stand together'. He asked for Americans 'to lower the temperature in our [US] politics' and said while 'disagreement is inevitable in American democracy...politics must never be a literal battlefield.' President Biden extended his deepest condolences to the victim killed and their family, and was praying for full recovery of those injured.

At a press conference on 14 July, President Biden outlined three actions he had taken in response to the attempted assassination: 1) he recommitted to Mr Trump receiving every protective measure necessary to ensure his safety; 2) he directed the Head of the US Secret Service to review all the security measures for RNC, commencing 15 July; 3) he ordered an independent review of the national security arrangements at the rally in Butler to determine exactly what had happened.

Members of Congress from across the aisle in both the House of Representatives and Senate have issued statements condemning the shooting and urging calm. [s 33\(a\)\(iii\)](#)

Senator JD Vance, *now announced as Trump's vice-presidential pick*, wrote on X after the shooting that 'the central premise of the Biden campaign is that President Donald Trump is an authoritarian fascist who must be stopped at all costs. That rhetoric led directly to President Trump's attempted assassination'.

*The Senate, under Democrats' control, has had multiple closed meetings with the FBI, US Secret Service and Department of Homeland Security. On the House side, multiple committees have vowed to investigate the events.*

#### Australian responses

Shortly after the incident, Prime Minister Albanese issued a comment: 'The incident at former President Trump's campaign event in Pennsylvania today is concerning and confronting. There is no place for violence in the democratic process. I am relieved to hear reports that former President Trump is now safe'. At a press conference on 14 July, the PM expressed his shock, wished the former president well, and commended the swift work of security services.

Senator Penny Wong posted on X: ‘Australians are shocked by the attack on former President Trump in Pennsylvania. I’m pleased he is now safe. My thoughts are with him, his family and the families of innocent victims. There is no place for acts of violence in democracies’.

Ambassador Rudd posted on X: ‘All Australians are shocked by the attack on former President Trump at his campaign rally this evening in Pennsylvania. Violence has no place in our democracies. It is a relief to see that President Trump is safe. Our thoughts are with him and his family’.

**Opposition**

Senator Simon Birmingham posted on X ‘Politically motivated violence never has a place in free democracies. Thoughts go to all victims of the appalling shooting in the US. Whatever your politics, candidates & supporters have a right to safe assembly. Once again, many Australians will be grateful for our gun laws’.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

**Handling Notes**

**Media Interest**

<b>Approval</b>	
Consultation	PM&C, GPD
Author	s 22(1)(a)(ii), GPD; s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Cleared by	Elizabeth Le Bas; AS USB

<b>Distribution</b>
Media Liaison Section, SES, HOMs/HOPs, STO Directors, Secretary’s EO and Senior Executive PAs, A-based public affairs officers, A-based HOM PAs, FMO, TTMO, MIDPO, ATMO, AFMO, PMO and PM&C addressees.

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**Subject:** Re: Trump attack TPs[SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

**OFFICIAL: Sensitive**

Note post also sent a cabled update a couple of hours ago.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Counsellor | Political  
Embassy of Australia  
Washington

**From:** "Dougal McInnes" <Dougal.McInnes@dfat.gov.au>  
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**Subject:** RE: Trump attack TPs [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

**OFFICIAL: Sensitive**

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

With thanks for <sup>s 22(1)(a)(ii)</sup> a summary of remarks from WH presser today.  
Dougal

Secretary of Homeland Security Mayorkas briefed at the White House today – it was, as expected, all about the assassination attempt. He reiterated the need to tone down the rhetoric, lower the temperature and for Americans to unite against violence. The rhetoric itself added to the heightened and very dynamic threat environment. DHS and USSS were taking the threat seriously, leveraging resources across federal, state and local law enforcement to reinforce security. Adjustments had already been made to the security details for the President, Vice President and Trump. Robert Kennedy Jr was now also provided with a security detail.

On the independent review ordered by President Biden into the shooting, he said the leaders were currently being selected. They would come from outside of government so their independence would not be questioned. The review was expected to be up and running within days – it was important to move swiftly. The FBI was leading the criminal investigation and he could not comment on that.

Spokesperson KJP underlined the importance of not politicizing this event – it was important to unify the country. Biden would keep messaging to the American people and laying out his agenda that was different to Trump's. It was okay to speak to someone's character and record but never to condone violence.

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**Subject:** RE: Trump attack TPs [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

Mea culpa also, <sup>s 22(1)(a)(ii)</sup> email now added

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**Subject:** RE: Trump attack TPs [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

<sup>s 22(1)(a)(ii)</sup>  
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**Sent:** Monday, July 15, 2024 3:30 AM

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**Subject:** Trump attack TPs [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

**OFFICIAL: Sensitive**

Dear <sup>s 22(1)(a)(ii)</sup> and Post Colleagues

Many thanks for all your updates to the talking points overnight, it was greatly appreciated here.

We have distributed updated talking points in the talking point database cleared by Liz (as per below and attached, italics highlight the "new" text in the database system). Wr have trimmed

the background down as events unfolded and more US responses were released, including with a new paragraph on Biden’s latest address from the oval office.

If feasible, we would welcome any further proposed updates to the talking points for anything significant that happens overnight for Ministers’ use as needed.

Thank you again for the ongoing updates.

Kind regards,

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Assistant Director | US Political Section  
US, UK & Canada Branch | Geostrategic & Partnerships Division  
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade  
p 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.

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**MEDIA  
TALKING  
POINTS  
DISTRIBUTION:  
STANDARD**

**Topic: POLITICAL-ECONOMIC**  
**Subject: United States Elections 2024**

**Originating Division:  
GPD**

**Version Date: 15/7/2024**

**Version: 2**

**Reason for Update: New  
talking points**

**Expiry: 15/09/2024**

**Talking Points**

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

*Attempted assassination of former US President Trump*

- The Australian Government is *deeply shocked* at the *attempted assassination* of former US President, Donald Trump.
  - We condemn this attack *in the strongest terms*. Violence should never be part of political expression or protest. *Political violence has no place in our democracies*.
- *We are saddened by news of the death of a rally participant [identified as Corey Comperatore], and that others remain injured [identified as David Dutch and James Copenhaver]*
  - *we extend our sincere condolences to their loved ones*.
- *We are aware that the suspected shooter [who the FBI has identified as Thomas Matthew Crooks] was shot and killed by authorities*.
- *We are all relieved that President Trump has not been seriously injured*
  - *we hope for his quick recovery*
  - *our thoughts are with him and his family*.
- *The FBI's investigation is ongoing. The shooter's motive is not yet known. It's important to refrain from speculation.*

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

**Background**

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

***Attempted assassination of former US President Trump***

*Former President Trump was shot in his ear during an election campaign event in Butler, Pennsylvania on 13 July 2024 EST. Shots were fired from outside the perimeter of the event. Mr Trump was treated for his injury and checked out of a local medical facility on 13 July.*

*The FBI is investigating the incident as an attempted assassination. On 14 July, in a statement on X, the FBI identified the suspected gunman as 20 year-old Thomas Matthew Crooks of Bethel Park, Pennsylvania. State voter records show Crooks was a registered Republican. An FBI official said investigators had not yet determined a motive. US authorities confirmed that Mr Crooks was shot and killed at the scene.*

*The US Secret Service has confirmed the death of a rally participant [identified by police as Corey Comperatore, 50] and that two others were critically injured, now both in a stable condition [identified by police as David Dutch, 57 and James Copenhaver, 74].*

*US responses*

*On 14 July, former President Trump posted on Truth Social 'Thank you to everyone for your thoughts and prayers yesterday, as it was God alone who prevented the unthinkable from happening. We will FEAR NOT, but instead remain resilient in our Faith and Defiant in the face of Wickedness. Our love goes out to the other victims and their families. We pray for the recovery of those who were wounded, and hold in our hearts the memory of the citizen who was so horribly killed. In this moment, it is more important than ever that we stand United, and show our True Character as Americans, remaining Strong and Determined, and not allowing Evil to Win. I truly love our Country, and love you all, and look forward to speaking to our Great Nation this week from Wisconsin.' This follows a post on 13 July by former President Trump on Truth Social outlining similar messages. A statement from the Trump Campaign and RNC confirmed Trump planned to proceed with the Republican National Convention (15-18 July), at which Trump will be endorsed as the Republican's Presidential candidate, and his Vice Presidential running mate will be announced, with new security measures to be implemented.*

*In his address from the Oval Office on 14 July (20:02 EDT), President Biden called for Americans to 'stand together'. He asked for Americans 'to lower the temperature in our [US] politics' and said while 'isagreement is inevitable in American democracy...politics must never be a literal battlefield.' President Biden extended his deepest condolences to victim killed and their family, and was praying for full recovery of those injured.*

*At a press conference on 14 July (1410 EDT), President Biden said he had spoken with former President Trump on the evening of 13 July. It was a 'short but good conversation', and President Biden was keeping Trump and his family in his prayers. He expressed gratitude to the US Secret Service and other US authorities. President Biden said there was no place in America for this type of violence. It was contrary to everything we [the US] stood for as a nation, and we could not allow this to happen. In closing, President Biden reiterated that the US must unite as a nation.*

*President Biden outlined three actions he had taken in response to the attempted assassination: 1) he recommitted to Mr Trump receiving every protective measure necessary to ensure his safety; 2) he directed the Head of the US Secret Service to review all the security measures for RNC, commencing 15 July; 3) he ordered an independent review of the national security arrangements at the rally in Butler to determine exactly what had happened. President Biden also issued a statement on 13 July outlining similar messages.*

*On 13 July Attorney General Garland stated: 'The FBI, ATF, U.S. Attorney's Office for the Western District of Pennsylvania, and the Department's National Security Division are currently working with the Secret Service as well as state and local law enforcement partners on the ground in Butler, Pennsylvania'.*

*Members of Congress from across the aisle in both the House of Representatives and Senate have issued statements condemning the shooting. Many have urged for calm in what is already a high pitched election campaign. s 33(a)(iii)*

*Senator JD Vance, on the short list of Vice Presidential candidates, wrote on X after the shooting that 'the central premise of the Biden campaign is that President Donald Trump is an authoritarian fascist who must be stopped at all costs. That rhetoric led directly to President Trump's attempted assassination'.*

*Republicans in Congress have pledged investigations into the incident, indicating their intention to call the Secret Service Director Kim Cheatle and other officials to appear before the House Oversight Committee on 22 July. Hearings before other committees are expected.*

*Australian responses*

*Shortly after the incident, Prime Minister Albanese issued a comment: 'The incident at former President Trump's campaign event in Pennsylvania today is concerning and confronting. There is no place for violence in the democratic process. I am relieved to hear*

reports that former President Trump is now safe'. At a press conference on 14 July, the PM expressed his shock, wished the former president well, and commended the swift work of security services.

Senator Penny Wong posted on X: 'Australians are shocked by the attack on former President Trump in Pennsylvania. I'm pleased he is now safe. My thoughts are with him, his family and the families of innocent victims. There is no place for acts of violence in democracies'.

Ambassador Rudd posted on X: 'All Australians are shocked by the attack on former President Trump at his campaign rally this evening in Pennsylvania. Violence has no place in our democracies. It is a relief to see that President Trump is safe. Our thoughts are with him and his family'.

**Opposition**

Senator Simon Birmingham posted on X 'Politically motivated violence never has a place in free democracies. Thoughts go to all victims of the appalling shooting in the US. Whatever your politics, candidates & supporters have a right to safe assembly. Once again, many Australians will be grateful for our gun laws'.

**Consular response**

The Embassy in Washington DC did not receive requests for consular assistance in relation to the incident. The existing Smartraveller travel advisory for Australians travelling in the United States includes advice to 'avoid areas where any demonstrations and protests are occurring due to the potential for unrest and violence. Monitor media for information, follow the instructions of local authorities'. It also advises 'Violent crime is more common in the US than in Australia. Gun crime is also prevalent'.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

**Handling Notes**

**Media Interest**

<b>Approval</b>	
Consultation	PM&C, GPD
Author	s 22(1)(a)(ii), GPD; s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Cleared by	Elizabeth Le Bas; AS USB

<b>Distribution</b>
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**Sent:** Monday, July 15, 2024 6:03 AM  
**To:** Paul Myler <Paul.Myler@dfat.gov.au>; Elizabeth Le Bas <Elizabeth.LeBas@dfat.gov.au>; zz s 22(1)(a)(ii) @pmc.gov.au s 22(1)(a)(ii) @pmc.gov.au>; Tom Mooney <Tom.Mooney@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>  
**Cc:** Elly Lawson <Elly.Lawson@dfat.gov.au>; Clare Walsh <Clare.Walsh@dfat.gov.au>; Michael Growder <Michael.Growder@dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; Peter Sawczak <Peter.Sawczak@dfat.gov.au>; Stevens, Edwina <Edwina.Stevens@pmc.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @pmc.gov.au>; Global Watch Office s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; Dougal McInnes <Dougal.McInnes@dfat.gov.au>; Suzanne Mccourt <Suzanne.McCourt@dfat.gov.au>; Chris Elstoft <Chris.Elstoft@dfat.gov.au>; @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; <Emma.Buckham@dfat.gov.au>  
**Subject:** Re: Trump attack TPs[SEC=OFFICIAL]

## OFFICIAL

FYI

- the participant killed at the rally has now been identified as 50 year old Corey Comperatore, a former firefighter.

The other two injured are David Dutch, 57, and James Copenhagen, 74, both are now in a stable condition.

**From:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>  
**Date:** Sunday, July 14, 2024 at 3:23:00 PM  
**To:** "Paul Myler" <Paul.Myler@dfat.gov.au>, "Elizabeth Le Bas" <Elizabeth.LeBas@dfat.gov.au>, s 22(1)(a)(ii) @pmc.gov.au" s 22(1)(a)(ii) @pmc.gov.au>, "Tom Mooney" <Tom.Mooney@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>  
**Cc:** "Elly Lawson" <Elly.Lawson@dfat.gov.au>, "Clare Walsh" <Clare.Walsh@dfat.gov.au>, "Michael Growder" <Michael.Growder@dfat.gov.au>, s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>, s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>, "Peter Sawczak" <Peter.Sawczak@dfat.gov.au>, "Stevens, Edwina" <Edwina.Stevens@pmc.gov.au>, s 22(1)(a)(ii) @pmc.gov.au>, "Global Watch Office" s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>, "Dougal McInnes" <Dougal.McInnes@dfat.gov.au>, "Suzanne Mccourt" <Suzanne.McCourt@dfat.gov.au>, "Chris Elstoft" <Chris.Elstoft@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>, s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>  
**Subject:** RE: Trump attack TPs [SEC=OFFICIAL]

## OFFICIAL

Hi Liz,

Please see below updates to the TPs and background on the Trump assassination attempt. Text highlighted in yellow indicates proposed additions, strikethrough indicates deletion from the original version. This has been cleared by HOM.

Biden will give another address from the Oval office at 8pm EDT.

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

//

- The Australian Government is deeply shocked at the attempted assassination of former US President, Donald Trump.
  - we condemn this attack in the strongest terms. Violence should never be part of political expression or protest. Political violence has no place in our democracies.
- We are saddened by news of the death of a rally participant, and that others remain critically injured
  - we extend our sincere condolences to their loved ones.
- We are aware that the suspected shooter [*who the FBI has identified as Pennsylvania Thomas Matthew Crooks*] was shot and killed by authorities.
- We are all relieved that President Trump has not been seriously injured
  - we hope for his quick recovery
  - our thoughts are with him and his family.
- The FBI's investigation is ongoing. The shooter's motive is not yet known. It's important to refrain from speculation.

### Background

Former President Trump was shot in the upper part of his right ear during a public rally in Butler, Pennsylvania on 13 July 2024 EST during an election campaign event. Witnesses said they heard multiple shots fired about 10 minutes into Mr Trump's remarks. It appears that the shots were fired from the top of a building near to the event stage, but outside the perimeter of the event. Photos and video showed blood on Mr Trump's ear and face as Secret Service members removed him from the stage. Mr Trump was treated for his injury and checked out of a local medical facility on 13 July.

The FBI is investigating the incident as an attempted assassination. On 14 July, in a statement on X, the FBI identified the suspected gunman as 20 year-old Thomas Matthew Crooks of Bethel Park, Pennsylvania. State voter records show Crooks was a registered Republican. An FBI official said investigators had not yet determined a motive. US authorities confirmed that Mr Crooks was shot and killed at the scene. Media is reporting that law enforcement officials have said bomb-making materials were found inside the vehicle of the suspect, and that there were also bomb-making materials found at his home.

The US Secret Service has confirmed the death of a rally participant, and that two others were critically injured. They have been identified as males, but have not been named.

On 14 July, former President Trump posted on Truth Social *“Thank you to everyone for your thoughts and prayers yesterday, as it was God alone who prevented the unthinkable from happening. We will FEAR NOT, but instead remain resilient in our Faith and Defiant in the face of Wickedness. Our love goes out to the other victims and their families. We pray for the recovery of those who were wounded, and hold in our hearts the memory of the citizen who was so horribly killed. In this moment, it is more important than ever that we stand United, and show our True Character as Americans, remaining Strong and Determined, and not allowing Evil to Win. I truly love our Country, and love you all, and look forward to speaking to our Great Nation this week from Wisconsin.”*

A statement from the Trump Campaign and RNC confirmed Trump planned to proceed with the Republican National Convention (15-18 July), at which Trump will be endorsed as the Republican’s Presidential candidate, and his Vice Presidential running mate will be announced, with new security measures to be implemented. Officials from Washington Post and Chicago Consulate <sup>s 47E(d)</sup> continue to monitor the security situation very closely and take appropriate precautions.

At a press conference on 14 July (1410 EDT), President Biden said he had spoken with former President Trump on the evening of 13 July. It was a “short but good conversation”, and President Biden was keeping Trump and his family in his prayers. President Biden extended his deepest condolences to victim killed and their family, and was praying for full recovery of those injured. He expressed gratitude to the US Secret Service and other US authorities. President Biden said there was no place in America for this type of violence. It was contrary to everything we [the US] stood for as a nation, and we could not allow this to happen. President Biden said unity was the most elusive goal of all, but there was nothing more important at this time. He noted the FBI investigation was still in its early stages, and urged people not to make assumptions about the shooter’s motives or associations. He promised that the investigation would be thorough and swift, and that authorities would be given every resource to this end. In closing, President Biden reiterated that the US must unite as a nation.

President Biden outlined three actions he had taken in response to the attempted assassination: 1) he recommitted to Mr Trump receiving every protective measure necessary to ensure his safety; 2) he directed the Head of the US Secret Service to review all the security measures for RNC, commencing 15 July; 3) he ordered an independent review of the national security arrangements at the rally in Butler to determine exactly what had happened. President Biden foreshadowed that he would address the nation tonight (2000 EDT 14 July) from the Oval Office.

President Biden and Vice President Harris were briefed in the White House Situation Room by homeland security and law enforcement officials including Attorney General Merrick Garland, Homeland Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas, FBI Director Christopher Wray, National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan, Homeland Security Adviser Liz Sherwood-Randall, and US Secret Service Director Kim Cheatle.

President Biden has cancelled his trip to Texas, scheduled for Monday 15 July. Deputy National Security Adviser, Jon Finer, has cancelled his trip to Tokyo and Papua New Guinea scheduled for 14-17 July.

### Consular response

The Embassy in Washington DC did not receive requests for consular assistance in relation to the incident. The existing [Smartraveller](#) travel advisory for Australians travelling in the United States includes advice to 'avoid areas where any demonstrations and protests are occurring due to the potential for unrest and violence. Monitor media for information, follow the instructions of local authorities'. It also advises 'Violent crime is more common in the US than in Australia. Gun crime is also prevalent'

### US responses

On 14 July, Melania Trump issued a statement encouraging people to "ascend above the hate...we all want a world where respect is paramount...". She thanked supporters as well as those who reached out from across the political divide.

On 13 July, former President Trump posted on Truth Social 'I want to thank The United States Secret Service, and all of Law Enforcement, for their rapid response on the shooting that just took place in Butler, Pennsylvania. Most importantly, I want to extend my condolences to the family of the person at the Rally who was killed, and also to the family of another person that was badly injured. It is incredible that such an act can take place in our Country. Nothing is known at this time about the shooter, who is now dead. I was shot with a bullet that pierced the upper part of my right ear. I knew immediately that something was wrong in that I heard a whizzing sound, shots, and immediately felt the bullet ripping through the skin. Much bleeding took place, so I realized then what was happening. GOD BLESS AMERICA!'

On 13 July, President Biden gave a statement: 'I have been briefed on the shooting at Donald Trump's rally in Pennsylvania. I'm grateful to hear that he's safe and doing well. I'm praying for him and his family and for all those who were at the rally, as we await further information. Jill and I are grateful to the Secret Service for getting him to safety. There's no place for this kind of violence in America. We must unite as one nation to condemn it'. The White House confirmed that President Biden subsequently spoke to former President Trump.

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s 47C(1), s 47E(d)

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On 13 July, Attorney-General Merrick Garland issued a statement: *'I have been briefed on the shooting at former President Trump's rally, and have briefed the President. The FBI, ATF, U.S. Attorney's Office for the Western District of Pennsylvania, and the Department's National Security Division are currently working with the Secret Service as well as state and local law enforcement partners on the ground in Butler, Pennsylvania. My heart is with the former President, those injured, and the family of the spectator killed in this horrific attack. We will not tolerate violence of any kind, and violence like this is an attack on our democracy. The Justice Department will bring every available resource to bear to this investigation.'*

Members of Congress from across the aisle in both the House of Representatives and Senate have issued statements condemning the shooting. Many have urged for calm in what is already a high pitched election campaign, for example Republican Speaker of the House Mike Johnson said today "we've got to turn the rhetoric down. We've got to turn the temperature down in this country. We need leaders of all parties, on both sides, to call that out and make sure that happens..." s 33(a)(iii)

. Senator Mike Lee (Utah) and former National Security Advisor Robert O'Brien issued a statement after the shooting calling on President Biden to order that all the federal criminal charges against Trump be dropped to "help heal the wounds". Senator JD Vance, on the short list of Vice Presidential candidates, wrote on X after the shooting that "the central premise of the Biden campaign is that President Donald Trump is an authoritarian fascist who must be stopped at all costs. That rhetoric led directly to President Trump's attempted assassination".

Republicans in Congress have pledged investigations into the incident, indicating their intention to call the Secret Service Director Kim Cheatle and other officials to appear before the House Oversight Committee on 22 July (note Congress is not in session next week). Hearings before other committees are also expected.

### **Australian responses**

Shortly after the incident, Prime Minister Albanese issued a comment: *'The incident at former President Trump's campaign event in Pennsylvania today is concerning and confronting. There is no place for violence in the democratic process. I am relieved to hear reports that former President Trump is now safe'*. At a press conference, the PM expressed his shock, wished the former president well, and commended the swift work of security services.

Senator Penny Wong posted on X: *'Australians are shocked by the attack on former President Trump in Pennsylvania. I'm pleased he is now safe. My thoughts are with him, his family and the families of innocent victims. There is no place for acts of violence in democracies'*.

Ambassador Rudd posted on X: *'All Australians are shocked by the attack on former President Trump at his campaign rally this evening in Pennsylvania. Violence has no place in our*

democracies. It is a relief to see that President Trump is safe. Our thoughts are with him and his family'.

**Opposition**

Senator Simon Birmingham posted on X 'Politically motivated violence never has a place in free democracies. Thoughts go to all victims of the appalling shooting in the US. Whatever your politics, candidates & supporters have a right to safe assembly. Once again, many Australians will be grateful for our gun laws'.

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**From:** Paul Myler <[Paul.Myler@dfat.gov.au](mailto:Paul.Myler@dfat.gov.au)>  
**Sent:** Sunday, July 14, 2024 8:06 AM  
**To:** Elizabeth Le Bas <[Elizabeth.LeBas@dfat.gov.au](mailto:Elizabeth.LeBas@dfat.gov.au)>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @pmc.gov.au <s 22(1)(a)(ii) @pmc.gov.au>; Tom Mooney <[Tom.Mooney@dfat.gov.au](mailto:Tom.Mooney@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 <s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>  
**Cc:** Elly Lawson <[Elly.Lawson@dfat.gov.au](mailto:Elly.Lawson@dfat.gov.au)>; Clare Walsh <[Clare.Walsh@dfat.gov.au](mailto:Clare.Walsh@dfat.gov.au)>; Michael Growder <[Michael.Growder@dfat.gov.au](mailto:Michael.Growder@dfat.gov.au)>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au <s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; Peter Sawczak <[Peter.Sawczak@dfat.gov.au](mailto:Peter.Sawczak@dfat.gov.au)>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au <s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; Stevens, Edwina <[Edwina.Stevens@pmc.gov.au](mailto:Edwina.Stevens@pmc.gov.au)>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @pmc.gov.au <s 22(1)(a)(ii) @pmc.gov.au>; Global Watch Office s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au <s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>  
**Subject:** Re: Trump attack TPs[SEC=OFFICIAL]

**OFFICIAL**

Of course.

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**From:** "Elizabeth Le Bas" <[Elizabeth.LeBas@dfat.gov.au](mailto:Elizabeth.LeBas@dfat.gov.au)>  
**Date:** Sunday 14 July 2024 at 6:56:38 AM  
**To:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) @pmc.gov.au <s 22(1)(a)(ii) @pmc.gov.au>, "Tom Mooney" <[Tom.Mooney@dfat.gov.au](mailto:Tom.Mooney@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 <s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>  
**Cc:** "Paul Myler" <[Paul.Myler@dfat.gov.au](mailto:Paul.Myler@dfat.gov.au)>, "Elly Lawson" <[Elly.Lawson@dfat.gov.au](mailto:Elly.Lawson@dfat.gov.au)>, "Clare Walsh" <[Clare.Walsh@dfat.gov.au](mailto:Clare.Walsh@dfat.gov.au)>, "Michael Growder" <[Michael.Growder@dfat.gov.au](mailto:Michael.Growder@dfat.gov.au)>, s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au <s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>, "Peter Sawczak" <[Peter.Sawczak@dfat.gov.au](mailto:Peter.Sawczak@dfat.gov.au)>, s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au <s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>, "Stevens, Edwina" <[Edwina.Stevens@pmc.gov.au](mailto:Edwina.Stevens@pmc.gov.au)>, s 22(1)(a)(ii) @pmc.gov.au <s 22(1)(a)(ii) @pmc.gov.au>, "Global Watch Office" s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au <s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>  
**Subject:** Re: Trump attack TPs[SEC=OFFICIAL]

**OFFICIAL**

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

If feasible, hoping we might be able to take advantage of the time difference and have

Post update the below talking points/background overnight for Ministers' use as needed?  
Means offices will be up to date for early morning media. Would be much appreciated at this end.

Thanks  
Liz

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**From:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) @pmc.gov.au" <s 22(1)(a)(ii)@pmc.gov.au>  
**Date:** Sunday 14 July 2024 at 3:02:40 PM  
**To:** "Elizabeth Le Bas" <Elizabeth.LeBas@dfat.gov.au>, "Tom Mooney" <Tom.Mooney@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  
**Cc:** "Paul Myler" <Paul.Myler@dfat.gov.au>, "Elly Lawson" <Elly.Lawson@dfat.gov.au>, "Clare Walsh" <Clare.Walsh@dfat.gov.au>, "Michael Growder" <Michael.Growder@dfat.gov.au>, s 22(1)(a)(ii)@dfat.gov.au, s 22(1)(a)(ii)@dfat.gov.au, "Peter Sawczak" <Peter.Sawczak@dfat.gov.au>, "Paul Myler" <Paul.Myler@dfat.gov.au>, s 22(1)(a)(ii)@dfat.gov.au, "Stevens, Edwina" <Edwina.Stevens@pmc.gov.au>, s 22(1)(a)(ii)@pmc.gov.au  
**Subject:** RE: Trump attack TPs [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Liz – thanks for the cc.

Confirming this update has been passed to PMO. And adding Edwina (a/g FAS INT at the moment) and s 22(1)(a)(ii) o this chain.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

| Acting Assistant Secretary  
Global Interests Branch | International Division  
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

p. s 22(1)(a)(ii) | m. s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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**From:** Elizabeth Le Bas <Elizabeth.LeBas@dfat.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Sunday, 14 July 2024 2:47 PM  
**To:** Tom Mooney <Tom.Mooney@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  
**Cc:** Paul Myler <Paul.Myler@dfat.gov.au>; Elly Lawson <Elly.Lawson@dfat.gov.au>; Clare Walsh <Clare.Walsh@dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii)@pmc.gov.au; Michael Growder <Michael.Growder@dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii)@dfat.gov.au; s 22(1)(a)(ii)@dfat.gov.au; Peter Sawczak <Peter.Sawczak@dfat.gov.au>; Paul Myler <Paul.Myler@dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii)@dfat.gov.au  
**Subject:** RE: Trump attack TPs [SEC=OFFICIAL]

**OFFICIAL**

Hi all

Updated tps and background – incorporating the press conference with the FBI and state police that has just concluded.

Best

Liz

//

- The Australian Government is shocked at the <sup>s 47C(1), s 47E(d)</sup> attack on former US President, Donald Trump.
- Understand multiple shots were fired during a public rally for President Trump in Pennsylvania, who was escorted away from the scene
  - and that his campaign team has said he is ‘fine’ and ‘being checked out at a local medical facility’.
- Have also heard reports of injuries among audience members at this rally [*two deaths, including suspected shooter*].
- We condemn this attack. Violence should never be part of political expression or protest.
- Good to see that President Trump has emerged from this attack without apparent major injury
  - we hope for his quick recovery
  - our thoughts are with him and his family.
- Facts are still unfolding – important to remain calm and refrain from speculation.

**Background**

Former President Trump was <sup>s 47C(1), s 47E(d)</sup> shot during a public rally in Pennsylvania on 13 July 2024 EST. Witnesses said they heard multiple shots fired about 10 minutes into Mr Trump’s remarks. Photos and video showed blood on Mr Trump’s ear and face as Secret Service members removed him from the stage. A spokesman for Mr Trump has said that the former President is ‘fine and being checked out at a local medical facility. President Trump thanks law enforcement and first responders for their quick action during this heinous act’. *US authorities confirmed there have been two deaths (the suspected shooter and one victim) and two people are in critical condition. The FBI is calling it an attempted assassination, and said the shooter had tentatively been identified (identity not yet public).*

*The US Secret Service issued a press statement: ‘...a suspected shooter fired multiple shots toward the stage from an elevated position outside of the rally venue. US Secret Service personnel neutralized the shooter, who is now deceased. [The] US Secret Service quickly responded with protective measures and the former president is safe and being evaluated. One spectator was killed, two spectators were critically injured. The incident is currently under investigation and the Secret Service has formally notified the Federal Bureau of Investigation’.*

*The FBI posted on X: ‘The FBI has assumed the role of the lead federal law enforcement agency in the investigation of the incident involving former President Donald Trump that occurred earlier today in Butler, Pennsylvania. Special agents of the FBI Pittsburgh Field Office responded*

immediately, to include crisis response team members and evidence response technicians. We will continue to support this investigation with the full resources of the FBI, alongside our partners at the U.S. Secret Service and state and local law enforcement...’.

### US responses

President Trump posted on Truth Social ‘I want to thank The United States Secret Service, and all of Law Enforcement, for their rapid response on the shooting that just took place in Butler, Pennsylvania. Most importantly, I want to extend my condolences to the family of the person at the Rally who was killed, and also to the family of another person that was badly injured. It is incredible that such an act can take place in our Country. Nothing is known at this time about the shooter, who is now dead. I was shot with a bullet that pierced the upper part of my right ear. I knew immediately that something was wrong in that I heard a whizzing sound, shots, and immediately felt the bullet ripping through the skin. Much bleeding took place, so I realized then what was happening. GOD BLESS AMERICA!’.

A statement from the Trump Campaign and RNC confirmed Trump planned to proceed with the Republican National Convention (15-18 July).

On 13 July, President Biden gave a statement: ‘I have been briefed on the shooting at Donald Trump’s rally in Pennsylvania. I’m grateful to hear that he’s safe and doing well. I’m praying for him and his family and for all those who were at the rally, as we await further information. Jill and I are grateful to the Secret Service for getting him to safety. There’s no place for this kind of violence in America. We must unite as one nation to condemn it’. The White House confirmed that President Biden subsequently spoke to former President Trump.

Vice President Harris issued a statement: ‘I have been briefed on the shooting at former President Trump’s event in Pennsylvania. Doug and I are relieved that he is not seriously injured. We are praying for him, his family, and all those who have been injured and impacted by this senseless shooting. We are grateful to the United States Secret Service, first responders, and local authorities for their immediate action. Violence such as this has no place in our nation. We must all condemn this abhorrent act and do our part to ensure that it does not lead to more violence’.

### Australian responses

Shortly after the incident, Prime Minister Albanese issued a comment: ‘The incident at former President Trump’s campaign event in Pennsylvania today is concerning and confronting. There is no place for violence in the democratic process. I am relieved to hear reports that former President Trump is now safe’. At a press conference, the PM expressed his shock, wished the former president well, and commended the swift work of security services.

Senator Penny Wong posted on X: ‘Australians are shocked by the attack on former President Trump in Pennsylvania. I’m pleased he is now safe. My thoughts are with him, his family and the families of innocent victims. There is no place for acts of violence in democracies’.

Ambassador Rudd posted on X: ‘All Australians are shocked by the attack on former President Trump at his campaign rally this evening in Pennsylvania. Violence has no place in our democracies. It is a relief to see that President Trump is safe. Our thoughts are with him and his family’.

**Opposition**

Senator Simon Birmingham posted on X 'Politically motivated violence never has a place in free democracies. Thoughts go to all victims of the appalling shooting in the US. Whatever your politics, candidates & supporters have a right to safe assembly. Once again, many Australians will be grateful for our gun laws'.

---

**From:** Tom Mooney <[Tom.Mooney@dfat.gov.au](mailto:Tom.Mooney@dfat.gov.au)>  
**Sent:** Sunday, July 14, 2024 9:56 AM  
**To:** 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)>; Elizabeth Le Bas <[Elizabeth.LeBas@dfat.gov.au](mailto:Elizabeth.LeBas@dfat.gov.au)>; Peter Sawczak <[Peter.Sawczak@dfat.gov.au](mailto:Peter.Sawczak@dfat.gov.au)>  
**Cc:** Paul Myler <[Paul.Myler@dfat.gov.au](mailto:Paul.Myler@dfat.gov.au)>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) <[s22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)@dfat.gov.au](mailto:s22(1)(a)(ii)@dfat.gov.au)>; Elly Lawson <[Elly.Lawson@dfat.gov.au](mailto:Elly.Lawson@dfat.gov.au)>; Clare Walsh <[Clare.Walsh@dfat.gov.au](mailto:Clare.Walsh@dfat.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** Re: Trump attack TPs[SEC=OFFICIAL]

**OFFICIAL**

Thanks s 22(1)(a)(ii) These look good.

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**From:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) <[s22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)@dfat.gov.au](mailto:s22(1)(a)(ii)@dfat.gov.au)>  
**Date:** Sunday 14 July 2024 at 9:15:09 AM  
**To:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) <[s22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)@dfat.gov.au](mailto:s22(1)(a)(ii)@dfat.gov.au)>, "Elizabeth Le Bas" <[Elizabeth.LeBas@dfat.gov.au](mailto:Elizabeth.LeBas@dfat.gov.au)>, "Peter Sawczak" <[Peter.Sawczak@dfat.gov.au](mailto:Peter.Sawczak@dfat.gov.au)>, "Tom Mooney" <[Tom.Mooney@dfat.gov.au](mailto:Tom.Mooney@dfat.gov.au)>  
**Cc:** "Paul Myler" <[Paul.Myler@dfat.gov.au](mailto:Paul.Myler@dfat.gov.au)>, s 22(1)(a)(ii) <[s22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)@dfat.gov.au](mailto:s22(1)(a)(ii)@dfat.gov.au)>, "Elly Lawson" <[Elly.Lawson@dfat.gov.au](mailto:Elly.Lawson@dfat.gov.au)>, "Clare Walsh" <[Clare.Walsh@dfat.gov.au](mailto:Clare.Walsh@dfat.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** Re: Trump attack TPs[SEC=OFFICIAL]

**OFFICIAL**

Looping in Tom

---

**From:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) <[s22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)@dfat.gov.au](mailto:s22(1)(a)(ii)@dfat.gov.au)>  
**Date:** Sunday 14 July 2024 at 9:44:01 AM  
**To:** "Elizabeth Le Bas" <[Elizabeth.LeBas@dfat.gov.au](mailto:Elizabeth.LeBas@dfat.gov.au)>, "Peter Sawczak" <[Peter.Sawczak@dfat.gov.au](mailto:Peter.Sawczak@dfat.gov.au)>  
**Cc:** "Paul Myler" <[Paul.Myler@dfat.gov.au](mailto:Paul.Myler@dfat.gov.au)>, s 22(1)(a)(ii) <[s22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)@dfat.gov.au](mailto:s22(1)(a)(ii)@dfat.gov.au)>, "Elly Lawson" <[Elly.Lawson@dfat.gov.au](mailto:Elly.Lawson@dfat.gov.au)>, "Clare Walsh" <[Clare.Walsh@dfat.gov.au](mailto:Clare.Walsh@dfat.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** Trump attack TPs [SEC=OFFICIAL]

**OFFICIAL**

Please see below TPs in response to reported attack on former US President Trump. I have added a line on reports about audience members being injured (possibly killed). And the last line about facts still unfolding. Copying Elly and Clare.

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

- The Australian Government is shocked at the reported attack on former US President, Donald Trump
- Understand multiple shots were fired during a public rally for President Trump in Pennsylvania, who was escorted away from the scene
  - And that his campaign team has said he is ‘fine’ and ‘being checked out at a local medical facility’
- Have also heard reports of injuries among audience members at this rally.
- We condemn this attack. Violence should never be part of political expression or protest
- Good to see that President Trump has emerged from this attack without apparent major injury
  - We hope for his quick recovery
  - Our thoughts are with him and his family.
- Facts are still unfolding – important to remain calm and refrain from speculation.

### Background

Former President Trump was reportedly shot during a public rally in Pennsylvania on 13 July 2024 EST. Witnesses said they heard multiple shots fired about 10 minutes into Mr Trump’s remarks. Photos and video showed blood on Mr Trump’s ear and face as Secret Service members removed him from the stage. A spokesman for Mr Trump has said that their former President is ‘fine and being checked out at a local medical facility. President Trump thanks law enforcement and first responders for their quick action during this heinous act’.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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Director | US Political Section  
US, UK & Canada Branch | Geostrategic & Partnerships Division  
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade  
P 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.

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s 22(1)(a)(ii)

**Title:** United States: s 22(1)(a)(ii) **Assassination attempt of former President Trump**

**MRN:** s 22(1)(a)(ii)

**To:** Canberra

**Cc:** RR : Europe Posts, Indo-Pacific Posts, Middle East Posts, USA Posts

**From:** Washington

**From File:**

**EDRMS**

**Files:**

**References:** s 22(1)(a)(ii)

**Response:** Routine, Information Only

### Summary

Following the shooting of former President Trump at a Sunday rally in Pennsylvania, investigations are ongoing into the event. Initial reactions across the political spectrum have mostly consisted of calls for unity and avoiding charged rhetoric. Congress is planning investigations, and has already received Administration briefings. s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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s 47E(d), former President Trump was shot in the upper part of his right ear during a public rally in Butler, Pennsylvania on 13 July 2024 EST during an election campaign event.

### Incident Details

2. The FBI is investigating the shooting as an attempted assassination and possible domestic terrorism attack. The gunman, shooting from an elevated position on a rooftop overlooking Trump's rally, killed one rally participant and injured two others.
3. The FBI has identified the shooter as 20-year-old Thomas Matthew Crooks of Bethel Park, Pennsylvania, a Pittsburgh suburb. State records indicate he was a registered Republican, though had not yet voted in a presidential race (the US voting age is 18). He had also made a small donation to a Democratic-leaning group.
4. The investigation remains ongoing, and at present authorities have not found a manifesto or abnormal online activity by the shooter, and therefore believe he acted alone. Crooks used an AR-15 rifle used in the attack, which was owned and legally obtained by the shooter's father. He was a member of a local rifle range. Reports indicate explosive materials were recovered from his vehicle and residence.
5. Of the outstanding questions for the investigative teams to answer, particular focus is trained on identifying the gunman's motive and on scrutinising activities and protocols of

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

the US Secret Service (USSS). A key inquiry is why access to the adjoining building and its rooftop, 137 meters from the rally stage, was not monitored or otherwise prevented.

### **Initial political reactions**

6. Former President Trump posted on Truth Social several times following the event, striking a measured tone in contrast to his famously lively rhetoric. He stressed a need to “stand United, and show our True Character as Americans, remaining Strong and Determined, and not allowing Evil to Win.” President Biden has made several statements, including a primetime address to the nation from the Oval Office (something he has only done on two other occasions during his term) that called for unity. The two Presidential candidates had a “short but good conversation” the evening of the event.

7. Across politics, reactions from US leaders have reflected notable professionalism and compassion, condemning the shooting and urging calm. House Speaker Mike Johnson (R-Louisiana) said “we’ve got to turn the rhetoric down. We’ve got to turn the temperature down in this country. We need leaders of all parties, on both sides, to call that out and make sure that happens...” Top Trump campaign leaders wrote in an internal campaign memo on 14 July that they “will not tolerate dangerous rhetoric on social media.” And the Biden campaign suspended a US\$50 million advertising blitz and pulled television attack ads for an undefined (though expected to be brief) period.

8. s 33(a)(iii)

For example, Senator JD Vance (R-Ohio), just announced as Trump’s vice-presidential pick s 47E(d), wrote on X after the shooting that “the central premise of the Biden campaign is that President Donald Trump is an authoritarian fascist who must be stopped at all costs. That rhetoric led directly to President Trump’s attempted assassination”. Senator Mike Lee (R-Utah) and former National Security Advisor Robert O’Brien issued a statement after the shooting calling on President Biden to order that all the federal criminal charges against Trump be dropped to “help heal the wounds”.

9. Statements aside, Congress is flexing its oversight muscles in response to the assassination attempt. The Senate, under Democrats' control, is taking a measured approach. Members have had multiple closed meetings with the heads of the FBI, USSS, and Department of Homeland Security, though it is unclear what other meetings and hearings can be scheduled prior to the August recess in three weeks. On the House side, multiple committees have vowed to investigate the events, particularly the USSS’s actions. House Oversight Committee has scheduled a hearing with Secret Service Director Kimberly Cheatle on 22 July, and several other committee chairs have called on this and other agencies to testify publicly. Legislatively, Reps. Mike Lawler (R-N.Y.) and Ritchie Torres (D-N.Y.) have said they plan to introduce legislation that would enhance Secret Service protections for all presidential nominees (including Robert F. Kennedy Jr., who currently has no detail).

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

18. s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 33(a)(iii), s 47C(1)

s 33(a)(iii), s 47E(d)

text ends

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**Sent by:** s 22(1)(a)(ii)

**Prepared  
by:**

**Approved** HOM

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**Topics:** POLITICAL-ECONOMIC/Domestic Political