

From: [Glenn Elson](#)
To: [Menadue, Tom MR](#); [Stevens, Edwina](#); [Daniel Sloper](#)
Cc: [Philip, Bernard Mr](#); s 22(1)(a)(ii); s 22(1)(a)(ii); s 22(1)(a)(ii); [Elizabeth McGregor](#); [Michelle Chan](#); [Elly Lawson](#); s 22(1)(a)(ii) @defence.gov.au; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @defence.gov.au; s 22(1)(a)(ii); s 22(1)(a)(ii); s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Subject: Re: Talking Points - PEOPLE'S LIBERATION ARMY-NAVY INCIDENT IN EAST CHINA SEA[SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]
Date: Thursday, 16 November 2023 6:47:06 PM

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

s47E(d)

s33(a)(iii)

Regards.
Glenn

From: "Menadue, Tom MR" <tom.menadue@defence.gov.au>
Date: Thursday, 16 November 2023 at 6:09:26 pm
To: "Glenn Elson" <Glenn.Elson@dfat.gov.au>, "Stevens, Edwina" <Edwina.Stevens@pmc.gov.au>, "Daniel Sloper" <Daniel.Sloper@dfat.gov.au>
Cc: "Philip, Bernard Mr" <bernard.philip@defence.gov.au>, s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au, s 22(1)(a)(ii) @pmc.gov.au, s 22(1)(a)(ii) @pmc.gov.au, s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au, "Elizabeth McGregor" <Elizabeth.McGregor@dfat.gov.au>, "Michelle Chan" <Michelle.Chan@dfat.gov.au>, "Elly Lawson" <Elly.Lawson@dfat.gov.au>, "zz s 22(1)(a)(ii) @defence.gov.au" s 22(1)(a)(ii) @defence.gov.au, "zz [External] s 22(1)(a)(ii) @defence.gov.au" s 22(1)(a)(ii) @defence.gov.au, s 22(1)(a)(ii) @defence.gov.au, s 22(1)(a)(ii) @defence.gov.au, s 22(1)(a)(ii) @defence.gov.au, s 22(1)(a)(ii) @defence.gov.au
Subject: RE: Talking Points - PEOPLE'S LIBERATION ARMY-NAVY INCIDENT IN EAST CHINA SEA [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

Thanks Glenn. s33(a)(iii)

Regards
Tom

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email immediately.

From: Glenn Elson <Glenn.Elson@dfat.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 16 November 2023 5:59 PM
To: Menadue, Tom MR <tom.menadue@defence.gov.au>; Stevens, Edwina <Edwina.Stevens@pmc.gov.au>; Daniel Sloper <Daniel.Sloper@dfat.gov.au>
Cc: Philip, Bernard Mr <bernard.philip@defence.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au; zz [External] s 22(1)(a)(ii) @pmc.gov.au s 22(1)(a)(ii) @pmc.gov.au; s 22(1)(a)(ii) <s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; Elizabeth McGregor <Elizabeth.McGregor@dfat.gov.au>; Michelle Chan <Michelle.Chan@dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au
Subject: RE: Talking Points - PEOPLE'S LIBERATION ARMY-NAVY INCIDENT IN EAST CHINA SEA [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

Tom – s47E(d)

If so, could you please send us your draft statement, when available. s 47E(d)

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

Look forward to your further advice.

Glenn

Glenn Elson

A/g First Assistant Secretary
Strategy & Development Division
Office of Southeast Asia
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
Phone s 22(1)(a)(ii) | Mobile s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Executive Assistant: s 22(1)(a)(ii) , P: s 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: [Stevens, Edwina](#)
To: [Menadue, Tom MR](#)
Cc: [Glenn Elson](#); [Daniel Sloper](#); [Philip, Bernard Mr](#); s 22(1)(a)(ii); s 22(1)(a)(ii); s 22(1)(a)(ii); [Elizabeth McGregor](#); [Michelle Chan](#); [Elly Lawson](#); s 22(1)(a)(ii); s 22(1)(a)(ii); s 22(1)(a)(ii); s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Subject: Re: Talking Points - PEOPLE'S LIBERATION ARMY-NAVY INCIDENT IN EAST CHINA SEA
[SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]
Date: Thursday, 16 November 2023 6:46:50 PM

Thanks all - s47E(d)

With thanks
Edwina

Sent from my iPhone

s 22(1)(a)(ii) - Duplicate

s 22(1)(a)(ii) @pmc.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; Elizabeth
McGregor <Elizabeth.McGregor@dfat.gov.au>; Michelle Chan
<Michelle.Chan@dfat.gov.au>; Elly Lawson <Elly.Lawson@dfat.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Talking Points - PEOPLE'S LIBERATION ARMY-NAVY INCIDENT IN EAST
CHINA SEA [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

Tom –s 47E(d)

If so, could you please send us your draft statement, when available. s33(a)(iii)

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

Look forward to your further advice.

Glenn

Glenn Elson

A/g First Assistant Secretary
Strategy & Development Division
Office of Southeast Asia
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Executive Assistant:

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s22(1)(a)(ii)

From: s22(1)(a)(ii)
Sent: Thursday, 16 November 2023 5:29 PM
To: Adam Mccarthy
Cc: Paul Schofield
Subject: Fwd: Action - urgent - seeking views[SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]
Attachments: 231116 - Talking Points - PEOPLES LIBERATION ARMY-NAVY INCIDENT IN EAST CHINA SEA.docx

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

Hi Adam,

s 47E(d)

s 42(1)

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

s 47C

Is it normal for ships to stop to untangle fishing nets?

- ☐ As part of routine propeller and hull maintenance, the divers were clearing fishing nets from the hull of the warship.

Thanks,

s22(1)(a)(ii)

From: s22(1)(a)(ii) <@dfat.gov.au>
Date: Thursday, 16 November 2023 at 4:44:02 pm
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii) <@dfat.gov.au>, s 22(1)(a)(ii) <@dfat.gov.au>, "Greg Wilcock" <Greg.Wilcock@dfat.gov.au>
Cc: "Daniel Sloper" <Daniel.Sloper@dfat.gov.au>, "Michael Growder" <Michael.Growder@dfat.gov.au>, "Glenn Elson" <Glenn.Elson@dfat.gov.au>, s 22(1)(a)(ii) <@dfat.gov.au>, "Elizabeth McGregor" <Elizabeth.McGregor@dfat.gov.au>, "Adam Mccarthy" <Adam.McCarthy@dfat.gov.au>, "Paul Schofield" <Paul.Schofield@dfat.gov.au>, s 22(1)(a)(ii) <@dfat.gov.au>
Subject: Action - urgent - seeking views [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

Dear EAD / LGD and Communications Division

As a number of you are aware, on 14 November an incident took place in the East China Sea between a PLA Navy Destroyer and HMAS Toowoomba was transiting to Japan on a port visit. The incident involved an unsafe interaction while Toowoomba was at sea in international waters. Contingency talking points and background from

Defence are attached. s 33(a)(iii)

s 47E(d)

By way of background, a slightly similar incident occurred in February 2022 (previous government) where a laser was used (defence media release here: <https://www.defence.gov.au/news-events/releases/2022-02-22/chinese-ship-lasing-p-8a-poseidon-17-february-2022>).

Grateful views as soon as practicable.

Thank you

Kind regards

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s22(1)(a)(ii)

Director
Maritime Security and South China Sea Section
Southeast Asia Strategy & Development Division
Office of Southeast Asia
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
Ts22(1)(a)(ii) | Ms 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: Menadue, Tom MR <tom.menadue@defence.gov.au>

Sent: Thursday, 16 November 2023 4:06 PM

To: Stevens, Edwina <Edwina.Stevens@pmc.gov.au>; Glenn Elson <Glenn.Elson@dfat.gov.au>; Daniel Sloper <Daniel.Sloper@dfat.gov.au>

Cc: Philip, Bernard Mr <bernard.philip@defence.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au; zz [External] s 22(1)(a)(ii) @pmc.gov.au s 22(1)(a)(ii) @pmc.gov.au; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au; Elizabeth McGregor <Elizabeth.McGregor@dfat.gov.au>

Subject: RE: Talking Points - PEOPLE'S LIBERATION ARMY-NAVY INCIDENT IN EAST CHINA SEA
[SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

s 33(a)(iii)

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From: Stevens, Edwina <Edwina.Stevens@pmc.gov.au>

Sent: Thursday, 16 November 2023 3:02 PM

To: Glenn Elson <Glenn.Elson@dfat.gov.au>; Menadue, Tom MR <tom.menadue@defence.gov.au>; Daniel Sloper <Daniel.Sloper@dfat.gov.au>

Cc: Philip, Bernard Mr <bernard.philip@defence.gov.au>; s22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au; s22(1)(a)(ii) @pmc.gov.au>

Subject: RE: Talking Points - PEOPLE'S LIBERATION ARMY-NAVY INCIDENT IN EAST CHINA SEA
[SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

s 47E(d)

s 33(a)(iii)

Edwina

From: Glenn Elson <Glenn.Elson@dfat.gov.au>

Sent: Thursday, 16 November 2023 2:51 PM

To: Menadue, Tom MR <tom.menadue@defence.gov.au>; Stevens, Edwina <Edwina.Stevens@pmc.gov.au>; Daniel Sloper <Daniel.Sloper@dfat.gov.au>

Cc: Philip, Bernard Mr <bernard.philip@defence.gov.au>; s22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>

Subject: RE: Talking Points - PEOPLE'S LIBERATION ARMY-NAVY INCIDENT IN EAST CHINA SEA
[SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

Thanks Tom. s47E(d)

Cheers

Glenn

From: Menadue, Tom MR <tom.menadue@defence.gov.au>

Sent: Thursday, 16 November 2023 2:49 PM

To: Glenn Elson <Glenn.Elson@dfat.gov.au>; Stevens, Edwina <Edwina.Stevens@pmc.gov.au>; Daniel Sloper <Daniel.Sloper@dfat.gov.au>

Cc: Philip, Bernard Mr <bernard.philip@defence.gov.au>

Subject: RE: Talking Points - PEOPLE'S LIBERATION ARMY-NAVY INCIDENT IN EAST CHINA SEA
[SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

s 33(a)(iii)

s 47E(d)

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From: Glenn Elson <Glenn.Elson@dfat.gov.au>

Sent: Thursday, 16 November 2023 2:45 PM

To: Menadue, Tom MR <tom.menadue@defence.gov.au>; Stevens, Edwina <Edwina.Stevens@pmc.gov.au>; Daniel

Sloper <Daniel.Sloper@dfat.gov.au>

Subject: RE: Talking Points - PEOPLE'S LIBERATION ARMY-NAVY INCIDENT IN EAST CHINA SEA
[SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

Thank you Tom.

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

Glenn

From: Menadue, Tom MR <tom.menadue@defence.gov.au>

Sent: Thursday, 16 November 2023 2:24 PM

To: Stevens, Edwina <Edwina.Stevens@pmc.gov.au>; Daniel Sloper <Daniel.Sloper@dfat.gov.au>; Glenn Elson <Glenn.Elson@dfat.gov.au>

Subject: Talking Points - PEOPLE'S LIBERATION ARMY-NAVY INCIDENT IN EAST CHINA SEA [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

Importance: High

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

Edwina, Daniel, Glenn,

s47E(d)

Regards
Tom

Tom Menadue

Assistant Secretary
North & South Asia, International Policy Division
Department of Defence

Mobile: s 22(1)(a)(ii) | Office: s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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

Email: tom.menadue@defence.gov.au

Executive Assistant: s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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

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

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s 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: Glenn Elson
Sent: Friday, 17 November 2023 2:49 PM
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Cc: Daniel Sloper; Adam Mccarthy; Paul Schofield; Elizabeth McGregor; s22(1)(a)(ii)
Michelle Chan; Elly Lawson; Marc Innes-Brown; s22(1)(a)(ii); Sarah deZoeten;
Chantelle Taylor
Subject: RE: URGENT - s 47E(d) - please
provide views ASAP. [REDACTED]

Thanks s 22(1)(a)(ii) – we'll go back separately on the TP

From: s22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, 17 November 2023 2:48 PM
To: Glenn Elson <Glenn.Elson@dfat.gov.au>
Cc: Daniel Sloper <Daniel.Sloper@dfat.gov.au>; Adam Mccarthy <Adam.McCarthy@dfat.gov.au>; Paul Schofield <Paul.Schofield@dfat.gov.au>; Elizabeth McGregor <Elizabeth.McGregor@dfat.gov.au>; s22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; Michelle Chan <Michelle.Chan@dfat.gov.au>; Elly Lawson <Elly.Lawson@dfat.gov.au>; Marc Innes-Brown <marc.innes@dfat.gov.au>; s22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; Sarah deZoeten <Sarah.Dezoeten@dfat.gov.au>; Chantelle Taylor <Chantelle.Taylor@dfat.gov.au>
Subject: RE: URGENT - s 47E(d) - please provide views ASAP.
[REDACTED]

Hi Glenn,

s47E(d)

The talking points prepared by Defence are okay. We suggest revising one as shown below

Is it normal for ships to stop to untangle fishing nets?

- As part of routine propeller and hull maintenance, the It is normal for divers were to clearing fishing nets from the hull of the a warship, including as part of routine propeller and hull maintenance.

Regards,

s22(1)(a)(ii)

s22(1)(a)(ii)

Director | Sea Law Section
International Law Branch | Legal Division
T s22(1)(a)(ii) | M s22(1)(a)(ii)

From: Glenn Elson

Sent: Friday, 17 November 2023 2:16 PM

To: Daniel Sloper <Daniel.Sloper@dfat.gov.au>; Adam McCarthy <Adam.McCarthy@dfat.gov.au>; Paul Schofield <Paul.Schofield@dfat.gov.au>; Elizabeth McGregor <Elizabeth.McGregor@dfat.gov.au>; s22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>

Cc: Michelle Chan <Michelle.Chan@dfat.gov.au>; Elly Lawson <Elly.Lawson@dfat.gov.au>; Marc Innes-Brown <marc.innes@dfat.gov.au>; s22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; Sarah deZoeten <Sarah.Dezoeten@dfat.gov.au>; Chantelle Taylor <Chantelle.Taylor@dfat.gov.au>

Subject: URGENT - s 47E(d) - please provide views ASAP.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

EAD, LGD Colleagues – s 47E(d)

Secretary

Recommendation: s47E(d)

Background
s47E(d)

s33(a)(iii)

s47E(d)

s 33(a)(iii), s 33(b)

s47E(d)

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

s 47E(d)

Regards

s22(1)(a)(ii)

From: Glenn Elson
Sent: Friday, 17 November 2023 2:50 PM
To: Michelle Chan; Elly Lawson
Cc: Marc Innes-Brown; s22(1)(a)(ii); Sarah deZoeten; Chantelle Taylor; Daniel Sloper; Adam McCarthy; Paul Schofield; Elizabeth McGregor; s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Subject: RE: URGENT - s 47E(d) - please provide views ASAP. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Michelle, Elly – the below advice is supported by s 47E(d)

Secretary

Recommendation: s47E(d)

Background
s47E(d)

s33(a)(iii)

s47E(d)

s 33(a)(iii), s 33(b)

s47E(d)

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

s47E(d)

Regards

s22(1)(a)(ii)

From: Glenn Elson
Sent: Friday, 17 November 2023 8:16 PM
To: Paul Schofield; s22(1)(a)(ii)
Cc: s22(1)(a)(ii)
Subject: Re: URGENT : draft MR - UNSAFE AND UNPROFESSIONAL INTERACTION WITH PLA-N [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Thanks a lot Paul

From: "Paul Schofield" <Paul.Schofield@dfat.gov.au>
Date: Friday, 17 November 2023 at 7:58:46 pm
To: "Glenn Elson" <Glenn.Elson@dfat.gov.au>, s22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au
Cc: s22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au
Subject: Re: URGENT : draft MR - UNSAFE AND UNPROFESSIONAL INTERACTION WITH PLA-N [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

No worries.

I've just been in touch with s22(1)(a)(ii). He is ok with the statement. He simply noted that from a factual point of view, s33(a)(iii)

P

From: "Glenn Elson" <Glenn.Elson@dfat.gov.au>
Date: Friday, 17 November 2023 at 19:51:32
To: "Paul Schofield" <Paul.Schofield@dfat.gov.au>, s22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au
Cc: s22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au
Subject: Re: URGENT : draft MR - UNSAFE AND UNPROFESSIONAL INTERACTION WITH PLA-N [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Thanks both. Have a good weekend.

From: "Paul Schofield" <Paul.Schofield@dfat.gov.au>
Date: Friday, 17 November 2023 at 7:49:11 pm
To: "Glenn Elson" <Glenn.Elson@dfat.gov.au>, s22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au
Cc: s22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au
Subject: RE: URGENT : draft MR - UNSAFE AND UNPROFESSIONAL INTERACTION WITH PLA-N [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Hi Glenn

This looks ok to me subject to any concerns s22(1)(a)(ii) may have.

Kind regards
Paul

Paul Schofield

Assistant Secretary
International Law Branch II | Legal Division
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
P s22(1)(a)(ii) | **M s22(1)(a)(ii)**
dfat.gov.au | [Twitter](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Instagram](#) | [LinkedIn](#)



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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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From: Glenn Elson <Glenn.Elson@dfat.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, 17 November 2023 6:48 PM
To: **s22(1)(a)(ii)** @dfat.gov.au
Cc: Paul Schofield <Paul.Schofield@dfat.gov.au>; **s22(1)(a)(ii)** @dfat.gov.au
Subject: URGENT : draft MR - UNSAFE AND UNPROFESSIONAL INTERACTION WITH PLA-N [REDACTED]

s22(1)(a)(ii). Would you mind reviewing noting short deadline. Thanks. Glenn

From: "s 47F(1)" @dfat.gov.au
Date: Friday, 17 November 2023 at 6:38:45 pm
To: "Elly Lawson" <Elly.Lawson@dfat.gov.au>, "Michelle Chan" <Michelle.Chan@dfat.gov.au>
Cc: "s 47F(1)" @dfat.gov.au, "Anna Oldmeadow" <Anna.Oldmeadow@dfat.gov.au>, "John Olenich" <John.Olenich@dfat.gov.au>, "Glenn Elson" <Glenn.Elson@dfat.gov.au>, "Daniel Sloper" <Daniel.Sloper@dfat.gov.au>, "Marc Innes-Brown" <marc.innes@dfat.gov.au>
Subject: FW: draft MR - UNSAFE AND UNPROFESSIONAL INTERACTION WITH PLA-N [REDACTED]

Hi Elly and Michelle

s47E(d)

s 47F(1)

s22(1)(a)(ii)

From: Glenn Elson
Sent: Sunday, 19 November 2023 12:23 PM
To: Elizabeth McGregor; s22(1)(a)(ii)
Cc: Gary Cowan; Marc Innes-Brown; Daniel Sloper; Paul Schofield
Subject: URGENT - Supplementary TPs on Toowoomba incident for s 22(1)(a)(ii)
[REDACTED]
Attachments: 20231119 s 22(1)(a)(ii) - supplementary TPs - HMAS Toowoomba PLA-N incident in East China Sea.docx

[REDACTED]
Liz, s22(1)(a)(ii)

s47E(d)

Glenn

From: Elizabeth McGregor <Elizabeth.McGregor@dfat.gov.au>
Sent: Sunday, 19 November 2023 11:39 AM
To: Glenn Elson <Glenn.Elson@dfat.gov.au>; Michelle Chan <Michelle.Chan@dfat.gov.au>; Marc Innes-Brown <marc.innes@dfat.gov.au>; Daniel Sloper <Daniel.Sloper@dfat.gov.au>
Cc: Gary Cowan <Gary.Cowan@dfat.gov.au>; Elly Lawson <Elly.Lawson@dfat.gov.au>
Subject: Re: HMAS Toowoomba [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Sounds good Glenn. Just looking at the s 22(1)(a) statement now too.

From: "Glenn Elson" <Glenn.Elson@dfat.gov.au>
Date: Sunday, 19 November 2023 at 11:36:42 am
To: "Michelle Chan" <Michelle.Chan@dfat.gov.au>, "Marc Innes-Brown" <marc.innes@dfat.gov.au>, "Daniel Sloper" <Daniel.Sloper@dfat.gov.au>, "Elizabeth McGregor" <Elizabeth.McGregor@dfat.gov.au>
Cc: "Gary Cowan" <Gary.Cowan@dfat.gov.au>, "Elly Lawson" <Elly.Lawson@dfat.gov.au>, "Elizabeth McGregor" <Elizabeth.McGregor@dfat.gov.au>
Subject: Re: HMAS Toowoomba [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Sure. s47E(d)

Glenn

From: "Michelle Chan" <Michelle.Chan@dfat.gov.au>
Date: Sunday, 19 November 2023 at 11:31:20 am
To: "Marc Innes-Brown" <marc.innes@dfat.gov.au>, "Glenn Elson" <Glenn.Elson@dfat.gov.au>, "Daniel Sloper"

<Daniel.Sloper@dfat.gov.au>, "Elizabeth McGregor" <Elizabeth.McGregor@dfat.gov.au>
Cc: "Gary Cowan" <Gary.Cowan@dfat.gov.au>, "Elly Lawson" <Elly.Lawson@dfat.gov.au>, "Elizabeth McGregor" <Elizabeth.McGregor@dfat.gov.au>
Subject: Fwd: HMAS Toowoomba [REDACTED]

s 22(1)(a)(ii) s47E(d)
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Michelle

From: "Elizabeth McGregor" <Elizabeth.McGregor@dfat.gov.au>
Date: Saturday, 18 November 2023 at 12:47:31 pm
To: "Jason Robertson" <Jason.Robertson@dfat.gov.au>, "s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au", s22(1)(a)(ii) s22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au
Cc: "Graham Fletcher" <Graham.Fletcher@dfat.gov.au>, s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au, "Elly Lawson" <Elly.Lawson@dfat.gov.au>, "Daniel Sloper" <Daniel.Sloper@dfat.gov.au>, "Derek Yip" <Derek.Yip@dfat.gov.au>, s22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au, "Simon Farbenbloom" <Simon.Farbenbloom@dfat.gov.au>, s22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au, "tom.menadue@defence.gov.au" <tom.menadue@defence.gov.au>, "Bernard.Philip@defence.gov.au" <Bernard.Philip@defence.gov.au>, "Glenn Elson" <Glenn.Elson@dfat.gov.au>, s22(1)(a)(ii) s22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au, "Michelle Chan" <Michelle.Chan@dfat.gov.au>, s22(1)(a)(ii) s22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au
Subject: Re: HMAS Toowoomba [REDACTED]

Thanks Jason - the statement has gone out now.

<https://www.minister.defence.gov.au/media-releases/2023-11-18/unsafe-and-unprofessional-interaction-pla-n>

From: "Jason Robertson" <Jason.Robertson@dfat.gov.au>
Date: Saturday, 18 November 2023 at 11:26:45 am
To: "Elizabeth McGregor" <Elizabeth.McGregor@dfat.gov.au>, "s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au", s22(1)(a)(ii) s22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au
Cc: "Graham Fletcher" <Graham.Fletcher@dfat.gov.au>, "s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au", "Elly Lawson" <Elly.Lawson@dfat.gov.au>, "Daniel Sloper" <Daniel.Sloper@dfat.gov.au>, "Derek Yip" <Derek.Yip@dfat.gov.au>, s22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au, "Simon Farbenbloom" <Simon.Farbenbloom@dfat.gov.au>, s22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au, "tom.menadue@defence.gov.au" <tom.menadue@defence.gov.au>, "Bernard.Philip@defence.gov.au" <Bernard.Philip@defence.gov.au>, "Glenn Elson" <Glenn.Elson@dfat.gov.au>, s22(1)(a)(ii) s22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au, "Michelle Chan" <Michelle.Chan@dfat.gov.au>, s22(1)(a)(ii) s22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au
Subject: Re: HMAS Toowoomba [REDACTED]

s 22(1)(a)(ii) s 47E(d)

From: "Elizabeth McGregor" <Elizabeth.McGregor@dfat.gov.au>
Date: Friday, 17 November 2023 at 4:50:25 pm
To: "Jason Robertson" <Jason.Robertson@dfat.gov.au>, "s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au",

"s 22(1)(a)(ii)

@dfat.gov.au>

Cc: "Graham Fletcher" <Graham.Fletcher@dfat.gov.au>, "s 22(1)(a)(ii)

@dfat.gov.au>, "Elly Lawson" <Elly.Lawson@dfat.gov.au>, "Daniel Sloper"

<Daniel.Sloper@dfat.gov.au>, "Derek Yip" <Derek.Yip@dfat.gov.au>, s22(1)(a)(ii)

s22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>, "Simon Farbenbloom" <Simon.Farbenbloom@dfat.gov.au>, s22(1)(a)(ii)

s22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>, "tom.menadue@defence.gov.au"

<tom.menadue@defence.gov.au>, "Bernard.Philip@defence.gov.au"

<Bernard.Philip@defence.gov.au>, "Glenn Elson" <Glenn.Elson@dfat.gov.au>, "s 22(1)(a)(ii)

@dfat.gov.au>, "Michelle Chan" <Michelle.Chan@dfat.gov.au>

Subject: Re: HMAS Toowoomba [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
s 33(a)(iii), s 47E(d)

Many thanks Jason

s 33(a)(iii), s 33(b)

s22(1)(a)(ii)

From: Elizabeth McGregor
Sent: Sunday, 19 November 2023 1:16 PM
To: Glenn Elson; s22(1)(a)(ii)
Cc: Gary Cowan; Marc Innes-Brown; Daniel Sloper; Paul Schofield
Subject: Re: URGENT - Supplementary TPs on Toowoomba incident for s 22(1)(a)(ii) visit [REDACTED]

Glenn
s47E(d)

Sorry for the delay, s22(1)(a)(ii)

Cheers
Liz

From: "Glenn Elson" <Glenn.Elson@dfat.gov.au>
Date: Sunday, 19 November 2023 at 1:11:54 pm
To: s22(1)(a)(ii) <[s22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)@dfat.gov.au](mailto:s22(1)(a)(ii)@dfat.gov.au)>, "Elizabeth McGregor" <Elizabeth.McGregor@dfat.gov.au>, s22(1)(a)(ii) <[s22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)@dfat.gov.au](mailto:s22(1)(a)(ii)@dfat.gov.au)>
Cc: "Gary Cowan" <Gary.Cowan@dfat.gov.au>, "Marc Innes-Brown" <marc.innes@dfat.gov.au>, "Daniel Sloper" <Daniel.Sloper@dfat.gov.au>, "Paul Schofield" <Paul.Schofield@dfat.gov.au>
Subject: Re: URGENT - Supplementary TPs on Toowoomba incident for s 22(1)(a)(ii) [REDACTED]

Thanks a lot for the quick response, s 22(1)(a)(ii) We'll include those edits.

From: s22(1)(a)(ii) <[s22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)@dfat.gov.au](mailto:s22(1)(a)(ii)@dfat.gov.au)>
Date: Sunday, 19 November 2023 at 12:57:42 pm
To: "Glenn Elson" <Glenn.Elson@dfat.gov.au>, "Elizabeth McGregor" <Elizabeth.McGregor@dfat.gov.au>, s22(1)(a)(ii) <[s22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)@dfat.gov.au](mailto:s22(1)(a)(ii)@dfat.gov.au)>
Cc: "Gary Cowan" <Gary.Cowan@dfat.gov.au>, "Marc Innes-Brown" <marc.innes@dfat.gov.au>, "Daniel Sloper" <Daniel.Sloper@dfat.gov.au>, "Paul Schofield" <Paul.Schofield@dfat.gov.au>
Subject: Re: URGENT - Supplementary TPs on Toowoomba incident for s 22(1)(a)(ii) visit [REDACTED]

Hi Glenn,

s 42(1)

s 42(1)

Thanks,
s22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii) - Duplicate



Talking Points

PEOPLE'S LIBERATION ARMY-NAVY INCIDENT IN EAST CHINA SEA

REACTIVE ONLY – CORRECT AS AT 16 NOVEMBER 2023

Background (NOT FOR PUBLIC RELEASE)

- On Tuesday 14 November 2023, HMAS *Toowoomba* experienced an unsafe and unprofessional interaction with a People's Liberation Army-Navy (PLA-N) destroyer. *Toowoomba* was stopped in the water to conduct diving operations in the East China Sea, in order to clear fishing nets that had become entangled around its propellers.
- HMAS *Toowoomba* was in international waters inside Japan's Exclusive Economic Zone and this activity is routine for an Australian ship operating in the region.
- HMAS *Toowoomba* was operating in support of Operation ARGOS, the Australian Defence Force (ADF) commitment to the international effort to enforce United Nations Security Council sanctions on North Korea.
- *Toowoomba* advised the PLA-N destroyer via all normal maritime communications channels that diving operations were being conducted and requested the vessel remain outside a range of 3 nautical miles (5.5kms).
- Despite acknowledging *Toowoomba*'s communications, the destroyer closed to a range of 1.3 nautical miles (2.4kms).
- *Toowoomba* again requested the destroyer remain no closer than 2 nautical miles. After acknowledging *Toowoomba*'s request, the destroyer closed to a range of 1580 yards (1.4kms).
- While diving operations were under way when the PLA-N destroyer was at a range of 2400 yards (2.2km), *Toowoomba* detected acoustic transmissions, correlated to the PLA-N destroyer's hull-mounted sonar.
- Following the incident, divers reported mild headaches and eardrum irritation and received appropriate medical care and treatment. One diver has been diagnosed with mild (grade 2) aural barotrauma. Current medical advice indicates no long-term health impacts are expected.
- The interaction is assessed as unsafe and unprofessional conduct for mariners due to the Chinese warship repeatedly closing inside the requested range, and operating sonar with clear knowledge that there were divers in the water with disregard for their safety.



Talking Points

Contingency Talking Points

- I can confirm on 14 November 2023, HMAS *Toowoomba* and crew experienced unsafe and unprofessional conduct by a Chinese warship in an encounter in the East China Sea.
- HMAS *Toowoomba* had been conducting operations in support of United Nations sanctions enforcement in international waters. It had stopped in the water to conduct diving operations in order to clear fishing nets that had become entangled around its propellers.
- During this routine operation, a People's Liberation Army-Navy warship approached HMAS *Toowoomba*.
- The Australian vessel was in international waters outside of China's Exclusive Economic Zone and communicated its intention to conduct diving operations on normal maritime channels, and using internationally recognised signals.
- Despite acknowledging the Australian ship's communications, the Chinese vessel approached at closer range than requested, and operated its hull-mounted sonar in a manner that posed a risk to the safety of the Australian divers in the water.
- The Australian divers exited the water and the Chinese warship's conduct ceased a short time later.
- Australian divers have received appropriate medical assessment and care, and no long-term health effects are expected.
- The Australian Defence Force assesses this conduct as unsafe and unprofessional, and falls short of standards expected of professional mariners.
- The Australian Government will take appropriate action to raise its concerns regarding this incident with the Government of China.
- I will not be commenting any further at this stage.

If Asked [OFFICIAL on release]

Was the Chinese vessel's interaction with HMAS *Toowoomba* professional?

- Defence has assessed the interaction as unsafe and unprofessional.



Talking Points

- The PLA-N ship acknowledged a request by the Australian ship to remain at a safe distance but later moved to a closer distance.
- The use of the PLA-N ship's Sound Navigation and Ranging (SONAR) device in close proximity to divers resulted in temporary health effects to our personnel. Defence is supporting our personnel as they recover.

Why was a PLA-N ship near HMAS *Toowoomba*?

- HMAS *Toowoomba* was operating in the East China Sea within the Exclusive Economic Zone of Japan as part of an enduring commitment to Operation ARGOS, Australia's commitment to enforcing United Nations Security Council Sanctions against North Korea.
- The PLA-N ship was shadowing HMAS *Toowoomba*.
- It is routine for PLA-Navy vessels to shadow movements of Royal Australian Navy vessels in the South China and East China Seas.

What is an acoustic transmission?

- In this situation, acoustic transmission refers to the use of SONAR devices, which are used to identify objects under the water.

Why is a SONAR a danger to divers?

- The medical effects from sonar relate to the effect of noise and associated pressure waves and their impact. The effects can include dizziness or vertigo during the dive, hearing damage, blurred vision, light headedness, vibrations in hands impairing motor tasks, tremors, abdominal pain related to the vibration of gas bubbles. There is a theoretical risk of bubble growth contributing to Decompression Illness if they were to destabilise.

Is it normal for ships to stop to untangle fishing nets?

- As part of routine propeller and hull maintenance, the divers were clearing fishing nets from the hull of the warship.

What type of Chinese warship was it?

- It was a PLA-N Sovremenny-class destroyer (DDG 139).

Contact officer: s22(1)(a)(ii)

Contact officer phone: s22(1)(a)(ii) or s22(1)(a)(ii)



Talking Points

Clearance	Name	Appointment	Date and time
Drafted by:	s 22(1)(a)(ii)	Military Public Affairs Officer N09 MAROPS / J09 JTF635	0830L 16 Nov 23
Reviewed by SME:	s 22(1)(a)(ii)	Deputy Director Current Operations, MAROPS/ JTF635	0844L 16 Nov 23
Cleared by MAROPS / JTF635	s 22(1)(a)(ii)	Director Maritime Operations	0911L 16 Nov 23 1234L 16 Nov 23
Updated by	s22(1)(a)(ii) s22(1)(a)(ii)	Snr Strategic Comms Adviser, MSC A/Director SP&I Comms	1040L 16 Nov 23
Cleared IP Div	Tom Menadue	AS NSA, IP Div	1115L 16 Nov 23
Cleared MSC	CDRE Don Dezentje	DGMSC	1157L 16 Nov 23
Cleared HQJOC	AIRCDRE John Haly	J3	1215L 16 Nov 23
Original Cleared 2* by: (Group/Service)	Bernard Philip AVM Stephen Chappell	FASIP HMSC	1255L 16 Nov 23 1245L 16 Nov 23
MECC Embed cleared	s22(1)(a)(ii)	Senior Strategic Communications Adviser	1245L 16 Nov 23
Original Cleared 3* by:	LtGen G Bilton	CJOPS	1307 16 Nov 23
Cleared OSEC/OCDF	s22(1)(a) (ii)	OCDF OSEC	16 Nov 23 16 Nov 23

s22(1)(a)(ii)

From: Daniel Sloper
Sent: Thursday, 16 November 2023 2:51 PM
To: Menadue, Tom MR; Stevens, Edwina; Glenn Elson
Cc: s22(1)(a)(ii) ; Elizabeth McGregor
Subject: RE: Talking Points - PEOPLE'S LIBERATION ARMY-NAVY INCIDENT IN EAST CHINA SEA [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]
Attachments: 231116 - Talking Points - PEOPLES LIBERATION ARMY-NAVY INCIDENT IN EAST CHINA SEA.docx

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

Thanks Tom,

s 47E(d)

Please include Liz McGregor and s22(1)(a)(ii) , who I've copied in, in future updates.

Regards, daniel

Daniel Sloper PSM
First Assistant Secretary
East Asia Division
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
P: s 22(1)(a)(ii) I M: s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Executive Officer: s 22(1)(a)(ii) **P:** s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Executive Assistant: s 22(1)(a)(ii) **P:** s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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s 22(1)(a)(ii) - Duplicate

From: s22(1)(a)(ii)
To: s22(1)(a)(ii); [Julie Shams](#)
Subject: FW: Action - urgent - seeking views [REDACTED]
Date: Thursday, 16 November 2023 5:12:29 PM
Attachments: [231116 - Talking Points - PEOPLES LIBERATION ARMY-NAVY INCIDENT IN EAST CHINA SEA.docx](#)

[REDACTED]

Julie / s22(1)(a)(ii)

Grateful any views you may have. s 47C

s22(1)(a)(

s 22(1)(a)(ii) - Duplicate

From: s22(1)(a)(ii)
To: Julie Shams
Cc: Greg Wilcock; Michael Growder
Subject: FW: Action - urgent - seeking views [REDACTED]
Date: Thursday, 16 November 2023 5:47:00 PM
Attachments: 231116 - Talking Points - PEOPLES LIBERATION ARMY-NAVY INCIDENT IN EAST CHINA SEA.docx

[REDACTED]

Hi Julie,

s 33(a)(iii)

s22(1)(a)(ii)

Director
Assessment and Effects
Communications Planning and Public Diplomacy Branch
Strategic Communications Division
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
Phone s22(1)(a)(ii) | Mobile s22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii) - Duplicate

s22(1)(a)(ii)

From: Glenn Elson
Sent: Friday, 17 November 2023 2:29 PM
To: Daniel Sloper; Adam McCarthy; Paul Schofield; Elizabeth McGregor; s22(1)(a)(ii)
Cc: Michelle Chan; Elly Lawson; Marc Innes-Brown; s22(1)(a)(ii) ; Sarah deZoeten; Chantelle Taylor
Subject: RE: URGENT - s 47E(d) - please provide views ASAP. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Thanks Daniel. s47E(d)

As discussed – s 33(a)(iii), s 47E(d)

Glenn

From: Daniel Sloper <Daniel.Sloper@dfat.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, 17 November 2023 2:23 PM
To: Glenn Elson <Glenn.Elson@dfat.gov.au>; Adam McCarthy <Adam.McCarthy@dfat.gov.au>; Paul Schofield <Paul.Schofield@dfat.gov.au>; Elizabeth McGregor <Elizabeth.McGregor@dfat.gov.au>; s22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au
Cc: Michelle Chan <Michelle.Chan@dfat.gov.au>; Elly Lawson <Elly.Lawson@dfat.gov.au>; Marc Innes-Brown <marc.innes@dfat.gov.au>; s22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au; Sarah deZoeten <Sarah.Dezoeten@dfat.gov.au>; Chantelle Taylor <Chantelle.Taylor@dfat.gov.au>
Subject: RE: URGENT - s 47E(d) - please provide views ASAP.
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Glenn,

Thanks. s47E(d)

To the degree possible in time constraints, it would be good to note s 47E(d)

Regards, daniel

Daniel Sloper PSM
First Assistant Secretary
East Asia Division
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
P: s22(1)(a)(ii) | M: s22(1)(a)(ii)

Executive Officer: s22(1)(a)(ii) , P: s22(1)(a)(ii)
Executive Assistant: s22(1)(a)(ii) , P: s22(1)(a)(ii)

If you receive this message out of office hours, it is because it is convenient for me at that time, not because I expect you to respond then.

From: Glenn Elson <Glenn.Elson@dfat.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, 17 November 2023 2:16 PM
To: Daniel Sloper <Daniel.Sloper@dfat.gov.au>; Adam McCarthy <Adam.McCarthy@dfat.gov.au>; Paul Schofield <Paul.Schofield@dfat.gov.au>; Elizabeth McGregor <Elizabeth.McGregor@dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s22(1)(a)(ii)

From: Michelle Chan
Sent: Friday, 17 November 2023 3:23 PM
To: Glenn Elson; Elly Lawson
Cc: Marc Innes-Brown; s22(1)(a)(ii) Sarah deZoeten; Chantelle Taylor; Daniel Sloper; Adam Mccarthy; Paul Schofield; Elizabeth McGregor; s22(1)(a)(ii)
Subject: RE: URGENT -s 47E(d) - please provide views ASAP. [REDACTED]

s 47E(d)

//
Secretary

Recommendation: s47E(d)

Background
s47E(d)

. s 33(a)(iii)

s47E(d)

s 33(a)(iii), s 33(b)

s47E(d)

- it is important that Australia maintains a consistent approach to making clear our expectations – both privately and publicly, where necessary - around adherence to international law and to safe and professional maritime behaviour
- in this instance, s 33(a)(iii)
- s 33(a)(iii), s 47E(d)

s 47E(d)

//

Regards Michelle

Michelle Chan

Deputy Secretary South and Southeast Asia Group
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Canberra

P s22(1)(a)(ii) | M s22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii) - Duplicate

s22(1)(a)(ii)

From: Michelle Chan
Sent: Friday, 17 November 2023 3:32 PM
To: s 47F(1)
Cc: Anna Oldmeadow; Elly Lawson; Daniel Sloper; Marc Innes-Brown; Elizabeth McGregor; Glenn Elson; s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Subject: Maritime incident [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

s 47F(1), as discussed. We have not been able to clear this with the Secretary, who is on a plane until 4.10pm, regards Michelle

Recommendation: s47E(d)

Background
s47E(d)

s 33(a)(iii)

. s47E(d)

s 33(a)(iii), s 33(b)

s47E(d)

- it is important that Australia maintains a consistent approach to making clear our expectations – both privately and publicly, where necessary - around adherence to international law and to safe and professional maritime behaviour
- in this instance, s 33(a)(iii)
- s 33(a)(iii), s 47E(d)

s 47E(d)

Regards, Michelle and Elly

Michelle Chan

Deputy Secretary South and Southeast Asia Group
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
Canberra

P +s22(1)(a)(ii) | M s22(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.

s22(1)(a)(ii)

From: Michelle Chan
Sent: Saturday, 18 November 2023 11:24 AM
To: Glenn Elson; Elly Lawson
Cc: Marc Innes-Brown; Daniel Sloper; Elizabeth McGregor; s22(1)(a)(ii)
Subject: Re: draft MR - UNSAFE AND UNPROFESSIONAL INTERACTION WITH PLA-N [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Much appreciated for this Glenn, regards Michelle

From: "Glenn Elson" <Glenn.Elson@dfat.gov.au>
Date: Friday, 17 November 2023 at 7:54:40 pm
To: "Elly Lawson" <Elly.Lawson@dfat.gov.au>, "Michelle Chan" <Michelle.Chan@dfat.gov.au>
Cc: "Marc Innes-Brown" <marc.innes@dfat.gov.au>, "Daniel Sloper" <Daniel.Sloper@dfat.gov.au>, "Elizabeth McGregor" <Elizabeth.McGregor@dfat.gov.au>, s22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au
Subject: Re: draft MR - UNSAFE AND UNPROFESSIONAL INTERACTION WITH PLA-N [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Michelle, Elly

LGD is comfortable and SSD is comfortable from a maritime policy perspective. s 47E(d)

Please let me know if

anything else required. Glenn

From: "Glenn Elson" <Glenn.Elson@dfat.gov.au>
Date: Friday, 17 November 2023 at 6:46:11 pm
To: "Elly Lawson" <Elly.Lawson@dfat.gov.au>, "Michelle Chan" <Michelle.Chan@dfat.gov.au>
Cc: "Marc Innes-Brown" <marc.innes@dfat.gov.au>, "Daniel Sloper" <Daniel.Sloper@dfat.gov.au>, "Elizabeth McGregor" <Elizabeth.McGregor@dfat.gov.au>, s22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au
Subject: Re: draft MR - UNSAFE AND UNPROFESSIONAL INTERACTION WITH PLA-N [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

s47E(d)

From: "s 47F(1) @dfat.gov.au"
Date: Friday, 17 November 2023 at 6:38:45 pm
To: "Elly Lawson" <Elly.Lawson@dfat.gov.au>, "Michelle Chan" <Michelle.Chan@dfat.gov.au>
Cc: "s 47F(1) @dfat.gov.au", "Anna Oldmeadow" <Anna.Oldmeadow@dfat.gov.au>, "John Olenich" <John.Olenich@dfat.gov.au>, "Glenn Elson" <Glenn.Elson@dfat.gov.au>, "Daniel Sloper" <Daniel.Sloper@dfat.gov.au>, "Marc Innes-Brown" <marc.innes@dfat.gov.au>
Subject: FW: draft MR - UNSAFE AND UNPROFESSIONAL INTERACTION WITH PLA-N [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Hi Elly and Michelle

s47C

SATURDAY, 18 NOVEMBER 2023

IMPORTANT: This email remains the property of the Department of Defence. Unauthorised communication and dealing with the information in the email may be a serious criminal offence. If you have received this email in error, you are requested to contact the sender and delete the email immediately.

From: Kate Logan
Sent: Sunday, 19 November 2023 6:38 PM
To: Daniel Sloper
Cc: Elizabeth Peak; Jean-Bernard Carrasco
Subject: Re: s 33(a)(iii) [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Thanks Daniel.

From: "Daniel Sloper" <Daniel.Sloper@dfat.gov.au>
Date: Sunday, 19 November 2023 at 6:09:55 pm
To: "Michelle Chan" <Michelle.Chan@dfat.gov.au>, "Elly Lawson" <Elly.Lawson@dfat.gov.au>, "Glenn Elson" <Glenn.Elson@dfat.gov.au>, "Elizabeth McGregor" <Elizabeth.McGregor@dfat.gov.au>, "s 47F(1) @dfat.gov.au" <[s47F\(1\)@dfat.gov.au](mailto:s47F(1)@dfat.gov.au)>, "Harinder Sidhu" <Harinder.Sidhu@dfat.gov.au>, "Amy Guihot" <Amy.Guihot@dfat.gov.au>, "Anna Oldmeadow" <Anna.Oldmeadow@dfat.gov.au>, "Gary Cowan" <Gary.Cowan@dfat.gov.au>, "Kate Logan" <Kate.Logan@dfat.gov.au>
Cc: "Derek Yip" <Derek.Yip@dfat.gov.au>
Subject: Re: s 33(a)(iii) [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

With apologies for two emails, but adding in Kate Logan from OTP.

Regards, daniel

Daniel Sloper PSM
First Assistant Secretary
East Asia Division
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
P: s22(1)(a)(ii) | **M:** +s22(1)(a)(ii)

Executive Officer: s22(1)(a)(ii) , **P:** s22(1)(a)(ii)
Executive Assistant: s22(1)(a)(ii) , **P:** s22(1)(a)(ii)

If you receive this message out of office hours, it is because it is convenient for me at that time, not because I expect you to respond then.

From: "Daniel Sloper" <Daniel.Sloper@dfat.gov.au>
Date: Sunday, 19 November 2023 at 5:27:49 pm
To: "Michelle Chan" <Michelle.Chan@dfat.gov.au>, "Elly Lawson" <Elly.Lawson@dfat.gov.au>, "Glenn Elson" <Glenn.Elson@dfat.gov.au>, "Elizabeth McGregor" <Elizabeth.McGregor@dfat.gov.au>, "s 47F(1) @dfat.gov.au" <[s47F\(1\)@dfat.gov.au](mailto:s47F(1)@dfat.gov.au)>, "Harinder Sidhu" <Harinder.Sidhu@dfat.gov.au>, "Amy Guihot" <Amy.Guihot@dfat.gov.au>, "Anna Oldmeadow" <Anna.Oldmeadow@dfat.gov.au>, "Gary Cowan" <Gary.Cowan@dfat.gov.au>
Cc: "Derek Yip" <Derek.Yip@dfat.gov.au>
Subject: s 33(a)(iii) [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

All,

s 33(a)(i), s 33(a)(iii), s 33(b)

Regards, daniel

Daniel Sloper PSM

First Assistant Secretary

East Asia Division

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

P: s22(1)(a)(ii) I M: s22(1)(a)(ii)

Executive Officer: s22(1)(a)(ii) , P: s22(1)(a)(ii)

Executive Assistant: s22(1)(a)(ii) , P: s22(1)(a)(ii)

If you receive this message out of office hours, it is because it is convenient for me at that time, not because I expect you to respond then.

s22(1)(a)(ii)

From: Michelle Chan
Sent: Sunday, 19 November 2023 1:56 PM
To: Glenn Elson; Marc Innes-Brown; Daniel Sloper; Elizabeth McGregor
Cc: Gary Cowan; Elly Lawson; Elizabeth McGregor
Subject: Re: HMAS Toowoomba [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Glenn et al, perfect, many thanks for doing so quickly.

Gary, I will print copies for plane so no need to trouble s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Regards Michelle

From: "Glenn Elson" <Glenn.Elson@dfat.gov.au>
Date: Sunday, 19 November 2023 at 1:42:31 pm
To: "Michelle Chan" <Michelle.Chan@dfat.gov.au>, "Marc Innes-Brown" <marc.innes@dfat.gov.au>, "Daniel Sloper" <Daniel.Sloper@dfat.gov.au>, "Elizabeth McGregor" <Elizabeth.McGregor@dfat.gov.au>
Cc: "Gary Cowan" <Gary.Cowan@dfat.gov.au>, "Elly Lawson" <Elly.Lawson@dfat.gov.au>, "Elizabeth McGregor" <Elizabeth.McGregor@dfat.gov.au>
Subject: RE: HMAS Toowoomba [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Michelle – as requested, s 47E(d) . Please let me know if you need anything more/different. Cheers. Glenn

From: Michelle Chan <Michelle.Chan@dfat.gov.au>
Sent: Sunday, 19 November 2023 11:31 AM
To: Marc Innes-Brown <marc.innes@dfat.gov.au>; Glenn Elson <Glenn.Elson@dfat.gov.au>; Daniel Sloper <Daniel.Sloper@dfat.gov.au>; Elizabeth McGregor <Elizabeth.McGregor@dfat.gov.au>
Cc: Gary Cowan <Gary.Cowan@dfat.gov.au>; Elly Lawson <Elly.Lawson@dfat.gov.au>; Elizabeth McGregor <Elizabeth.McGregor@dfat.gov.au>
Subject: Fwd: HMAS Toowoomba [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

All, for the s 22(1)(a)(ii), s47E(d)
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Michelle

From: "Elizabeth McGregor" <Elizabeth.McGregor@dfat.gov.au>
Date: Saturday, 18 November 2023 at 12:47:31 pm
To: "Jason Robertson" <Jason.Robertson@dfat.gov.au>, "s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au", s22(1)(a)(ii) s22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au
Cc: "Graham Fletcher" <Graham.Fletcher@dfat.gov.au>, "s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au", "Elly Lawson" <Elly.Lawson@dfat.gov.au>, "Daniel Sloper" <Daniel.Sloper@dfat.gov.au>, "Derek Yip" <Derek.Yip@dfat.gov.au>, s22(1)(a)(ii) d@dfat.gov.au, "Simon Farbenbloom" <Simon.Farbenbloom@dfat.gov.au>, s22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au, "tom.menadue@defence.gov.au" <tom.menadue@defence.gov.au>, "Bernard.Philip@defence.gov.au"

Supplementary talking points

HMAS Toowoomba – PLA-N maritime incident in the East China Sea

- The Australian Government is seriously concerned about ongoing unsafe and unprofessional incidents by China at sea and in the air
 - including an incident on 14 November 2023 while the HMAS *Toowoomba* was in Japan's EEZ enroute to a scheduled port visit
 - when HMAS Toowoomba stopped to clear fishing nets from its propellers, a PLA-N destroyer disregarded requests to stay clear, approached to a close range and operated hull-mounted sonar in a manner that posed a risk to the safety of the Australian, who were forced to exit the water
 - this kind of behaviour endangers safety, security and creates risks of miscalculation.
- The Australian Government raised its serious concerns directly with the Government of the People's Republic of China, and more broadly through a statement by the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Defence, the Hon. Richard Marles MP.
- As Mr Marles said, "Australia expects all countries, including China, to operate their militaries in a professional and safe manner."
- Australian vessels and aircraft will continue to contribute to UN sanctions enforcement operations in the East China Sea, and exercise freedom of navigation and overflight in the South China Sea, as we have done for decades
 - we will continue to act in our national interest to support a region which is stable, secure and respectful of sovereignty.
- Australia wants to see a peaceful Indo-Pacific, where international law is respected and adhered to, and waterways are open for trade
 - our actions are guided by our desire to support our partners, enhance maritime security and uphold international law.
- It is vital Australia, India and our partners call out behaviour that is dangerous and inconsistent with international law, particularly the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea.

Background

On Tuesday 14 November 2023, HMAS *Toowoomba* experienced an unsafe and unprofessional interaction with a People's Liberation Army-Navy (PLA-N) destroyer. *Toowoomba* was stopped in the water to conduct diving operations in the East China Sea, in order to clear fishing nets that had become entangled around its propellers.

HMAS *Toowoomba* was in international waters inside Japan's Exclusive Economic Zone and this activity is routine for an Australian ship operating in the region.

HMAS *Toowoomba* was operating in support of Operation ARGOS, the Australian Defence Force (ADF) commitment to the international effort to enforce United Nations Security Council sanctions on North Korea.

Toowoomba advised the PLA-N destroyer via all normal maritime communications channels that diving operations were being conducted and requested the vessel remain outside a range of 3 nautical miles (5.5kms).

Despite acknowledging *Toowoomba's* communications, the destroyer closed to a range of 1.3 nautical miles (2.4kms).

Toowoomba again requested the destroyer remain no closer than 2 nautical miles. After acknowledging *Toowoomba's* request, the destroyer closed to a range of 1580 yards (1.4kms).

While diving operations were under way when the PLA-N destroyer was at a range of 2400 yards (2.2km), *Toowoomba* detected acoustic transmissions, correlated to the PLA-N destroyer's hull-mounted sonar.

Following the incident, divers reported mild headaches and eardrum irritation and received appropriate medical care and treatment. One diver has been diagnosed with mild (grade 2) aural barotrauma. Current medical advice indicates no long-term health impacts are expected.

Defence assessed the incident as unsafe and unprofessional conduct for mariners due to the Chinese warship repeatedly closing inside the requested range, and operating sonar with clear knowledge that there were divers in the water with disregard for their safety.

s33(a)(iii)

The Deputy Prime Minister issued a public statement on 18 November: [Unsafe and unprofessional interaction with PLA-N | Defence Ministers](#).

From: Glenn Elson
Sent: Sunday, 19 November 2023 10:06 AM
To: Elizabeth McGregor; Brek Batley; Matthew Ramage; Chantelle Taylor
Cc: Clyde Hamilton; Sarah deZoeten; Daniel Sloper; Marc Innes-Brown; s22(1)(a)(ii)
Subject: Re: Urgent - GG visit to Honiara - TPs on sonar incident [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Thanks both. s47E(d)

Cheers. Glenn

From: "Elizabeth McGregor" <Elizabeth.McGregor@dfat.gov.au>
Date: Sunday, 19 November 2023 at 9:55:46 am
To: "Brek Batley" <Brek.Batley@dfat.gov.au>, "Matthew Ramage" <Matthew.Ramage@dfat.gov.au>, "Chantelle Taylor" <Chantelle.Taylor@dfat.gov.au>
Cc: "Clyde Hamilton" <Clyde.Hamilton@dfat.gov.au>, "Sarah deZoeten" <Sarah.Dezoeten@dfat.gov.au>, "Glenn Elson" <Glenn.Elson@dfat.gov.au>, "Daniel Sloper" <Daniel.Sloper@dfat.gov.au>
Subject: Re: Urgent - GG visit to Honiara - TPs on sonar incident[SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Brek
s 33(a)(iii), s 47E(d) s47E(d)

s33(a)(iii)

- Australia expects all countries, including China, to operate their militaries in a safe and professional manner
- Defence has for decades undertaken maritime surveillance activities in the region and does so in accordance with international law, exercising the right to freedom of navigation and overflight in international waters and airspace.

The DPM's MR has more detail on the incident if needed:

<https://www.minister.defence.gov.au/media-releases/2023-11-18/unsafe-and-unprofessional-interaction-pla-n>

Liz

From: "Brek Batley" <Brek.Batley@dfat.gov.au>
Date: Sunday, 19 November 2023 at 9:40:02 am
To: "Matthew Ramage" <Matthew.Ramage@dfat.gov.au>, "Elizabeth McGregor" <Elizabeth.McGregor@dfat.gov.au>, "Chantelle Taylor" <Chantelle.Taylor@dfat.gov.au>
Cc: "Clyde Hamilton" <Clyde.Hamilton@dfat.gov.au>, "Sarah deZoeten" <Sarah.Dezoeten@dfat.gov.au>
Subject: Urgent - GG visit to Honiara - TPs on sonar incident [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Matt, Liz, Chantelle,

Do we have any short TPs on the sonar incident, s 33(a)(iii), s 47E(d)

s47E(d)

Brek

From: s22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Date: Sunday, 19 November 2023 at 8:47:54 am
To: s22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>, "s22(1)(a)(ii) "
s22(1)(a)(ii) n@dfat.gov.au>, s22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>,
"Jennifer Mason" <Jennifer.Mason@dfat.gov.au>, "Brek Batley"
<Brek.Batley@dfat.gov.au>
Cc: "Lindsay Buckingham" <Lindsay.Buckingham@dfat.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Question for today's briefing: GG visit [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Thank you s22(1)(a)(iii) Copying in **Brek** and **A/g FAS PMD Jen Mason** as I think this will need Canberra's consideration.

s47E(d)

Kind regards,

s22(1)(a)(ii)

Australian High Commission Visit Liaison Officer – Pacific Games 2023
Honiara, Solomon Islands
T s22(1)(a)(ii) | **M** s22(1)(a)(ii)

From: s22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Sent: Sunday, 19 November 2023 8:34 AM
To: s22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s22(1)(a)(ii)
s22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>

Cc: Lindsay Buckingham <Lindsay.Buckingham@dfat.gov.au>
Subject: Question for today's briefing: GG visit [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hi s22(1)(a)(ii) ,

Our first policy question of the visit!

s47E(d)

Thanks very much,
s22(1)(a)(ii)

From: s22(1)(a)(ii) @gg.gov.au>
Sent: Sunday, 19 November 2023 8:16 AM
To: s22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Subject: Re: Updated briefs: GG visit [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive] [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hi s22(1)(a)(ii) , just a quick one - could you please include guidance for the GG in this afternoon's briefing of what to say if/when with the s 47E(d)

Cheers,
s22(1)(a)

Kind regards

s22(1)(a)

s22(1)(a)(ii)

From: Glenn Elson
Sent: Thursday, 16 November 2023 3:17 PM
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Subject: FW: Talking Points - PEOPLE'S LIBERATION ARMY-NAVY INCIDENT IN EAST CHINA SEA [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]
Attachments: 231116 - Talking Points - PEOPLES LIBERATION ARMY-NAVY INCIDENT IN EAST CHINA SEA.docx
Importance: High

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

From: Glenn Elson
Sent: Thursday, 16 November 2023 2:53 PM
To: s 47F(1) @dfat.gov.au>; s 47F(1) @dfat.gov.au>
Cc: Michelle Chan <Michelle.Chan@dfat.gov.au>; Marc Innes-Brown <marc.innes@dfat.gov.au>; Greg Wilcock <Greg.Wilcock@dfat.gov.au>; Daniel Sloper <Daniel.Sloper@dfat.gov.au>; Le Bas, Elizabeth <Elizabeth.LeBas@pmc.gov.au>; s22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; Adam Mccarthy <Adam.McCarthy@dfat.gov.au>; s22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Subject: FW: Talking Points - PEOPLE'S LIBERATION ARMY-NAVY INCIDENT IN EAST CHINA SEA [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]
Importance: High

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

s 47F(1) – For your awareness. s 47E(d)

Regards

Glenn

Glenn Elson
A/g First Assistant Secretary
Strategy & Development Division
Office of Southeast Asia
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
Phone s22(1)(a)(ii) | Mobile s22(1)(a)(ii)

Executive Assistant: s22(1)(a)(ii) P: s22(1)(a)(ii)

Glenn

s 22(1)(a)(ii) - Duplicate



Australian Government
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

GLOBAL WATCH OFFICE **DAILY BRIEF**

0600 HRS SUNDAY 19 NOVEMBER 2023

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Australia/China: The Australian Government [expressed](#) 'serious concerns' to the Chinese government about an 'unsafe and unprofessional interaction' between Australian naval personnel and a Chinese warship. The Department of Defence said the warship operated its sonar while HMAS *Toowoomba* divers were underwater, risking the divers' safety ([ABC News](#), [BBC](#), [Reuters](#), s47E(d))

s 22(1)(a)(ii)



Australian Government
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

MEDIA TALKING POINTS
DISTRIBUTION: STANDARD

Topic: INTERNATIONAL SECURITY
Subject: South China Sea

Originating Division: SSD

Version Date: 22/11/2023

Reason for Update: Updated TPs and background
after HMAS Toowoomba incident on 14 November
2023

Version: 12

Expiry: 30/06/2024

Talking Points

s22(1)(a)(ii)

If raised: HMAS Toowoomba incident (14 November 2023)

- *The Australian Government is seriously concerned about ongoing unsafe and unprofessional conduct by China at sea and in the air*
 - *including an incident on 14 November in which Australian divers sustained minor injuries as a result of sonar pulses by a Chinese vessel while HMAS Toowoomba was in international waters undertaking a UN sanctions enforcement operation.*
- *HMAS Toowoomba had stopped to remove fishing nets tangled around its propeller*
 - *and had clearly requested that the Chinese vessel keep clear of Toowoomba while diving operations took place.*
- *This kind of behaviour endangers safety, security and creates risks of miscalculation*
 - *we want to see a peaceful Indo-Pacific where international law is respected and adhered to, and waterways are open for trade.*
- **s33(a)(iii)**
- *Australian vessels and aircraft will continue to contribute to UN sanctions enforcement operations in the East China Sea, and exercise freedom of navigation and overflight in the South China Sea, as they have done for decades.*

Background

HMAS Toowoomba incident (14 November 2023)

On 14 November 2023, HMAS Toowoomba experienced an unsafe and unprofessional interaction with a People's Liberation Army-Navy (PLA-N) destroyer. Toowoomba was stopped in the water to conduct diving operations in the East China Sea, in order to clear fishing nets that had become entangled around its propellers. Toowoomba was in international waters in international waters and this activity is routine for an Australian ship operating in the region. s33(a)(iii)

s22(1)(a)(ii)

s22(1)(a)(ii)

Approval	
Consultation	GPD, LGD, EAD, Defence, PM&C
Author	s22(1)(a)(ii) , SSD; Ext:s22(1)()
Cleared by	Glenn Elson; AS SCB

Distribution	
s 47E(d)	

Hi Tom. Could you please see the draft statement before it goes tomorrow morning.

s 47E(d)

s 47E(d)

Cheers. Glenn

6:27 pm

s 47E(d)

Thank you! I hope it doesn't eat too much of your weekend.

6:35 pm

s 47E(d)

6:36 pm



Cable is out if you haven't seen

6:38 pm

Thanks. We'll standby and look at the statement quickly when available.

6:39 pm

s 47E(d)

s 47E(d)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @defence.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 16 November 2023 9:30 AM
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii) s 47E(d)
Subject: RE: HQJOC daily update - 15 November 2023 [REDACTED]

s 47E(d)

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

IMPORTANT: This email remains the property of the Department of Defence. Unauthorised communication and dealing with the information in the email may be a serious criminal offence. If you have received this email in error, you are requested to contact the sender and delete the email immediately.

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Sent: Wednesday, 15 November 2023 5:16 PM
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii) s 47E(d)
Subject: FW: HQJOC daily update - 15 November 2023 [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Further to below, there has been a non-routine incident involving HMAS Toowoomba.
s 47E(d)

s47E(d)

IMPORTANT: This email remains the property of the Department of Defence. Unauthorised communication and dealing with the information in the email may be a serious criminal offence. If you have received this email in error, you are requested to contact the sender and delete the email immediately.

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Sent: Wednesday, 15 November 2023 4:45 PM
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii) s 47E(d) s 22(1)(a)(ii)
s 47E(d) s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii) s 47E(d) s 22(1)(a)(ii)
s 47E(d) Ramage, Matthew (DFAT)
<[Matthew.Ramage](#)> s 47E(d) s 22(1)(a)(ii)
s 47E(d)

Subject: HQJOC daily update - 15 November 2023 [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Hi all,

Today's slides attached. All fairly routine.

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

s 22(1)(a)(ii)
DFAT Liaison Officer
Headquarters Joint Operations Command
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

IMPORTANT: This email remains the property of the Department of Defence. Unauthorised communication and dealing with the information in the email may be a serious criminal offence. If you have received this email in error, you are requested to contact the sender and delete the email immediately.

Pages 3 to 13 (inclusive) - exempt in full s 33(a)(i), s 33(a)(iii), s 33(b), s 47E(d)

People's Liberation Army Incident in the East China Sea – 14 November 2023

Talking Points for Posts

s 47E(d)

Talking points

- On the afternoon of Tuesday 14 November 2023, HMAS *Toowoomba* experienced an unsafe and unprofessional interaction with People's Liberation Army-Navy (PLA-N) destroyer DDG 139 in the East China Sea, s 33(a)(i)
- *Toowoomba* was stopped in the water to conduct diving operations in order to clear fishing nets that had become entangled around its propellers.
 - HMAS *Toowoomba* was operating in support of Operation ARGOS, the Australian Defence Force's (ADF) commitment to the international effort to enforce United Nations Security Council sanctions on North Korea.
 - Approximately 150 nautical miles (NM) from Chinese territorial waters at coordinates 30 43N, 126 27E.
- DDG 139 had been shadowing HMAS *Toowoomba* at this time.
- HMAS *Toowoomba* advised DDG 139 s 33(a)(i) of her intentions to conduct diving operations and requested DDG 139 remain clear by 3nm.
 - DDG 139 acknowledged the message, but then closed to 1.3nm.
- HMAS *Toowoomba* again advised DDG 139 s 33(a)(i) of her intentions to conduct diving operations and requested DDG 139 remain clear by 2nm.
 - DDG 139 acknowledged the message, but closed further to within 1580 yards (0.8nm).
- DDG 139 proceeded to radiate SONAR, with clear knowledge that HMAS *Toowoomba* had divers in the water.
 - This was dangerous and threatened the safety of our personnel.

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

If asked: Will Australia publicise this incident?

- The Government is considering whether to publicise this incident.
- s 33(a)(iii), s 47E(d)
- We ask that you do not make public reference to this incident at this time.
- s 33(a)(iii), s 47E(d)

If asked: Will this lead to any change in operational approach?

- Australia remains committed to maintaining ADF presence in the East China Sea in support of UN Sanctions Enforcement mission despite interactions of this nature.
 - We remain committed to maintaining our tempo of operations in the region into the future.
- We will not be deterred from operating in international waters in accordance with international law, as we have done for decades.

Were the divers injured?

- Due to medical-in-confidence, Defence will not provide details.

Where exactly did the incident take place?

- The incident took place in the East China Sea in s 33(a)(iii), s 47E(d) at coordinates 30 43N, 126 27E.

Pages 16 to 17 (inclusive) - exempt in full s 33(a)(i), s 33(a)(iii), s 33(b), s 47E(d)

From: Sloper, Daniel <[Daniel.Sloper](#)> s 47E(d)
Sent: Wednesday, 15 November 2023 6:22 PM
To: s 47F(1) s 47E(d)
Cc: Yip, Derek <[Derek.Yip](#)> s 47E(d) McGregor, Elizabeth J
<[Elizabeth.McGregor](#)> s 47E(d) s 22(1)(a)(ii) s 47E(d) ; Lawson, Elly
<[Elly.Lawson](#)> s 47E(d) ; Elson, Glenn <[Glenn.Elson](#)> s 47E(d) Adams, Jan
<[Jan.Adams](#)> s 47E(d) Grindlay, Rebekah <[Rebekah.Grindlay](#)> s 47E(d) Innes-Brown,
Marc <[Marc.Innes-Brown](#)> s 47E(d) s 22(1)(a)(ii) s 47E(d)
Subject: s 33(a)(iii), s 47E(d)
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

s 47F(1)

Defence s 47E(d) have advised that unsafe and unprofessional conduct by a Chinese naval destroyer resulted in an incident with HMAS Toowoomba (HMAS T) in the East China Sea on 14 November.

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

The incident occurred after the HMAS Toowoomba stopped to clear fishing nets that had become entangled in its propeller. When stopping, HMAS T sent our radio messages and raised flags that it was stopping, not in control (ie moving forward), and that divers would be removing the nets. The radio messages were sent as a general broadcast and also directed to the Chinese destroyer tailing HMAS T. The Chinese destroyer acknowledged the radio message, but did not slow down, closed the distance to HMAS T as close as 1500 yards and also used sonar.

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

Regards, Daniel

Daniel Sloper PSM
First Assistant Secretary
East Asia Division
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
T: s 22(1)(a)(ii) M: s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Executive Officer: s 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Cc: s 22(1)(a)(ii); Elson, Glenn
Subject: RE: s 33(a)(iii), s 47E(d)
Date: Wednesday, 15 November 2023 6:55:42 PM

Hi MSS

Please see below for your records a summary of our conversation with Defence today (15 November 2023) regarding an unsafe and unprofessional interaction between the ADF and the PLAN (most of this information is also included **below**):

- An incident took place yesterday in the East China Sea between a PLAN destroyer and HMAS Toowoomba, as the HMAS Toowoomba was transiting to Japan on a port visit.
- HMAS Toowoomba stopped to untangle fishing nets in its bow.
- HMAS Toowoomba was being tracked by a PLAN destroyer - HMAS Toowoomba asked that the PLAN destroyer stand down as the vessel was no longer underway.
- The PLAN destroyer received and acknowledged the call of the HMAS Toowoomba, however it did not slow down, closed in at close range (within 1500 yards) and deployed active sonar.

s 33(a)(iii)

- This incident occurred in s 33(a)(iii), s 47E(d)
- s 33(a)(iii)

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

s 33(a)(iii)

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

s 47E(d)

Kind regards

62626262

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Policy Officer
Maritime Security and South China Sea Section
Southeast Asia Strategy and Development Division
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
P: +s 22(1)(a)(ii) M: s 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: Elson, Glenn <Glenn.Elson> s 47E(d)
Sent: Wednesday, 15 November 2023 6:34 PM
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii) s 47E(d) s 22(1)(a)(ii) s 47E(d)
s 47E(d) s 22(1)(a)(ii) s 47E(d)
s 22(1)(a)(ii) s 47E(d)
Cc: s 22(1)(a)(ii) s 47E(d)
Subject: FW: s 47E(d)

FYI

From: Elson, Glenn
Sent: Wednesday, 15 November 2023 6:33 PM
To: Sloper, Daniel <Daniel.Sloper> s 47E(d)
Cc: Yip, Derek <Derek.Yip> s 47E(d) McGregor, Elizabeth J
<Elizabeth.McGregor> s 47E(d) ; s 22(1)(a)(ii) s 47E(d)
Lawson, Elly <Elly.Lawson> s 47E(d) ; Adams, Jan
<Jan.Adams> s 47E(d) Grindlay, Rebekah
<Rebekah.Grindlay> s 47E(d) Innes-Brown, Marc <Marc.Innes-Brown> s 47E(d) ; s 22(1)(a)(ii) s 47E(d) Chan,
Michelle <Michelle.Chan> s 47E(d) Bain, Lauren
<Lauren.H.Bain> s 47E(d) ; Sawczak, Peter A
<Peter.Sawczak> s 47E(d) ; Salvio, Marco <Marco.Salvio> s 47E(d) ;
Schofield, Paul <Paul.Schofield> s 47E(d) ; s 22(1)(a)(ii)
s 47E(d) Dezoeten, Sarah
<Sarah.Dezoeten> s 47E(d) ; s 22(1)(a)(ii)
s 47E(d) ; Taylor, Chantelle
<Chantelle.Taylor> s 47E(d) s 22(1)(a)(ii) s 47E(d)
Subject: RE: s 33(a)(iii)

Daniel – thanks. s 47E(d)

Regards

Glenn

Glenn Elson
Acting First Assistant Secretary
Strategy and Development
Office of Southeast Asia
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Pages 21 to 22 (inclusive) - removed, duplicate - s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Pages 23 to 24 (inclusive) - exempt in full s 33(a)(iii) and s 47E(d)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: Elson, Glenn
Sent: Friday, 17 November 2023 2:36 PM
To: Sloper, Daniel; s 47F(1)
Cc: Yip, Derek; McGregor, Elizabeth J; s 22(1)(a) Lawson, Elly; Adams, Jan; Grindlay, Rebekah; Innes-Brown, Marc; s 22(i)(a)(iii) s 47F(1) Chan, Michelle
Subject: RE: s 33(a)(iii), s 47E(d) [REDACTED]

s 33(a)(iii), s 33(b)

[REDACTED]

Regards

Glenn

Glenn Elson
Assistant Secretary Strategy, Communications and Maritime Security
Office of Southeast Asia
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Glenn

From: Sloper, Daniel <Daniel.Sloper> s 47E(d)
Sent: Friday, 17 November 2023 2:10 PM
To: s 47F(1) s 47E(d)
Cc: Yip, Derek <Derek.Yip> s 47E(d) McGregor, Elizabeth J
<Elizabeth.McGregor> s 47E(d) s 22(1)(a)(ii) s 47E(d)
<Elly.Lawson> s 47E(d) Elson, Glenn <Glenn.Elson> s 47E(d) Lawson, Elly
<Jan.Adams> s 47E(d) Grindlay, Rebekah <Rebekah.> s 47E(d) Adams, Jan
Marc <Marc.Innes-Brown> s 47E(d) > s 22(1)(a)(ii) s 47E(d) ; Innes-Brown,
s 47E(d) Chan, Michelle <Michelle.Chan> s 47E(d) > s 47F(1)
Subject: RE: s 33(a)(iii), s 47E(d)

s 47F(1)

My apologies also for the delayed response.

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

Regards, Daniel

Daniel Sloper PSM
First Assistant Secretary
East Asia Division
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
T: s 22(1)(a)(ii) M: s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Executive Officer: s 22(1)(a)(ii) , T: s 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: s 47F(1) s 47E(d)
Sent: Friday, 17 November 2023 12:01 PM
To: Sloper, Daniel <Daniel.Sloper> s 47E(d)
Cc: Yip, Derek <Derek> s 47E(d) McGregor, Elizabeth J
<Elizabeth> s 47E(d) s 22(1)(a)(ii) s 47E(d) Lawson, Elly
<Elly.Lawson> s 47E(d) Elson, Glenn <Glenn.Elson> s 47E(d) Adams, Jan
<Jan.Adams> s 47E(d) Grindlay, Rebekah <Rebekah> s 47E(d) Innes-Brown,
Marc <Marc.Innes-Brown> s 47E(d) s 22(1)(a)(ii) s 47E(d)
Subject: RE: s 33(a)(iii), s 47E(d)

[REDACTED]

Daniel, apologies for the delay in response as obviously we've discussed since.

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

FYI ^{s 47F} in our office leads on maritime security issues and so please keep us both in loop on anything ECS/SCS-related.

Thank you very much
s 47F

Pages 27 to 28 (inclusive) - removed, duplicate - s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Pages 29 to 31 (inclusive) - exempt in full s 33(a)(iii) and s 47E(d)

Pages 32 to 40 (inclusive) - removed, duplicate - s 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Subject: FW: s 33(a)(iii), s 47E(d)
Date: Thursday, 16 November 2023 5:33:59 PM

Closing the loop on this one

From: Taylor, Chantelle <Chantelle.Taylor@s 47E(d)>
Sent: Thursday, 16 November 2023 4:33 PM
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii) s 47E(d) s 22(1)(a)(ii)
s 22(1)(a)(ii) s 47E(d)
Subject: FW: s 33(a)(iii)

From: Dezoeten, Sarah <Sarah.Dezoeten@s 47E(d)>
Sent: Thursday, 16 November 2023 11:05 AM
To: Taylor, Chantelle <Chantelle.Taylor@s 47E(d)>
Subject: FW: s 33(a)(iii), s 47E(d)

For your visibility too

From: Elson, Glenn <Glenn.Elson@s 47E(d)>
Sent: Wednesday, 15 November 2023 6:33 PM
To: Sloper, Daniel <Daniel.Sloper@s 47E(d)>
Cc: Yip, Derek <Derek.Yip@s 47E(d)> ; McGregor, Elizabeth J
<Elizabeth.McGregor@s 47E(d)> ; s 22(1)(a)(ii) s 47E(d)
Lawson, Elly <Elly.Lawson@s 47E(d)> ; Adams, Jan
<Jan.Adams@s 47E(d)> ; Grindlay, Rebekah
<Rebekah.Grindlay@s 47E(d)> ; Innes-Brown, Marc <Marc.Innes-
Brown@s 47E(d)> s 22(1)(a)(ii) s 47E(d) ; Chan,
Michelle <Michelle.Chan@s 47E(d)> Bain, Lauren
<Lauren.H.Bain@s 47E(d)> Sawczak, Peter A
<Peter.Sawczak@s 47E(d)> ; Salvio, Marco <Marco.Salvio@s 47E(d)>
Schofield, Paul <Paul@s 47E(d)> ; s 22(1)(a)(ii)
s 47E(d) Dezoeten, Sarah
<Sarah.Dezoeten@s 47E(d)> ; s 22(1)(a)(ii)
s 47E(d) Taylor, Chantelle
<Chantelle.Taylor@s 47E(d)> s 22(1)(a)(ii) s 47E(d)
Subject: RE: s 33(a)(iii), s 47E(d)

Daniel – thanks. s 33(a)(iii), s 47E(d)

s 47E(d)

Regards

Glenn

Glenn Elson
Acting First Assistant Secretary
Strategy and Development
Office of Southeast Asia
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii) - Duplicate

Pages 44 to 50 (inclusive) - exempt in full s 33(a)(i), s 33(a)(iii), s 33(b), s 47E(d)

s