s 22(1)(a)(ii) – this page, together with the following pages (2-38) are irrelevant and have been removed.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 33(a)(iii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

DFAT - RELEASED UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 1982

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

DFAT - RELEASED UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 1982

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

DFAT - RELEASED UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 1982 LEX 14136

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

DFAT - RELEASED UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 1982

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

DFAT - RELEASED UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 1982

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 33(a)(iii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii) – this page, together with the following pages (47-116) are irrelevant and have been removed.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

ISSUES

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)
DFAT - RELEASED UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 1982
LEX 14136

If asked: Bougainville Copper Limited's (BCL) ASX announcement regarding the future of Panguna mine

- Not going to speculate on a commercial process.
- Decisions about the future of the Panguna mine are a matter for BCL and the Autonomous Bougainville Government.
- Australia remains committed, as Bougainville's largest development partner, to supporting economic and social development in Bougainville.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Background

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Bougainville

On 20 November 2025, the ABG signed an MoU with Indian firm Lloyds Metals and Energy Limited which would reportedly guide consultation and joint efforts on a range of strategic priorities, including potential large-scale mining projects. On 25 November 2025, BCL issued a statement to the ASX advising that the MoU “cast doubt” on [its] ability to enter into a meaningful strategic partnership agreement with other companies interested in operating Panguna.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

OFFICIAL
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

ISSUES

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Bougainville

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

If asked: Are you aware of the Autonomous Bougainville Government and Bougainville Copper Limited's efforts to reopen the Panguna mine, and what is Australia's position on this?

- Decisions about the future of the Panguna mine are a matter for BCL and the Autonomous Bougainville Government.
- Australia remains committed, as Bougainville's largest development partner, to supporting economic and social development in Bougainville.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Background

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Bougainville

On 20 November 2025, the ABG signed an MoU with Indian firm Lloyds Metals and Energy Limited which would reportedly guide consultation and joint efforts on a range of strategic priorities, including potential large-scale mining projects. On 25 November 2025, BCL issued a statement to the ASX advising that the MoU "cast doubt" on [its] ability to enter into a meaningful strategic partnership agreement with other companies interested in operating Panguna.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

ISSUES

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

DFAT - RELEASED UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 1982

Bougainville
If asked: What is the Australian Government's view on the Autonomous Bougainville Government's 29 January announcement regarding the future of Panguna mine?

- Aware the Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG) has announced Lloyds Metals and Energy Limited as their preferred partner to operate the Panguna mine.
- The selection of a company to re-open Panguna is a matter for the ABG.
- As Bougainville's largest development partner, Australia is committed to supporting economic and social development in Bougainville.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Bougainville

On 29 January 2026, the President of the Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG), Ishmael Toroama, announced India-based company, Lloyds Metals and Energy Limited, as its preferred operator for the Panguna mine in Bougainville. The ABG statement said it 'rejected the proposed partnership between Bougainville Copper Limited (BCL) and CMOC' and it 'did not authorise any proposal involving equity participation or dilution of its shareholding in BCL'. The statement said 'BCL has been directed to discontinue further progression of the CMOC proposal and the related partnering process and to instead pursue engagement with Lloyds Metals and Energy Limited as the ABG's preferred partner under a contract mining or services partnership model.'

On 20 November 2025, the ABG signed a non-binding MoU with Lloyds. On 25 November 2025, BCL issued a statement to the ASX advising that the MoU "cast doubt" on [its] ability to enter into a meaningful strategic partnership agreement with other companies interested in operating Panguna. On 27 November BCL issued a statement to the ASX stating that any partnership it pursued would be subject to ABG approval. Under the Bougainville Peace Agreement, the ABG controls mining. In February 2024, ABG extended BCL's Panguna exploration licence for five years.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

ISSUES

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

DFAT - RELEASED UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 1982

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Bougainville

If asked: What is the Australian Government's view on the Autonomous Bougainville Government's 29 January announcement regarding the future of Panguna mine?

- Aware the Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG) has announced Lloyds Metals and Energy Limited as their preferred partner to operate the Panguna mine.
- The selection of a company to re-open Panguna is a matter for the ABG.
- As Bougainville's largest development partner, Australia is committed to supporting its economic and social development.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Background

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Bougainville

On 29 January 2026, the President of the Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG), Ishmael Toroama, announced India-based company, Lloyds Metals and Energy Limited (Lloyds), as its preferred operator for the Panguna mine in Bougainville. The ABG statement said it 'rejected the proposed partnership between Bougainville Copper Limited (BCL) and China Molybdenum Company Limited and it 'did not authorise any proposal involving equity participation or dilution of its shareholding in BCL'. On 9 February, BCL announced to the ASX that it would terminate its strategic partnering process.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

ISSUES

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

DFAT - RELEASED UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 1982

LEX 14136

Bougainville

If asked: What is the Australian Government's view on the Autonomous Bougainville Government's efforts to re-open the Panguna mine?

- The selection of a company to re-open Panguna is a matter for the ABG.
- As Bougainville's largest development partner, Australia is committed to supporting its economic and social development.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Background
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Bougainville

On 29 January 2026, the President of the Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG), Ishmael Toroama, announced India-based company, Lloyds Metals and Energy Limited (Lloyds), as its preferred operator for the Panguna mine in Bougainville. The ABG statement said it 'rejected the proposed partnership between Bougainville Copper Limited (BCL) and China Molybdenum Company Limited. On 10 April, BCL announced to the ASX that it had entered into a non-binding cooperation agreement on Panguna with Lloyds, granting Lloyds exclusive rights for 90 days to undertake technical, commercial, financial, environmental and social due diligence in Panguna.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

DFAT - RELEASED UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 1982

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 33(a)(iii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 33(a)(iii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

[redacted]

s 22(1)(a)(ii) – this page, together with the following pages (150-212) are irrelevant and have been removed.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 33(a)(iii)

s 33(a)(iii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii) – this page, together with the following pages (216-269) are irrelevant and have been removed.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

ISSUES

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Bougainville; s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

DFAT - RELEASED UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 1982 LEX 14136

Bougainville

If asked: What is the Australian Government's view on the Autonomous Bougainville Government's efforts to re-open the Panguna mine?

- Selecting a company to re-open Panguna is a matter for the ABG.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

- As Bougainville's largest development partner, Australia is committed to supporting its economic and social development.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Background
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Bougainville
On 29 January 2026, the President of the Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG), Ishmael Toroama, announced India-based company, Lloyds Metals and Energy Limited (Lloyds), as its preferred operator for the Panguna mine in Bougainville. The ABG statement said it 'rejected the proposed partnership between Bougainville Copper Limited (BCL) and China Molybdenum Company Limited. On 10 April, BCL announced to the ASX that it had entered into a non-binding cooperation agreement on Panguna with Lloyds, granting Lloyds exclusive rights for 90 days to undertake technical, commercial, financial, environmental and social due diligence in Panguna.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

ISSUES

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Bougainville; s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

If asked: What is the Australian Government's view on the Autonomous Bougainville Government's efforts to re-open the Panguna mine?

- Decisions in relation to re-opening the Panguna mine are a matter for the ABG.
- As Bougainville's largest development partner, Australia is committed to supporting its economic and social development.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Background
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Bougainville
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

On 29 January 2026, Bougainville announced India-based company, Lloyds Metals and Energy Limited (Lloyds), as its preferred operator for the Panguna mine in Bougainville. On 10 June, the Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG) Parliament passed an amendment to the Bougainville Mining Act to support 'the accelerated development of previously operating large scale mines'. On 11 June, the ABG announced it had granted the Panguna lease to Bougainville Minerals Limited. On 17 June, BCL put a public notice on the ASX advising the company's exploration license was suspended.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

ISSUES

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Bougainville;s 22(1)(a)(ii)
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

If asked: What is the Australian Government's view on the Autonomous Bougainville Government's efforts to re-open the Panguna mine?

- Decisions in relation to re-opening the Panguna mine are a matter for the ABG.
- As Bougainville's largest development partner, Australia is committed to supporting its economic and social development.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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s 22(1)(a)(ii)

DFAT - RELEASED UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 1982 LEX 14136