

China - Bilateral Relations

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Did the Government raise the PLA's ICBM test launch [25 September]?

- . Yes DFAT and Defence officials raised the matter with China on the day of the test, 25 September.

s 33(a)(iii)

Prepared By:

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

Branch: China Bilateral Section/East Asia Division

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

Consultation: EAD

Cleared By:

Name: Elly Lawson

Position: Deputy Secretary

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

Group: SCG

Did the Prime Minister raise the test launch?

- Yes. The Prime Minister raised Australia's concerns directly with Premier Li [EAS bilateral, 10 October].

s 22(1)(a)(ii) – this section, together with the following pages (3-9) are out of scope and have been removed.

Prepared By:

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

Branch: China Bilateral Section/East Asia Division

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

Consultation: EAD

Cleared By:

Name: Elly Lawson

Position: Deputy Secretary

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

Group: SCG

4 November 2024

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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How has Australia engaged the Pacific on China's ICBM launch?

- Australia is committed to open and transparent engagement with Pacific partners on security issues that affect our region.
- As part of ongoing and regular engagement, Australian officials have held discussions with Pacific counterparts following China's 25 October ICBM test.
- Australia is concerned by any action that is destabilising and raises the risk of miscalculation in the region.

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Prepared By:

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

Branch: PES/SUB/PSD

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

Cleared By:

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

Position: A/g AS SUB

Branch/Division: OTP | PSD | Pacific Security Branch

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

4 November 2024

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

ICBM test launch. On 25 September, China's People's Liberation Army (PLA) Rocket Force conducted a test launch of an Intercontinental Ballistic Missile (ICBM) into the Pacific Ocean. This was the first launch by China of an ICBM into the Pacific Ocean since 1980. Pacific officials have made public statements regarding the launch. At UNGA, Fiji President Katonivere, condemned the 'unilateral' test, urging for 'respect for our region, and call for cessation of such action under principle four of the Ocean of Peace', and Palau President Whipples said 'that for a country that says it wants to promote peace, this doesn't seem like a peaceful activity'. New Zealand Foreign Affairs Minister said the test was an 'unwelcome and concerning development' and that 'Pacific leaders have clearly articulated their expectation that we have a peaceful, stable, prosperous, and secure region.'

Prepared By:

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

Branch: PES/SUB/PSD

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

Cleared By:

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

Position: A/g AS SUB

Branch/Division: OIP | PSD | Pacific Security Branch

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

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

How has Australia engaged the Pacific on China's intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) launch?

- Australia is committed to open and transparent engagement with Pacific partners on security issues that affect our region.
- As part of ongoing and regular engagement, Australian officials have held discussions with Pacific counterparts following the ICBM test s 33(a)(iii)
 - aware that a number of Pacific leaders and officials have made public comments about the launch, including, for example, Fiji, Kiribati, Palau and New Zealand – refer you to those public comments.
- Australia is concerned by any action that is destabilising and raises the risk of miscalculation in the region.

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Budget Estimates: 7 November 2024

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- On 27 September, [the ABC](#) reported on China's launch of an intercontinental ballistic missile and that New Zealand and Australia had shared information about the ICBM with partners across the region, including in the Pacific.

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Division: OTP | PSD | SUB - Pacific Security Branch

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China in the Pacific

Handling Notes: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
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s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii) – this section, together with the following pages (25-26) are out of scope and have been removed.

How has Australia engaged the Pacific on China's intercontinental ballistic missile launch?

- Australia is committed to open and transparent engagement with Pacific Forum members on security issues that affect our region.
- Consistent with this approach, and as part of ongoing and regular engagement, Australian officials have held discussions with Pacific counterparts following the ICBM test s 33(a)(iii) s 33(a)(iii)
- Aware a number of Pacific leaders and officials have made public comments about the launch, including, for example, Fiji, Kiribati, Palau and New Zealand – refer you to those public comments.
- Australia is concerned by any action that is destabilising and raises the risk of miscalculation in the region.

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China's engagement in security in the Pacific

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

On 25 September, China's People's Liberation Army Rocket Force conducted a test launch of an Intercontinental Ballistic Missile (ICBM) into the Pacific Ocean. This is the first launch by China of an ICBM into the Pacific Ocean since 1980. Pacific officials have made public statements regarding the launch. At the United Nations General Assembly, Fiji's President, Katonivere, condemned the "unilateral" test, urging for "respect for our region, and call for cessation of such action under principle four of the Ocean of Peace" and Palau President Surangel S. Whipps, Jr. said "that for a country that says it wants to promote peace, this doesn't seem like a peaceful activity". New Zealand Foreign Affairs Minister Peters said the test was an "unwelcome and concerning development" and that "Pacific leaders have clearly articulated their expectation that we have a peaceful, stable, prosperous, and secure region". Kiribati's President's Office issued a statement on [social media](#), noting Kiribati did not receive prior notification from China, the Pacific is not "isolated pockets of ocean, they are part of our Blue Pacific Continent and are parts of Kiribati" and Kiribati "does not welcome Beijing's action".

