

From: s 22(1)
To: s 22(1)(a) ; s 22(1)(a)
Cc: [Wood, Lynette](#); [Costello, Bill](#); s 22(1)(a)
Subject: Chinese Ambassador comments on Taiwan
Date: Saturday, 13 January 2024 10:00:53 AM
Attachments: s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

You may have already see Ambasador Xiao's comments on Taiwan's election:

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s 47E(d)

key lines

won't change:

- As the PM noted, we will respect the views of the Taiwanese people and the election outcomes.
- Continuation of the status quo is in all our interests, we continue to call for calm and deescalation, threats or use of force won't resolve these issues.

s 33(a)(iii)

Best

s 22(1)(a)(i)

Sent from my iPhone

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Cc: Costello, Bill; Wood, Lynette; s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Subject: FW: DFAT Talking Points - Taiwan Presidential and Legislative Elections - v1 [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]
Date: Thursday, 11 January 2024 1:52:46 PM

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 47E(d) below are the most recent TPs from DFAT.

Best

s 22(1)(

From: DFAT Talking Points s 47E(d) @dfat.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 11 January 2024 1:44 PM
To: s 47E(d) @lists.dfat.gov.au
Subject: DFAT Talking Points - Taiwan Presidential and Legislative Elections - v1
 [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

OFFICIAL:Sensitive

DFAT logo



**MEDIA
 TALKING
 POINTS
 DISTRIBUTION:
 STANDARD**

Topic: POLITICAL-ECONOMIC

Originating Division:
 NAD

Subject: Taiwan Presidential and Legislative Elections

Version Date: 11/1/2024

Reason for Update: New
 talking points

Version: 1

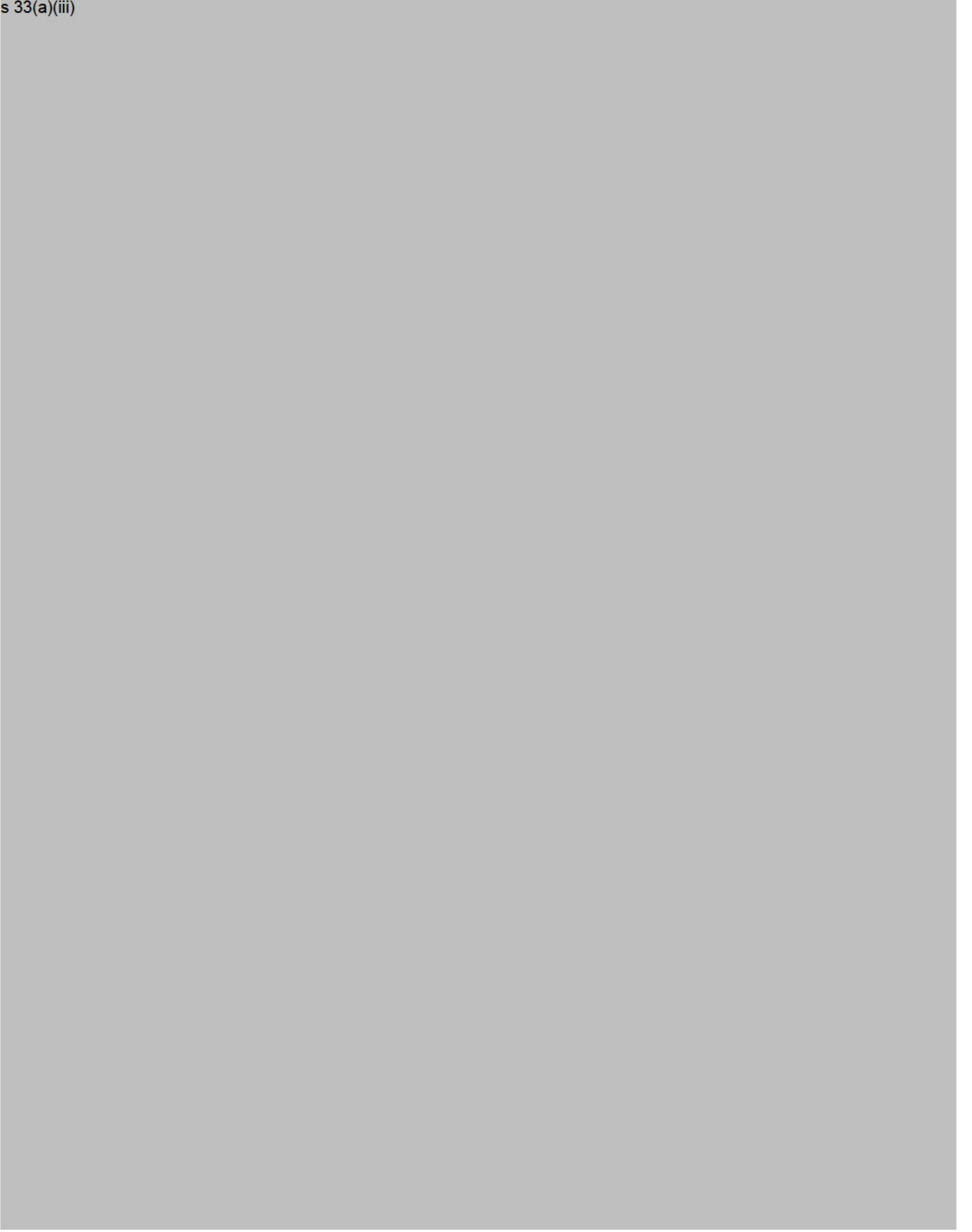
Expiry: 11/04/2024

Talking Points

- Taiwan is a vibrant democracy and its elections on 13 January are a matter for the people of Taiwan.
- Australia looks forward to working with whomever the Taiwan voters elect.
- Australia has a longstanding, bipartisan one-China policy, which has not changed
 - we will continue to build our productive unofficial economic, cultural and people-to-people relationship with Taiwan.
- Peace and stability is in all our interest
 - we do not want to see any unilateral change to the status quo across the

Taiwan Strait

s 33(a)(iii)



Any use or disclosure of personal information about individuals and the incidents contained in this background should not be made public. To do so may constitute a breach of the Privacy Act 1988 (Cth).

Background

Taiwan's Presidential and Legislative Elections

Taiwan's presidential election will take place on 13 January 2024. With the incumbent Tsai Ing-wen ineligible for a third term owing to a two-term limit, Taiwan will have a new leader. s 33(a)(iii)
s 33(a)(iii)

Taiwan's legislative election will also be held on 13 January 2024. s 33(a)(iii)
s 33(a)(iii)

Prime Minister's comments

On 9 January, on Sky News, in a response to a question about the importance of Taiwan's election and Beijing's respect for the outcome, the Prime Minister said:

'..it's important that democratic elections take place and there are more taking place with people voting this year than in any previous year in human history. That's a good thing. And one of those elections is in Taiwan. It is important that everyone respect the outcome of democratic elections. That's a matter for the people of Taiwan and that is certainly the Australian Government's position will be to respect any outcome, and that should be the decision of every government because we need to respect these democratic processes.'

s 33(a)(iii)

Handling Notes

Talking points and background will be updated once the election result is known.

Media Interest

There has been strong Australian media interest in Taiwan’s elections and potential Chinese reactions.

Approval	
Consultation	GPD
Author	s 22(1)(a)(ii) NAD; s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Cleared by	Daniel Sloper, First Assistant Secretary, EAD

Distribution	
s 47E(d)	

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii) Costello, Bill; s 22(1)(a)(ii); Wood, Lynette; s 22(1)(a)(ii) s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Subject: Fwd: DFAT Talking Points - Taiwan Presidential and Legislative Elections - v2 [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]
Date: Sunday, 14 January 2024 10:59:24 AM

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

FYSA- DFAT have now issued the formal WoG TPs below.

s 22(1)(a)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Begin forwarded message:

From: DFAT Talking Points s 47E(d) @dfat.gov.au>
Date: 14 January 2024 at 10:45:10 am AEDT
To: s 47E(d) @lists.dfat.gov.au
Subject: DFAT Talking Points - Taiwan Presidential and Legislative Elections
 - v2 [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

OFFICIAL:Sensitive

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**MEDIA
TALKING
POINTS
DISTRIBUTION:
STANDARD**

Topic: POLITICAL-ECONOMIC

Subject: Taiwan Presidential and Legislative Elections

Originating Division:
NAD

Version Date: 14/1/2024

Version: 2

Reason for Update: New
talking points

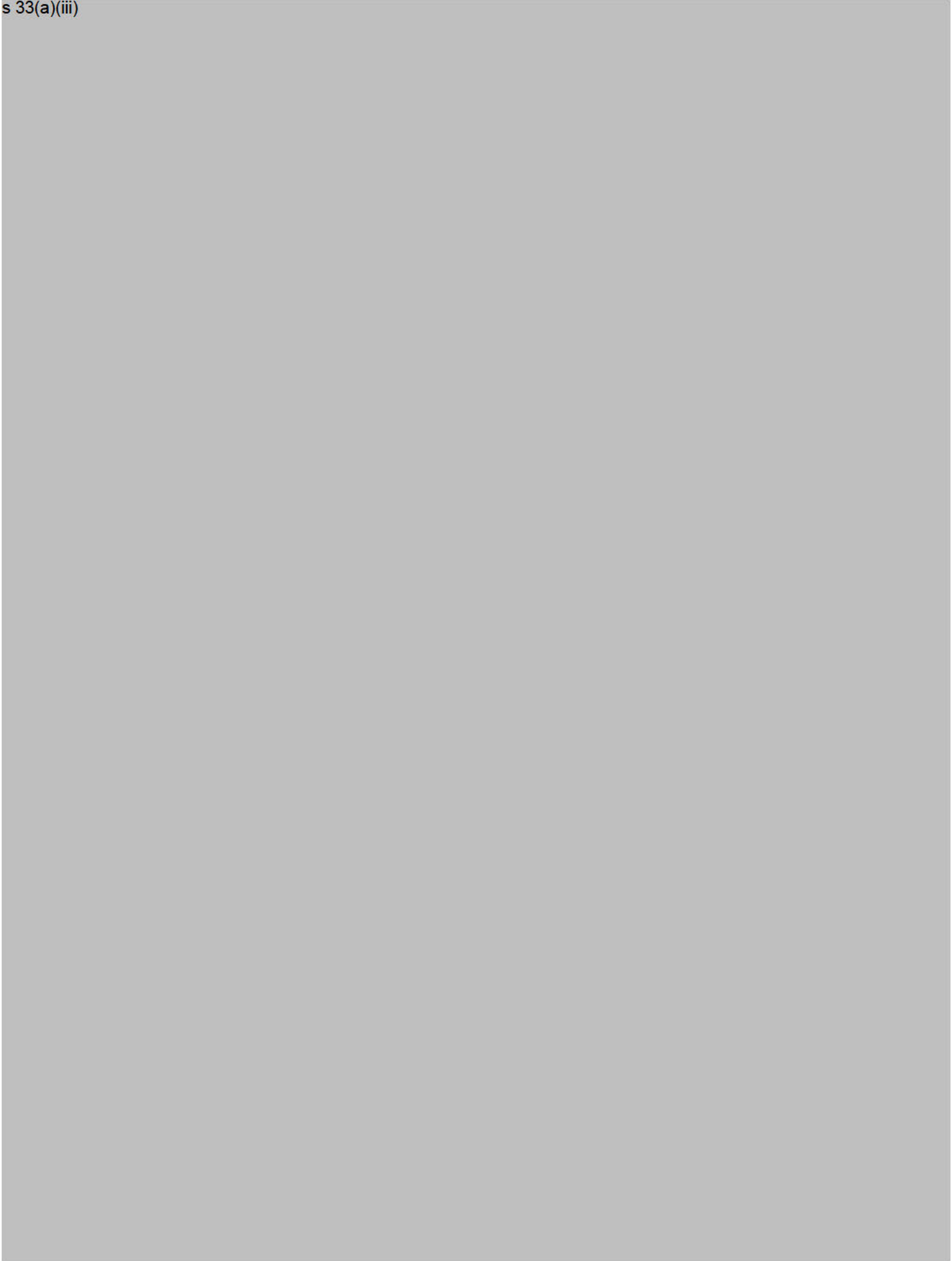
Expiry: 11/04/2024

Talking Points

- Australia welcomes Taiwan's elections outcome and congratulates the people of Taiwan on the peaceful exercise of their democratic rights
 - the smooth conduct of the elections is a testament to the maturity of Taiwan's democracy.
- We look forward to continuing to work with Taiwan to advance our important trade and investment relationship, as well as our education, science, cultural and people-to-people ties.
- Australia has a longstanding, bipartisan one-China policy, which has not changed.
- Peace and stability is in all our interests.

We do not want to see any unilateral change to the status quo across the Taiwan Strait.

s 33(a)(iii)



Any use or disclosure of personal information about individuals and the incidents contained in this background should not be made public. To do so may constitute a breach of the Privacy Act 1988 (Cth).

Background

Taiwan's Presidential and Legislative Elections

Taiwan's presidential election took place on 13 January 2024. With the incumbent Tsai Ing-wen ineligible for a third term, Taiwan has elected a new leader.

Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) candidate Dr William Lai won the presidential election with a seven per cent margin (approximately 40 per cent of the vote) over Hou Yu-ih of the Kuomintang (KMT), on 33.5 per cent. The Taiwan People's Party (TPP) candidate, Ko Wen-je, came third s 33(a)(iii) s 33(a)(iii) with around 26 per cent of the vote. s 33(a)(iii) s 33(a)(iii) s 33(a)(iii) s 33(a)(iii)

s 33(a)(iii)

President-Elect Dr William Lai and Vice President-Elect Hsiao Bi-kim

President-Elect Dr William Lai was most recently Taiwan's Vice President from May 2020 and DPP Chair from January 2023. He previously served as Premier (September 2017 to January 2019), Tainan Mayor (December 2010 to September 2017), legislator (February 1999 to December 2010) and National Assembly Member (May 1996 to January 1999). Lai was a medical doctor before entering politics.

Vice President-Elect Hsiao Bi-khim was recently Taiwan's Representative to the United States (July 2020 to November 2023). She previously served four terms as legislator (2000-2008 and 2012-2020). s 33(a)(iii) s 33(a)(iii)

Legislative Elections

No party won a majority in the Legislative Yuan, s 33(a)(iii) s 33(a)(iii) On the count so far, DPP has won 51 seats (losing 11), the KMT 52 (gaining 15) and TPP eight (gaining three). Two independents also secured seats. s 33(a)(iii) s 33(a)(iii)

Australia's response

On 14 January, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) issued the following statement:

'Australia congratulates Dr Lai Ching-te on his victory in the Taiwan elections held on 13 January. We also congratulate the people of Taiwan on the peaceful exercise of their democratic rights. The smooth conduct of the elections is a testament to the maturity and strength of Taiwan's democracy. Australia looks forward to continuing to work with Taiwan to advance our important trade and investment relationship, as well as our deep and longstanding educational, scientific, cultural and people-to-people ties.'

The statement will be reposted to DFAT social media accounts. Australia's Representative in Taipei will issue messages of congratulations to social media (Twitter X and Facebook).

In an article published in *The Age* on 13 January, a spokesperson for Foreign Minister Penny Wong said that Canberra would continue to build its unofficial relationship with Taiwan. 'It is important that everyone respects the outcome of democratic elections,' the spokesperson said. 'Peace and stability is in all our interests. Australia does not want to see any unilateral change to the status quo across the Taiwan Strait'.

On 13 January, responding to Chinese Ambassador Xiao Qian's op-ed in *The Australian* (see details below) Senator the Hon Simon Birmingham (Shadow Minister Foreign Affairs) issued a statement to Twitter X: 'A stable and successful region is in Australia's interest, as is engagement with partners like Taiwan. It is inappropriate for any nation to seek to dictate how Australia should engage with our partners'. In a separate post, he wished Taiwanese voters well as they headed to the polls and acknowledged the Australia-Taiwan economic and trade relationship.

Prime Minister's comments

On 9 January, on *Sky News*, in a response to a question about the importance of Taiwan's election and Beijing's respect for the outcome, the Prime Minister said:

'..it's important that democratic elections take place and there are more taking place with people voting this year than in any previous year in human history. That's a good thing. And one of those elections is in Taiwan. It is important that everyone respect the outcome of democratic elections. That's a matter for the people of Taiwan and that is certainly the Australian Government's position will be to respect any outcome, and that should be the decision of every government because we need to respect these democratic processes.'

s 33(a)(iii)

s 33(a)(iii)

International reactions:

United States

In comments to media asking for a reaction to Taiwan's election, *Reuters* reported on 13 January that President Joe Biden said 'we do not support independence for Taiwan'.

US Secretary of State, Anthony Blinken, issued the following statement on 13 January:

'The United States congratulates Dr. Lai Ching-te on his victory in Taiwan's presidential election. We also congratulate the Taiwan people for once again demonstrating the strength of their robust democratic system and electoral process.'

The United States is committed to maintaining cross-Strait peace and stability, and the peaceful resolution of differences, free from coercion and pressure. The partnership between the American people and the people on Taiwan, rooted in democratic values, continues to broaden and deepen across economic, cultural, and people-to-people ties.

We look forward to working with Dr. Lai and Taiwan's leaders of all parties to advance our shared interests and values, and to further our longstanding unofficial relationship, consistent with the U.S. one China policy as guided by the Taiwan Relations Act, the three Joint Communiques, and the Six Assurances. We are confident that Taiwan will continue to serve as an example for all who strive for freedom, democracy, and prosperity.'

Secretary of State Blinken also issued the following to Twitter X:

'We congratulate Dr. Lai Ching-te on his victory in Taiwan's presidential election. We also congratulate the Taiwan people for participating in free and fair elections and demonstrating the strength of their democratic system.'

US House Speaker Mike Johnson issued a statement in which he underscored the ongoing commitment of Congress:

'We congratulate William Lai on his election as the next President of Taiwan and we are happy to see democracy thriving among the Taiwanese people. The United States is eager to work with President-elect Lai and build on the strong partnership we've enjoyed with President Tsai. To underscore the ongoing commitment of Congress to security and democracy, I will be asking the chairs of the relevant House Committees to lead a delegation to Taipei following Lai's inauguration in May. I am hopeful the United States and Taiwan together will continue promoting the principles of liberty, opportunity and security for all freedom-loving countries and our partners in the Indo-Pacific.'

United Kingdom

On 13 January, UK Foreign Secretary David Cameron offered his congratulations to Dr Lai Ching-te following presidential and legislative elections in Taiwan. The statement read:

'The elections today are testament to Taiwan's vibrant democracy. I offer warm congratulations to the people of Taiwan on the smooth conduct of those elections and to Dr Lai Ching-te and his party on his election. I hope that the two sides of the Taiwan Strait will renew efforts to resolve differences peacefully through constructive dialogue, without the threat or use of force or coercion.'

Canada

On 14 January, on Twitter X, Foreign Policy Canada congratulated the people of Taiwan on the conclusion of their elections. The statement read '...Guided by the pillars of democracy, human rights and peace, Canada looks forward to advance its people-to-people, science, trade and investment ties.'

New Zealand

On 14 January, New Zealand's Ministry of Foreign Affairs posted the following message to its website:

'NZ welcomes the successful conclusion of elections in Taiwan on 13 January and congratulates the people of Taiwan on the peaceful exercise of their democratic

rights. We look forward to further enhancing NZ and Taiwan's vibrant trade, economic and cultural links'.

Japan

Foreign Minister Kamikawa Yoko issued the following statement:

'On January 13, Mr. Lai Ching-te was elected in the presidential election in Taiwan. The Government of Japan congratulates the smooth implementation of the democratic election and Mr. Lai on his victory. For Japan, Taiwan is an extremely crucial partner and an important friend, with which it shares fundamental values and enjoys close economic relations and people to people exchanges. The Government of Japan will work toward further deepening cooperation and exchanges between Japan and Taiwan, based on its position to maintain working relationship on the non-governmental basis. We expect that the issue surrounding Taiwan will be resolved peacefully through dialogue, thereby contributing to the peace and stability in the region.'

France

On 13 January, France's Foreign Ministry issued the following statement:

'Saturday's election in Taiwan took place freely and democratically. It demonstrated the commitment of the Taiwanese people to local democracy, the rule of law and human rights. France extends its congratulations to all those elected. It very much hopes for peace and the continuation of dialogue and cooperation between the two shores of the Taiwan Strait.'

European Union

On 13 January, the European Union External Action Service spokesperson issued the following statement:


'The European Union welcomes the elections held in Taiwan on 13 January, and congratulates all the voters who participated in this democratic exercise. Our respective systems of governance are founded on a shared commitment to democracy, the rule of law and human rights. The European Union underlines that peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait are key to regional and global security and prosperity. The EU remains concerned about growing tensions in the Taiwan Strait and opposes any unilateral attempt to change the status quo.'

Singapore

On 14 January, a spokesperson for Singapore's Ministry of Foreign Affairs made the following comments in response to media queries, posted to the departmental website:

'We welcome the successful conclusion of the elections and congratulate Dr William Lai and his party on their victory. Singapore shares a close and longstanding friendship with Taiwan and the Taiwanese people, and will continue to grow this relationship based on our 'One China' policy. Singapore has consistently supported the peaceful development of cross-strait relations. Dialogue, building trust, and pursuing cooperation will be beneficial for both sides of the Strait. This will contribute to the stability and prosperity of the wider region and be welcomed by Singapore and the international community.'

s 33(a)(iii)



Handling Notes

Talking points and background will be updated to reflect further international reactions in the coming days.


Media Interest

There has been strong Australian media interest in Taiwan's elections and potential Chinese reactions.


Approval	
Consultation	GPD
Author	s 22(1)(a)(ii) NAD; s 22(1)(a)(iii)
Cleared by	Daniel Sloper, First Assistant Secretary, EAD

Distribution

s 47E(d)



s 47E(d)



From: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Cc: s 22(1)(a)(ii) Wood, Lynette; Costello, Bill; s 22(1)(a)(ii); s 22(1)(a)(ii) s 22(1)(a)(ii) s 22(1)(a)(ii);
Subject: Re: TPs on Taiwan elections [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]
Date: Wednesday, 10 January 2024 8:05:56 PM
Attachments: image005.png

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

On 10 Jan 2024, at 5:25 pm, s 22(1)(a)(ii) s@pmc.gov.au> wrote:

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

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

s 47E(d)

s 47E(d) below are some TPs. DFAT will issue whole of government TPs tomorrow and will circulate updated TPs on Saturday night or Sunday morning when a result is known. **Result expected about 10pm CBR time on Saturday night.**

I am in close contact with DFAT colleagues and part of an email chain to share information about election outcomes and international reactions. I will pass on updates when received about the outcomes and international reactions, and updated TPs when available.

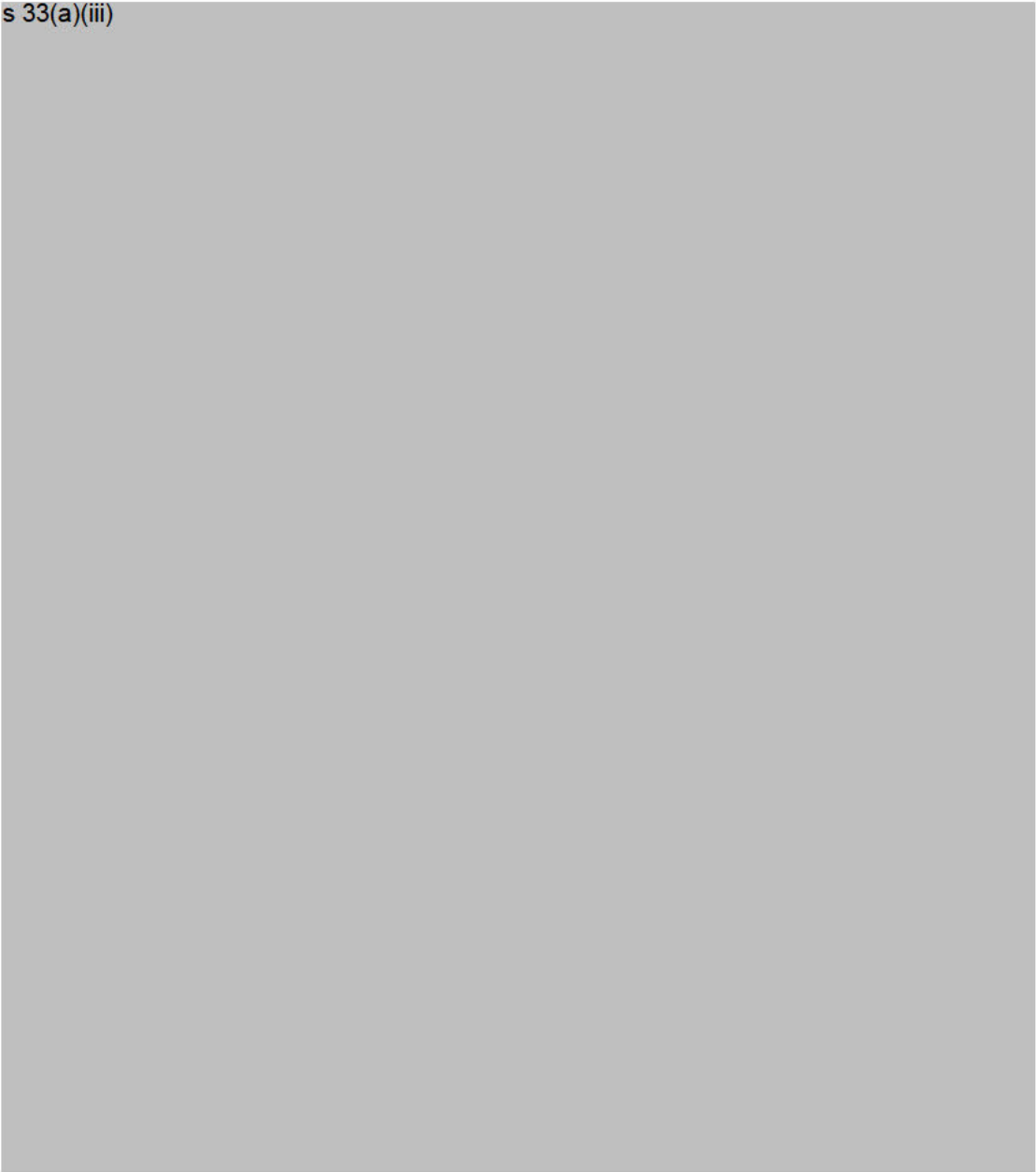
Pre-election TPs:

s 33(a)(iii)

<!--[if !supportLists]--> <!--[endif]-->Taiwan is a vibrant democracy
 <!--[if !supportLists]-->○ <!--[endif]-->the election is a matter for the
 people of Taiwan.
 <!--[if !supportLists]--> <!--[endif]-->Australia has a longstanding, bipartisan
 one-China policy, which has not changed
 <!--[if !supportLists]-->○ <!--[endif]-->we will continue to build our
 productive unofficial economic, cultural and people to people
 relationship with Taiwan.
 <!--[if !supportLists]--> <!--[endif]-->Peace and stability is in all our interests
 <!--[if !supportLists]-->○ <!--[endif]-->we do not want to see any
 unilateral change to the status quo.
 <!--[if !supportLists]--> <!--[endif]-->Differences should be managed
 peacefully through dialogue, not the threat or use of force or coercion.

s 33(a)(iii)

s 33(a)(iii)



Best

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s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Senior Adviser
China | Asia Branch
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet
p. s 22(1)(a)(ii) | m. s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Ngunnawal Country, One National Circuit Barton ACT 2600 | PO Box 6500 CANBERRA ACT 2600

e. s 22(1)(a)(ii) [@pmc.gov.au](mailto:s 22(1)(a)(ii)@pmc.gov.au) w. pmc.gov.au

[<image001.jpg>](#)

[<image002.jpg>](#)

[<image004.jpg>](#) <!--[if !vml]-->

[<image005.png>](#)

<!--[endif]-->The Department acknowledges and pays respect to the past, present

and emerging Elders and Traditional Custodians of Country, and the continuation of cultural, spiritual and educational practices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.