

~~PROTECTED Sensitive: Cabinet~~

PDR: MS18-004525

PM&C  
Secretary  
Ms  
Hatfield-  
Dodds  
Ms Millar  
Mr  
Sterland  
Prof  
Anderson  
Mr Duggan  
Dr Baxter  
Ms Bryant  
Ms Wilson  
Ms Bergin  
Ms Lowe  
Ms  
Fitzgerald  
Ms Oliver  
**s 22**  
Mr Roper  
Mr  
Williams  
Mr Jones  
Mr  
MacDowell

PMO  
Chief of  
Staff  
**s 22**  
**s22**  
CSO

## DEPARTMENT OF THE PRIME MINISTER AND CABINET

**To:** Prime Minister (for signature as soon as practicable to notify Premiers, Chief Ministers and the President of the Australian Local Government Association ALGA)

### FINAL AGENDA FOR DECEMBER COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENTS (COAG) MEETING

#### Recommendations - that you:

s 47C

SCOTT MORRISON

Date:

Comments:

#### Key Points:


1. In the Bradfield Oration on 19 November 2018, you undertook to write to Premiers and Chief Ministers inviting them to contribute to improved population planning and management and to add this item to the agenda for the COAG meeting on 12 December 2018. We have added **population and planning** to the agenda accordingly.

- a. ss34(1)(c) and 34(3)

s 47B

- b. s 47B

~~PROTECTED Sensitive: Cabinet~~

- c. The letters at Attachment B invite Premiers, Chief Ministers and the President of the ALGA to prepare papers on population trends and planning in their jurisdiction by 31 January 2019. s34(1)(c)
- 

2. We recommend you use this opportunity to finalise the COAG agenda.

- a. The final agenda for you to approve is at (Attachment A). The agenda is based on the indicative agenda you circulated to Premiers, Chief Ministers and the President of ALGA with your invitation to the December meeting (MS18-003806 refers).

3. **Small business payment times** has been added to the agenda as per your announcement of 21 November 2018.

s47B



s47B

Simon Duggan  
First Assistant Secretary  
Economic Division  
20 November 2018

Policy Officer: S.22  
Phone no: S.22  
Consultation: SPD, II&E, NSD, OfW,  
IAG, Treasury

**ATTACHMENTS**

s22



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PDR: MS18-005067

## DEPARTMENT OF THE PRIME MINISTER AND CABINET

PM&C  
Secretary  
Mr Duggan  
s22

**To:** Prime Minister (for decision by 3 December 2018 to enable finalisation of the presentation for COAG)

**POPULATION PRESENTATION FOR THE COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENTS (COAG) MEETING ON 12 DECEMBER 2018**

PMO  
Mr Kunkel  
s 22CABINET  
SECRETARY

**Recommendations - that you:**

s 47C

SCOTT MORRISON

Date:

Comments:


**Key Points:**

1. At the request of your office we have been working with Professor Peter McDonald on a no commitments basis to develop a presentation to the COAG on population change.
  - a. Professor McDonald's draft presentation is at Attachment A for your review.
2. You have agreed to meet Professor McDonald on Monday 3 December at 11:00am to discuss the draft presentation. A bio for Professor McDonald is set out at Attachment B.


ss47C and 47F

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ss47C and 47F



ss47C and 47E(1)(d)



Simon Duggan  
Acting Deputy Secretary  
30 November 2018

Policy Officer: S.22  
Phone no: S.22  
Consultation: Fiscal, Comm-state, SPD,  
CabDiv

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ATTACHMENTS

s22	

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PDR: MC18-151040

**DEPARTMENT OF THE PRIME MINISTER AND CABINET**

PM&C  
Secretary  
Mr Duggan  
Ms Wilson  
Mr McDonald  
Ms Lowe

**To:** Prime Minister (for decision and signature by 14 December 2018 to enable the Agreement to be provided to Premiers and Chief Ministers for signature by the end of 2018)

PMO  
Chief of Staff  
s 22

**REVISED INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT ON BIOSECURITY**

**Recommendations** - that you:

s 47C

SCOTT MORRISON

Date:

Comments:

**Key Points:**

1. In accordance with S.34(2) the Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources, the Hon David Littleproud MP, is seeking your agreement to the final content of the revised Intergovernmental Agreement on Biosecurity (IGAB2) (Attachment A).
2. IGAB2 was developed by all jurisdictions, including the Commonwealth, in response to an independent review of the national biosecurity system. It has been agreed to by all agriculture ministers.
  - a. Agriculture ministers have also agreed a joint national response to this review, which was publically released on 29 November 2018, and notes the intent of jurisdictions to sign the IGAB2 by the end of 2018.
3. IGAB2 defines the goal and objectives, and clarifies the roles, responsibilities and governance arrangements, that will guide the Commonwealth, states and territories in supporting the national biosecurity system.

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- a. Key inclusions of IGAB2 are summarised at Attachment C.
- 4. Biosecurity is a shared responsibility. By signing IGAB2, you will signal the Commonwealth's commitment to a strong and effective national biosecurity system. IGAB2 will not operate without the Commonwealth as a party to the agreement.
- 5. Letters to Premiers and Chief Ministers are at Attachment D for your signature.

s 47C



- c. Upon its commencement, IGAB2 replaces and will terminate the previous Intergovernmental Agreement on Biosecurity that came into effect in 2012.
- d. As an intergovernmental agreement, IGAB2 is not intended to create legal relations between the parties of the agreement.

s22  
A/g Assistant Secretary  
Agriculture, Population and Regional  
Development  
6 December 2018

Policy Officer: s.22  
Phone no: s.22  
Consultation: Fiscal, CabDiv, EcoDiv

**ATTACHMENTS**

s22

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

~~PROTECTED Sensitive: Cabinet~~

PDR: MC18-153982

**DEPARTMENT OF THE PRIME MINISTER AND CABINET**

PM&C  
 Secretary  
 Mr Duggan  
 Ms Wilson  
 Ms Cass  
 Ms Graham  
 Ms Lowe  
 Mr Griggs  
 Ms Roberts  
 Ms Johnston  
 Mr Martin-  
 Jard  
 Mr Poels  
 Mr Martin

PMO  
 Dr Kunkel  
 822

**To:** Prime Minister (for signature by Sunday 9 December, to enable the Minister to sign the Statement of Intent on Monday 10 December)

**STATEMENT OF INTENT AND NEGOTIATING MANDATE FOR THE BARKLY REGIONAL DEAL**

**Recommendation** - that you:

ss47B, 47C and 47E(1)(d)

**Signed / Not Signed**

SCOTT MORRISON

Date:

Comments:

**Key Points:**


- On 6 December 2018 the Minister for Regional Services, Sport, Local Government and Decentralisation, wrote to you (Attachment B) seeking agreement to two proposals that will inform negotiation of the Barkly Regional Deal (the Deal):

ss47B and 47E(1)(e)


ss47B and 47E(1)(e)

~~PROTECTED Sensitive: Cabinet~~


S.34(1)(c) and 47B



ss47B and 47E(1)(d)



S.34(1)(c) and s47B



s22

Acting Assistant Secretary  
Infrastructure, Population, Agriculture and  
Regional Development  
7 December 2018

Policy Officer: S.22

Phone no: S.22

Consultation: Fiscal, CabDiv, CommState,  
IAG, DIRDC

**ATTACHMENTS**

s22

**For Official Use Only**

PDR: MC18-151450

**DEPARTMENT OF THE PRIME MINISTER AND CABINET**PM&C  
Secretary  
Mr Duggan  
Ms Wilson  
Mr RushPMO  
Dr Kumkel  
s22

**To:** Assistant Minister to the Prime Minister (for signature by 10 December 2018 to allow for tabling as soon as possible after the tabling of the varied NSW Regional Forest Agreements (tabled on 6 December 2018))

**JOINT GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO REPORT ON NEW SOUTH WALES REGIONAL FOREST AGREEMENT**

**Recommendations** - that you:

s 47C

STEVE IRONS

Date:

Comments:

**Key Points:**

1. The Assistant Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources wrote to the Prime Minister on 29 November 2018 (Attachment B) seeking his agreement to table the *Joint Australian and New South Wales Government response to the Independent review of the report on progress with implementation of the New South Wales Regional Forest Agreements for the second and third five-yearly reviews 2004-2014* (joint Government response).
2. The joint Government response agrees or agrees in part to all but one recommendation. The exception is a recommendation on resourcing of NSW forestry agencies which is noted.
3. The Prime Minister and NSW Premier agreed to vary and extend NSW Regional Forest Agreements (RFAs) on 28 November 2018. The varied RFAs are consistent with the joint Government response.

s 47C

**For Official Use Only**

*Background*

5. As part of five-yearly reviews of the NSW RFAs, the Commonwealth and NSW Governments prepared a joint progress report (*A report on progress with implementation of the New South Wales Regional Forest Agreements: second and third five-yearly reviews 2004-2014*) outlining actions taken to implement the commitments in the NSW RFAs. Public comment was invited on the progress report.
6. The Governments then invited Mr Ewan Waller to review the progress report and public submissions and conduct a review (*Independent review of the report on progress with implementation of the New South Wales Regional Forest Agreements for the second and third five-yearly reviews 2004-2014*). His review report was tabled on 25 June 2018.

s22

A/g Assistant Secretary  
Infrastructure, Population, Agriculture and  
Regional Development  
6 December 2018

Policy Officer: s22

Consultation: II&E, GovDiv

ATTACHMENTS

s22



~~PROTECTED Sensitive. Cabinet~~

PDR: MC18-154824

**DEPARTMENT OF THE PRIME MINISTER AND CABINET**

PM&C  
Secretary  
Mr Duggan  
Ms Wilson  
Mr Poels  
Ms Fitzgerald  
Mr Martin

**To:** Prime Minister s47E(1)(d)

PMO  
Dr Kunkel  
s22

**VIP PRIORITY - COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENTS GRANTS - TASMANIA****Recommendation** - that you:

1. s47C

**Signed / Not Signed**

SCOTT MORRISON

Date:

Comments:

**Key Points:**

1. The Minister for Finance and the Public Service wrote on 7 December 2018 (Attachment B) seeking your agreement to provide up to \$4.79 million to deliver seven projects in Tasmania through the CDG Programme:

s 47C

~~PROTECTED Sensitive. Cabinet~~

S.47E



S.22

A/g Assistant Secretary  
Infrastructure, Population, Agriculture, and  
Regional Development  
14 December 2018

Policy Officer: S.22

Phone no: S.22

Consultation: Fiscal, II&E, SPD, Finance

**ATTACHMENTS**

s22

~~PROTECTED Sensitive: Cabinet~~

PDR: MC18-153207

**DEPARTMENT OF THE PRIME MINISTER AND CABINET**

PM&C  
Secretary  
Mr Duggan  
Ms Wilson  
Ms Stagg  
Mr McDonald  
Ms Lloyd  
Mr Martin

**To:** Prime Minister (for decision by 14 December, to allow Minister Taylor to vote at the COAG Energy Council meeting on 18-19 December)

**Through:** Cabinet Secretary

PMO  
Chief of Staff  
s22

**APPOINTMENT TO THE AUSTRALIAN ENERGY MARKET OPERATOR**

**Recommendations** - that you:

ss 47C and 47F

SCOTT MORRISON

Date:

Comments:

**Key Points:**

1. AEMO endorsed the appointments of Mr Ficca and Ms Nolan at the 30 November 2018 Annual General Meeting (AGM).
  - a. Board members are appointed through a two stage process; endorsed at an AEMO AGM; and subsequently appointed by the COAG Energy Council.

2. s 47C

ss 47C and 47F

~~PROTECTED Sensitive: Cabinet~~

- a. AEMO has eight non-executive directors, five independent and three non-independent members.
4. The appointments will increase the female membership of the Board to 33 per cent (from 25 per cent). The draft response asks Minister Taylor to work with the COAG Energy Council to continue to increase female membership when considering future appointments to the Board.

Paula Stagg  
Assistant Secretary  
Environment, Energy and Climate Change  
10 December 2018

Policy Officer: S.22  
Phone no: (02) S.22  
Consultation: Cab Div, Office for Women,  
CommState, Department of Environment  
and Energy

**ATTACHMENTS**

s22



## DEPARTMENT OF THE PRIME MINISTER AND CABINET

PM&C  
Secretary  
Mr  
Duggan  
Ms  
Wilson  
Ms Stagg  
Mr  
McDonald  
Ms Lloyd  
Mr Martin

**To:** Prime Minister (for decision by 14 December, to allow Minister Taylor to vote at the COAG Energy Council meeting on 18-19 December)

### REAPPOINTMENT OF CHAIR - ENERGY CONSUMERS AUSTRALIA

**Recommendations** - that you:

s 47C

PMO  
Chief of  
Staff

S22

CSO

SCOTT MORRISON

Date:

Comments:

### Key Points:

1. Ms Sylvan has served one term (four years) as Chair of ECA, and is eligible to be reappointed for an additional four-year term.
  - a. ECA is an advocate body for residential and small business consumers.
  - b. Board members (including Chair) of ECA are appointed by the COAG Energy Council.
2. s 47C
- s 47C
3. The ECA Board is comprised of four females and one male. This reappointment will maintain the existing gender balance, exceeding 50 per cent female representation.

Paula Stagg  
Assistant Secretary  
Environment, Energy and Climate Change  
10 December 2018

Policy Officer: S.22  
Phone no: (02) S.22  
Consultation: Cab Div, Office for Women,  
CommState, Department of Environment  
and Energy

~~PROTECTED Sensitive. Cabinet~~

**ATTACHMENTS**

s22

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



PDR: MS18-005223

**DEPARTMENT OF THE PRIME MINISTER AND CABINET**

PM&C  
Secretary  
Mr Duggan  
Ms Wilson  
Ms Hartmann

**To:** Prime Minister

s22  
Mr Poels  
Ms Lo

**PRIME MINISTER TO ANNOUNCE BAIT PRAWN INDUSTRY ASSISTANCE**

PMO  
Mr Kunkel  
s47F  
s22

**Purpose:** To announce support for the Queensland bait prawn industry to manage the risk of the spread of white spot syndrome virus.

**Timing and Venue:** Brisbane, Friday 14 December 2018, TBC

**Our Proposed Objectives:**(Key messages at [Attachment A](#))

- To announce \$5 million in Government assistance, over three years, to the Queensland bait prawn industry to help them to manage the risk of the spread of the white spot syndrome virus (WSSV).

**Their Objectives:**

- The Queensland bait prawn industry has sought financial assistance from the Government to help cover the irradiation treatment costs of uncooked prawns required to manage the risk of WSSV spreading from a restricted area in South-East Queensland.

**Key Points:**

- To reduce the spread of WSSV from the affected area in South-East Queensland, the Queensland Government has restricted the movement of uncooked prawns, including bait prawns, as well as yabbies and marine worms.
  - The restricted area extends from Caloundra to the NSW border and west to Ipswich (map at [Attachment B](#)).
  - Uncooked prawns are only able to be removed from the restricted area after they have been treated with a 50 kilogray (kGy) dose of gamma irradiation.
  - Other jurisdictions, such as New South Wales, have also imposed movement restrictions which require uncooked prawns entering their state to be irradiated in the same manner.

ss47B and 47G

- Under existing arrangements, neither the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources nor the Queensland Government are able to provide financial assistance to affected parties, including the Queensland bait prawn industry, for loss of income or profits resulting from complying with biosecurity requirements.

~~PROTECTED Sensitive: Cabinet~~

- However, the Government recognises it is important to support businesses which are doing the right thing and working to help us protect our industries and economy from pests and diseases such as WSSV.
- The Government will provide \$5 million over three years, from 2018-19, to assist the Queensland bait prawn industry to manage the risk of the spread of WSSV.
  - The Government will provide \$800,000 in 2018-19, \$2.1 million in 2019-20 and \$2.1 million in 2020-21.
  - Support will include two components: marketing and education – warning commercial and recreational fishers of the risk to Australian waterways through the use of prawns for human consumption; and assistance with irradiation costs.
- This funding will help the Queensland bait prawn industry to manage current challenges and continue to prosper into the future.

**Background and sensitivities:**

(Further information is at Attachment B)

- WSSV, a highly contagious viral infection affecting crustaceans, was detected in a number of prawn farms in the Logan River area of Queensland in late 2016.
- The Queensland Government, supported by the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources, has been working to eradicate WSSV from these farms and prevent its spread outside of the affected area.
- In 2017, consistent with existing arrangements, the Australian Government provided \$20 million to affected prawn farmers to reimburse costs associated with eradicating WSSV, including the costs of these farms ‘standing down’ for a season.
  - Final payments were made in June 2018 and prawn farmers will repay up to \$4 million through an industry levy.
- This funding is not provided to parties other than the affected prawn farmers, and does not cover the costs of irradiation treatment required to move raw prawns out of the restricted area as this activity is not targeted at eradicating WSSV. This funding also does not compensate for lost profits.

s22  
A/g Assistant Secretary  
Industry, Infrastructure and  
Environment/ Infrastructure,  
Population, Agriculture &  
Regional Development  
12 December 2018

Contact Officer: s.22  
Ph: s.22  
Consultation: Fiscal, Ag.

NOTED:

Attachment A

s22

- | [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]
- | [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]
- | [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]
- | [REDACTED]
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[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]
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[REDACTED]
- | [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]
- | [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Attachment B

s22 [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

s22

s22



~~PROTECTED Sensitive: Cabinet~~

PDR: MC18-155384

## DEPARTMENT OF THE PRIME MINISTER AND CABINET

PM&C  
 Secretary  
 Mr Duggan  
 Dr Gruen  
 Ms Wilson  
 Ms Hartmann  
 Mr McDonald  
 Ms Lloyd  
 Mr Martin

To: Prime Minister

## INNOVATION AND SCIENCE AUSTRALIA'S STATEMENT OF EXPECTATIONS

Recommendation - that you:

s 47C

PMO  
 Dr Kunkel  
 s22

SCOTT MORRISON

Date:

Comments:

## Key Points:

1. Minister Andrews wrote to you (Attachment B refers) on 1 December 2018 seeking your agreement to issue a new Statement of Expectations (SoE) for the Innovation and Science Australia (ISA) Board (Attachment C refers).

S.34(3)

3. s47E(1)(d) . It gives effect to ISA's responsibilities under the *Industry Research and Development Act 1986* (IR&D Act), including the provision of independent strategic advice on Government's investments in industry, innovation, science and research. The new SoE does not have financial implications, nor does it require more resources for the ISA Board.

4. s47E(1)(d)

~~PROTECTED Sensitive: Cabinet~~

5. s47E(1)(d) [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]
6. Subject to your agreement, the new SoE will replace the existing SoE issued on 21 December 2016 and will be made publicly available on the Department of Industry, Innovation and Science's website.
7. The ISA Board will respond to the new SoE with a Statement of Intent (SoI) by mid-2019. The SoE will also be made publicly available on the Department of Industry, Innovation and Science's website.

Jessica Hartmann  
Assistant Secretary  
Industry, Science and Communications Branch  
21 December 2018

Policy Officer: S.22 [REDACTED]  
Phone no: S.22 [REDACTED]  
Consultation: Fiscal, Govt, CabDiv, SPD

## ATTACHMENTS

s 22





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PDR: MS18-005203

**DEPARTMENT OF THE PRIME MINISTER AND CABINET**

PM&C  
Secretary  
Mr Duggan  
Ms Wilson  
Mr Poels  
Ms Lowe  
Mr Martin

**To:** Prime Minister**INLAND RAIL SOD-TURNING EVENT**

PMO  
Chief of Staff  
S22

**Purpose:** Attend a sod-turning event with the Deputy Prime Minister, the Hon Michael McCormack MP to mark the commencement of construction on the Parkes to Narromine section of Inland Rail.

**Timing and Venue:** 13 December 2018, Peak Hills, New South Wales.

**Key Points:**(Key Messages at Attachment A; Maps at Attachments B and C)

- Construction will commence on the Parkes to Narromine section of Inland Rail (P2N) when you give the order.
  - P2N is the first section of Inland Rail to commence construction. Construction will start in Parkes and progress north towards Narwonah, just south of Narromine.
- Construction will include the rebuild and upgrade of 98.4km of existing rail track and the construction of 5.3km of new rail track.
  - The lead contractor, INLink, is expected to employ over 200 people at the peak of construction.
  - INLink has workforce targets of 50 per cent local employment and 10 per cent Aboriginal employment.
- P2N is one of 13 sections of Inland Rail. The Commonwealth Government has committed \$9.3 billion to build Inland Rail – a 1,700km freight rail line between Brisbane and Melbourne
  - Inland Rail will create approximately 16,000 jobs at the peak of construction, with an additional 700 on-going jobs once Inland Rail is operational. Inland Rail is expected to increase Australia's gross domestic product by \$16 billion over the 10-year delivery period, and the first 50 years of operation.

**Sensitivities:**

- Construction was originally scheduled to commence in May 2018. Delays in finalising regulatory planning and approval processes have delayed construction.
- There has been negative media coverage about the process for selecting the preferred alignment for Inland Rail, particularly the Narromine to Narrabri section. Concerned stakeholders include the New South Wales Farmers association, but we expect the number of affected people to drop significantly when the 2km wide study corridor is reduced to a 40-60m wide track placement corridor in mid-2019.

Roland Trease  
Infrastructure, Agriculture and  
Regional Development  
10 December 2018

Contact Officer: S.22  
Phone No: S.22  
Consultation: DIRDaC.

NOTED:

Date:

For Official Use Only

PM&C  
Secretary  
Mr Gruen  
Mr Duggan  
Ms Wilson  
Ms Cass  
Mr McDonald  
Mr Poels  
Ms Lowe  
Ms Graham  
Mr Martin

**To: Prime Minister**

## **ANNOUNCEMENT OF CITY DEALS MOU WITH SOUTH AUSTRALIA AND LOCATION OF THE AUSTRALIAN SPACE AGENCY**

**Purpose:** Announce the signing of the City Deals Memorandum of Understanding with the South Australia (SA) Government, and the location of the Australian Space Agency.

**Timing and Venue:**

7:30 am, 12 December 2018, Royal Adelaide Hospital site (Lot Fourteen)

**Key Points:** (Key messages at [Attachment A](#); Facts and Figures at [Attachment B](#))

### ***City Deals MoU with South Australia***

- You will be signing a City Deals Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Premier of South Australia, the Hon Steven Marshall MP, in the margins of COAG on 12 December 2018.
- The MoU outlines the foundational principles by which the Commonwealth and SA Governments will work together to implement City Deals in SA.
  - We have briefed you separately on the MoU (MS18-005207 refers).
- The MoU identifies the Adelaide City Deal as the first priority, focusing on three ‘priority themes’:
  - *Innovation and entrepreneurship*, through the redevelopment of the old Royal Adelaide Hospital site, known as Lot Fourteen, to attract investment by technology industries.
  - *Population growth and city planning*, including a new governance mechanism for the three levels of government to work cooperatively to support the growth of Adelaide.
  - *Culture and the arts*, to support a strong visitor economy and resident lifestyle.
- The MoU emphasises collaboration on population planning and management, which is a COAG priority. To support this, the MoU commits the Commonwealth to working with South Australia on migration initiatives, including:
  - the possible negotiation of a Designated Area Migration Agreement, which allows employers in the designated area to fill skilled and semi-skilled occupations in labour market shortage, and
  - piloting a three-year Supporting Innovation in South Australia visa, which is designed to attract talented overseas entrepreneurs, foster innovation and launch seed stage start-ups in Australia.
- The MoU identifies the establishment of the Australian Space Agency (the Agency) at Lot Fourteen at the Royal Adelaide Hospital as one of the Commonwealth’s key Adelaide City Deal commitments. The Commonwealth, SA Government and local councils’ other commitments have not been finalised.
  - It is anticipated these details will be finalised as early as February 2019.

### ***Australian Space Agency***

PMO  
Chief of Staff  
s22

- Adelaide will provide a strong base for the Agency with Lot Fourteen also being the location for the South Australian Government's Innovation Precinct, of which space will be a part.
  - The Agency will work with SA Government to finalise arrangements for its location following the announcement.
- The Head of the Agency, Dr Megan Clark AC, will immediately operate from Adelaide in interim facilities with some support staff. Staff are expected to move into the Lot Fourteen space when it becomes available in July 2019.

S.34(3)

- The Minister for Industry, Science and Technology, the Hon Karen Andrews MP will also have a 'soft launch' of the Agency's new brand at the announcement, as well as it being mentioned in her speech.

#### Sensitivities:

- s47C

S.47B

- While an Adelaide City Deal is an important mechanism for taking forward future population measures in South Australia, population planning reforms will extend beyond the scope of City Deals. The key messages at Attachment A have been drafted to ensure the population planning reform and City Deal processes remain distinct.

s22

A/g Assistant Secretary  
Infrastructure, Agriculture and  
Regional Development  
10 December 2018

Contact Officer: S.22

Phone No: S.22

Consultation: DIRDaC, II&E, SPD,  
NSD, Comm-State

NOTED:

Date:

~~PROTECTED: Sensitive: Cabinet~~

PDR: MS18-005207

**DEPARTMENT OF THE PRIME MINISTER AND CABINET**

PM&C  
 Secretary  
 Mr Gruen  
 Mr  
 Duggan  
 Ms  
 Wilson  
 Ms Cass  
 Mr  
 McDonald  
 Mr Poels  
 Ms Lowe  
 Ms  
 Graham  
 Mr Martin

PMO  
 Chief of  
 Staff

s22

CSO

**To:** Prime Minister (for signature by 12 November 2018, s 47C

).

**SOUTH AUSTRALIA CITY DEALS MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING****Recommendations - that you:**

s 47C

S.34(2) and S.34(3)

s 47C

SCOTT MORRISON

Date:

Comments:

**Key Points:**

1. On 6 December 2018, Minister Tudge wrote to you regarding a proposed MoU for the development of City Deals with South Australia (Attachment C).

~~PROTECTED: Sensitive: Cabinet~~

2. s 47C

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
S.34(3)  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

3. s47B

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

4. s 47C

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

S.34(3)

[REDACTED]

S.47C

[REDACTED]

S.34(2) and S.34(3)

[REDACTED]

- a. The draft response asks Minister Tudge to ensure that relevant Ministers are consulted and agree any commitments relevant to their portfolio prior to seeking your approval.

S.34(2)

[REDACTED]

Roland Trease for  
Donna Looney  
A/g Assistant Secretary  
Infrastructure, Population, Agriculture and  
Regional Development Branch  
10 December 2018

Policy Officer: S.22  
Phone no: S.22  
Consultation: Fiscal, CabDiv, Comm-  
State, Finance, Treasury

**ATTACHMENTS**

s22

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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PDR: MS18-005229

## DEPARTMENT OF THE PRIME MINISTER AND CABINET

PM&C  
Secretary  
Mr  
Duggan  
Ms  
Wilson  
Ms  
s22  
Mr Martin

To: Prime Minister

## ANNOUNCING COMMONWEALTH SUPPORT FOR THE LINKFIELD ROAD OVERPASS

PMO  
Chief of  
Staff  
s22

**Purpose:** Announce the Commonwealth Government's S.34(3)

**Timing and Venue:** 14 December 2018, Bridgeman Downs

## Key Points:

(Key Messages at Attachment A; Map at Attachment B)(Information on Queensland Infrastructure investment at Attachment C)

S.34(3)

s 47B

- The project will improve capacity at the connection of Linkfield Road/Gympie Arterial Road to the interchange at Bridgeman Downs, leading to the southern end of the Bruce Highway, through the potential duplication and upgrade of the Linkfield Road Overpass.
  - The project scope will be determined as part of the planning component of this project.
- The project will improve safety at a known accident hot spot, reduce travel times and congestion, and improve network efficiency.
- The project is part of the \$10 billion Bruce Highway Upgrade Program. Overall, the Commonwealth is investing \$20.54 billion in land transport infrastructure in Queensland from 2013-14 to 2027-28.

## Sensitivities:

- On 2 September 2018, the Herald Sun reported on a 'roads and rail package aimed at saving marginal seats across the country'. s47E

s22  
A/g Assistant Secretary  
Infrastructure, Agriculture and  
Regional Development  
11 December 2018

Contact Officer: S.22  
Phone No: S.22  
Consultation: DIRDaC

NOTED:

Date:

For Official Use Only



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PDR: MC18-153955

**DEPARTMENT OF THE PRIME MINISTER AND CABINET**

PM&C  
Secretary  
Mr Duggan  
Mr McDonald  
Ms Pullen  
Mr Martin

**To:** Assistant Minister to the Prime Minister (for signature by 10 December 2018 to enable the Treasurer's announcement on the same day)

PMO  
Chief of Staff

**INTEREST RATE TRANSPARENCY ONLINE TOOL**

s22

**Recommendation** - that you:

AMO

s 47C

CABINET  
SECRETARY

STEVE IRONS

Date:

Comments:

**Key Points:**

1. The Treasurer has sought the Prime Minister's agreement to announce the Government's support for implementing Recommendation 12.1 of the Productivity Commission's report on *Competition in the Australian Financial System* – implementing an online calculator that reports actual mortgage interest rates paid (Attachment B).

2. s47C

3. s 47C

4. s47C

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- d. The financial regulators, including the ACCC, are supportive of developing an online calculator. Some banks are likely to raise concerns. During the Productivity Commission's inquiry, some banks submitted that providing high-level price information runs a risk of misleading consumers who have different risk characteristics.

S.34(3)

6. s 47C

**Background:**

7. The Treasurer is expected to release the ACCC's *Residential mortgage product price* inquiry report on 10 December 2018. The report finds that:
  - a. Recent media attention on banks has prompted some borrowers to review their mortgage, but the incidence of borrowers actually switching to another lender is low. Many borrowers do not actively shop around, despite the potential for significant savings.
  - b. Discretionary pricing by banks adds to borrowers' costs in finding the best price. This negatively impacts their willingness to shop around and stifles price competition.

s22

A/g Assistant Secretary  
Taxation, Financial Sector & Employment Branch  
7 December 2018

Policy Officer: S.22

Phone no: S.22

Consultation: Fiscal, CabDiv, Economic  
Policy

**ATTACHMENTS**

s22

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PDR: MS18-005290

**DEPARTMENT OF THE PRIME MINISTER AND CABINET**

PM&C  
 Secretary  
 Mr Duggan  
 Mr McDonald  
 Ms Baxter  
 Mr Burton  
 Ms Leahy  
 Mr Meagher  
 Mr La  
 Mr Merrill  
 Ms Gillies  
 Mr Martin

PMO  
 Dr Kunkel

s22

**To: Prime Minister****SUPPORTING WORKERS INTO REGIONAL JOBS****Recommendation** - that you:

s 47C

SCOTT MORRISON

Date:

Comments:

**Key Points:**

1. Your office requested we brief you on how the Government ensures compliance with the Working Holiday Maker (WHM) visa regional work requirements, and, more broadly, how regional employers engage with the domestic labour market.

S.34(3)

**Compliance with requirements of WHM visas**


3. The WHM visa program is primarily a cultural exchange program. It gives visa holders the option to undertake work, but does not require them to work. WHM visa holders are not limited in the work that they may undertake.
4. WHM visas are issued for up to 12 months. Holders may apply for a second 12-month visa if they undertake at least three months of work in eligible regional areas.
  - a) From 1 July 2019, visa holders will eligible for a third 12-month visa, provided they undertake 6 months of regional work during their second year in Australia.
  - b) Workers must provide evidence of regional work, which can include pay slips, tax records, or employer references (optional due to the potential for worker exploitation).

5. Employers do not need to undertake labour market testing or seek approval from government before employing WHM visa holders. They are required to register with the Australian Taxation Office (ATO).

s 47C



#### **Connecting Australians with regional jobs**

6. In contrast to the WHM visa program, the Seasonal Workers Program (SWP) and the Pacific Labour Scheme (PLS) are primarily work programs. SWP and PLS visa holders must be sponsored by an Australian employer approved by the Australian Government.
  - a) Employers are required to advertise for workers in Australia with local jobactive providers and demonstrate there are no suitable Australians before seeking to employ workers under the SWP and PLS.
  - b) Recent changes to the SWP have relaxed the labour market testing requirements for employers, extending the timeframe of validity from three months to six months.
7. The Commonwealth's main lever to encourage Australian job seekers into regional jobs is through jobactive.
  - a) Job seekers engaged with jobactive can be compelled to accept 'reasonable' job opportunities. The reasonableness test takes into account individual job seeker needs, such as caring responsibilities and commute time.
  - b) Job seekers can receive up to \$6000 relocation assistance to relocate to a regional area to take up a job (\$9000 if they relocate with a dependent). While performing in line with forecasts of around 600 people per year, we do not believe this program is making a significant contribution to getting job seekers into regional work.
  - c) Some jobactive providers are reluctant to put job seekers forward for harvest jobs because the short-term nature of the job placements limits outcome payments they can receive. We also understand some farmers are reluctant to utilise the jobactive pool.
  - d) s 47C  

8. The Government's Harvest Labour Scheme (HLS) and National Harvest Labour Information Service (NHLIS) help fill harvest jobs, but WHM visa holders fill around 90 per cent of HLS job placements.
  - a) Employer demand for the HLS is strong. It achieved more than 25,000 seasonal work placements and filled around 90 per cent of vacancies in 2017-18.

b) s 47C

9. s47C

- a) On 13 October 2018, you asked farmers to report their workforce needs for the coming harvest season and into the future directly to the NHLIS. s47C

**Background:**

**Recent changes to visa programs to address regional workforce shortages**

S.34(3)

11. In regards to the WHM program, the Government has announced that it is:

- a) expanding the definition of where WHM visa holders may undertake regional work to qualify for a second year of stay in Australia;
- b) extending the period a WHM visa holder may work with the same agricultural (plant and animal cultivation) employer from six up to 12 months; and
- c) introducing a third year visa option for WHM visa holders who from 1 July 2019 onwards complete six months of regional work in the second year.

12. In regards to the SWP, the Government has announced that it is:

- a) increasing the period of work in Australia from six months to nine months;
- b) extending labour market testing validity from three to six months; and
- c) reducing out of pocket expenses for employers, with workers to repay their full travel costs except for the first \$300, a reduction from the current \$500.

13. In regards to the PLS, the Government has announced that it is expanding the scheme to all Pacific island countries and uncapping the Scheme.

S.22

A/g Assistant Secretary  
Economic Division  
20 December 2018

Policy Officer: S.22

Phone no: S.22

Consultation: SPD, II&E, International

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PDR: MC18-157258

**DEPARTMENT OF THE PRIME MINISTER AND CABINET**

PM&C  
Secretary  
Dr Gruen  
Mr Duggan  
Mr McDonald  
Ms Moran  
Mr Poels  
Ms Pullen

**To:** The Assistant Minister to the Prime Minister (on Friday 21 December 2018 to ensure maximum time for consultation on the draft legislation)

**CC:** Prime Minister

PMO  
Dr Kunkel

s22

**POLICY APPROVAL FOR KEY ELEMENTS OF AUSTRALIAN BUSINESS  
SECURITISATION FUND INVESTMENT MANDATE**

**Recommendations** - that you:

s 47C

S.34(1)(c)

s 47C

STEVE IRONS

Date:

Comments:

**Key Points:**

1. We recommend that you agree to the key elements of an implementation approach and investment mandate for the Australian Business Securitisation Fund (ABSF) proposed by the Treasurer (Attachment B), subject to the Minister for Finance and the Public Service agreeing to the Treasurer's request to establish a new special account (Attachment C).
2. The Treasurer's proposed approach is designed to mitigate financial risk while adding additional capacity to the small and medium enterprise loan market.
  - a. Under the proposed investment mandate, the ABSF will work within existing market infrastructure and co-invest alongside existing warehouse facilities.


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- b. Underlying loans made by the major banks (including Macquarie) will not be eligible investments. This will target investment from the ABSF into underdeveloped sectors of the small and medium enterprise lending market. However, securities offered by the major banks will be eligible investments.
- c. The investment mandate will prohibit the ABSF from investing in first loss securities. This will limit financial risk to the Government.
- d. Eligible investments will be defined as securities backed by business loans of less than \$10 million, meaning that it will not be limited to securities backed by small and medium business loans. However, Treasury advises that most loans of this size will be small and medium business loans and that this approach will avoid significant compliance costs that would arise from a definition based on business turnover or number of employees.

S.42



S.34(1)(c)



- 5. The Treasury Secretary will be granted authority to specify further operational requirements for the AOFM that are consistent with the investment mandate. This will ensure that, while the Treasury Secretary will not have the authority to make changes to the investment mandate, they will be able to ensure that the AOFM can operate in accordance with the mandate as intended.

S.22

A/g Assistant Secretary  
Taxation, Financial Sector and  
Employment Branch  
20 December 2018

Policy S.22

Phone no: S.22

Consultation: Fiscal, Finance, GovDiv,  
Treasury, IAG.



**ATTACHMENTS**

s22 [Redacted] [Redacted]

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[Redacted]

[Redacted] [Redacted]

~~PROTECTED Sensitive: Cabinet~~

PDR: MC18-153191

**DEPARTMENT OF THE PRIME MINISTER AND CABINET**

PM&C  
Secretary  
Ms Hatfield  
Dodds  
Dr Baxter  
Ms Oliver  
Ms Lloyd  
Mr Duggan  
Mr Poels  
Mr McDonald  
Mr Lange  
Mr Martin

**To:** Prime Minister (for signature by 13 December 2018 to allow the Minister to finalise the Guidelines before the 1 January 2019 start date)

**HIGHER EDUCATION SUPPORT (VET) AMENDMENT (VET FEE-HELP STUDENT PROTECTION) GUIDELINES 2018 (VET GUIDELINES AMENDMENT)**

**Recommendations** - that you:

PMO  
Dr Kunkel  
s22

s 47C

SCOTT MORRISON

Date:

Comments:

**Key Points:**

1. Minister Cash wrote to you on 3 December 2018 seeking agreement to the Higher Education Support (VET) Amendment (VET FEE-HELP Student Protection) Guidelines 2018 (VET Guidelines Amendment) (Attachment A refers).

S.34(3)

s 47C

- a. The Treasury and the Department of Finance agree with this approach.
4. The proposed VET Guidelines Amendment provide the Secretary of the Department of Education and Training (DET) with a broad remit in deciding on the circumstances in which students will be re-credited their debts under the VET FEE-HELP loan scheme.

~~PROTECTED Sensitive: Cabinet~~

a. s 47C

The proposed amendments have been developed by the Department of Education and Training in close consultation with relevant agencies.

s 47C

6. The Student Redress Measures will commence on 1 January 2019. These measures will provide a remedy for students who incurred debts under the VET FEE-HELP loan scheme due to inappropriate conduct by their VET provider.

Tara Oliver  
Assistant Secretary  
Disability and Education  
Social Policy Division  
10 December 2018

Policy Officer: S.22  
Phone no: S.22  
Consultation: Government Division,  
Economic Division, Fiscal Policy,  
Government Division, Cabinet Division,  
Office of Best Practice Regulation

**ATTACHMENTS**

s22