

From: [Victoria Young](#)
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Cc: [Elizabeth McGregor](#); s 22(1)(a)(ii)
[Anna Oldmeadow](#); [Eily Lawson](#); s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Subject: For FMO: updated China supplementary HTB [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]
Date: Tuesday, 25 February 2025 9:06:21 PM
Attachments: [250224 - China Bilateral Supplementary Hot Topic Brief Update - track.docx](#)
s 33(a)(i), s 33(a)(ii), s 33(a)(iii), s 47E(d)
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Thanks for your feedback today. I have attached for FMO review our:

- updated supplementary China Hot Topic Brief (covering PLAN live firing: s 22(1)(a)(ii) and
- updated timeline attachments for the s 22(1)(a)(ii) PLA-N task group live firing exercises.

A/g FAS EAD (Liz McGregor) has cleared.

Best wishes,

Victoria

AS EAB/EAD
Ph s 22(1)(a)(ii)

DRAFT AS AT 25 FEBRUARY 2025 – 8PM - OFFICIAL

Additional Budget Estimates: February 2025

PDR No s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Hot Topic Supplementary Brief

China Bilateral (covering PLA-N task group live fire exercises, 21-22 February;
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

[Handling: Defence leads on PLA-N task group; a/g FAS EAD to lead on engagement with Chinese Government; FAS DND to lead on engagement with Defence, inter-agency handling and FMO; s 22(1)(a)(ii)]

PLA-N vessels off the east-coast of Australia

- Australia routinely monitors vessels in our maritime approaches.
- On 13 February, Defence publicly announced it was aware of three PLA-N vessels operating to the northeast of Australia [in the Coral Sea].
- We respect the right of all states to exercise freedom of navigation and overflight in international waters and airspace.
- Such vessels have previously transited through the region near Australia.
- China is entitled to exercise freedom of navigation consistent with international law.
- We expect others to respect Australia's right to do the same.

How has the Australian Government raised our concerns with China about reported PLA-N live firing drills on 21-22 February?

- China, like others, has the right to undertake such exercises in international waters and did provide some notice of the activities.
- The Australian Government has expressed concern to China, though about the type and timing of the notice given.
- The Foreign Minister has raised these concerns directly with her counterpart, Foreign Minister Wang Yi, following the first live firing incident [21 February, South Africa]
 - as the Foreign Minister has said, she sought an explanation for Chinese naval vessels conducting live firing drills without advance notification.
- Australian Government officials from DFAT and Defence have raised our concerns about both live firing events [21 and 22 February], and the need for further transparency by China on these activities, through appropriate channels in Canberra and in Beijing.

s 33(a)(iii)

Prepared By:

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

Branch: CBS, EAB, EAD

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

Consultation: EAD

Cleared By: [TBC]

Name: Elly Lawon

Position: Deputy Secretary

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

Group: SCG

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Additional Budget Estimates: February 2025

PDR No: s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 33(a)(iii)

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PDR No s 22(1)(a)(ii)

When was FMO first advised of s 22(1)(a)(ii) the PLA-N
live firing events (21 and 22 February)?
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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

When did DFAT first become aware s 22(1)(a)(ii) of the
PLA-N live fire events (21 and 22 Feb)?
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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

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PDR No: s 22(1)(a)(ii)

What did the Foreign Minister discuss with China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi during their bilateral meeting on 21 February, in South Africa?

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

- The Foreign Minister sought an explanation for Chinese naval vessels conducting live fire drills without advance notification.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Background:

PLA-N Task Group live fire drills (21, 22 February)

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

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Attachments:

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

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From: [Victoria Young](#)
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Cc: s 22(1)(a)(ii); [Elizabeth McGregor](#); s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Subject: Seeking FMO advice: updated China supplementary HTB [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]
Date: Wednesday, 26 February 2025 9:22:23 AM
Attachments: [250224 - China Bilateral Supplementary Hot Topic Brief Update - track.docx](#)

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 4/E(d)

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

Grateful your advice when you have time.

Victoria

Victoria Young

Assistant Secretary
East Asia Political Branch | East Asia Division
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
P +s 22(1)(a)(ii) | M s 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: Victoria Young
Sent: Tuesday, 25 February 2025 9:06 PM
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Cc: Elizabeth McGregor <Elizabeth.McGregor@dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Anna Oldmeadow <Anna.Oldmeadow@dfat.gov.au>; Elly Lawson <Elly.Lawson@dfat.gov.au>;
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