

MC24-025551

**CHANGES TO THE PRIORITY COUNTRIES FOR THE STRATEGIC ELEMENT OF THE GLOBAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY DIPLOMACY FUND****Prime Minister, we recommend you:**

1. Sign the draft response (at Attachment A) to the Hon Ed Husic MP, Minister for Industry and Science, approving changes to priority countries for the Strategic Element of the Global Science and Technology Diplomacy Fund.

**s 22(1)(a)(ii)** Signed / Not signed 29/2/24

Date:

ANTHONY ALBANESE

Coms 22(1)(a)(ii)

**KEY POINTS**

1. On 20 February 2024, the Hon Ed Husic MP, Minister for Industry and Science (Minister Husic), wrote requesting agreement to change the list of priority countries for the Strategic Element of the Global Science and Technology Diplomacy Fund (the Global Fund).
  - a. The Global Fund, which consists of both the Strategic and a Bilateral Element, was established in 2021. Following a savings measure in the 2023-24 Budget, the Global Fund will provide \$42 million from 2023-24 to 2028-29 across its Strategic and Bilateral Elements.
  - b. The Strategic Element provides funding for collaborative science and technology projects in priority research areas that include partners from priority countries.
    - i. In 2021-22 financial year \$5.64 million was provided to the Global Fund's delivery partner, the Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering (ATSE), but no grant rounds have been delivered to date.

**s 47C**

2. The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (PM&C) supports Minister Husic's proposed changes to narrow the focus of the Strategic Element to align the Global Fund to Australia's *South-East Asia Economic Strategy to 2040* and our interest in science and diplomacy in the region. A draft response giving your endorsement of the changes is provided at Attachment A.
  - a. The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade supports the changes to the list of priority countries for the Strategic Element.

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3. PM&C understands that Minister Husic may seek to announce the changes to priority countries in the margins of the 2024 ASEAN-Australia Special Summit being held on 4-6 March in Melbourne.

## SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

4. The Global Fund seeks to build relationships with international partners through supporting international science, research and technology initiatives. The program consists of a Bilateral Element to support science and research collaboration with China and India, and the Strategic Element.

- a. To be eligible for funding under the Strategic Element, projects are required to include a partner from Australia and from one of the priority countries.
- b. The Strategic Element's priority research areas are advanced manufacturing, artificial intelligence, hydrogen production, quantum computing and RNA (including mRNA) vaccines and therapies.

5. The Global Fund was subject to a 2023–24 Budget savings measure **s 34(2)** which reduced funding by \$25 million over five years.

- a. Minister Husic is developing a broader implementation plan for the Global Fund to give effect to these savings and intends to seek your agreement to this plan in the first quarter of 2024.

6. Minister Husic previously wrote to you on 14 September 2023 to seek your endorsement of changes to the priority countries for the Strategic Element of the Global Fund. The Department of Industry, Science and Resources has subsequently engaged further with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade to finalise the list of priority countries, including to take into account Southeast Asia.

**Financial Implications:** Nil

## Consultation

PM&C DIVISIONS – International; Quad, AUKUS and Naval Shipbuilding; ASEAN Taskforce

DEPARTMENTS – Department of Industry, Science and Resources

**Anthea Fell**

Assistant Secretary

Industry, Innovation, Science and Communications

28/02/2024

**Policy Officer: s 22(1)(a)(ii)**

Phone no: **s 22(1)(a)(ii)**

## Circulation

PM&C Secretary; DS, International and Security Group, **G Fletcher**; DS, Economy, Industry & Resilience Group, **N Williams**; FAS, Industry, Infrastructure & Environment, **N Luchetti**; FAS, Ministerial Support Division, **G Martin**; FAS, International Division, **C Chittick**; FAS, Quad, AUKUS & Naval Shipbuilding Division, **L Wood**; Head of Taskforce, ASEAN Taskforce, **P Kang**; AS, Industry, Innovation, Science & Communications Branch, **A Fell**; AS, Asia Branch, **E Stevens**; AS, Pacific Branch, **B Costello**; AS, QUAD & AUKUS Policy Branch, **A Stevenson**; AS, ASEAN Policy, **E Le Bas**; AS, Climate Change, **R Trease**  
PMO Chief of Staff; **s 22(1)(a)(ii)**

Cabinet Secretary **s 22(1)(a)(ii)** CSO DLOs

## ATTACHMENTS:

**ATTACHMENT A DRAFT RESPONSE**

**ATTACHMENT B INCOMING CORRESPONDENCE**

~~PROTECTED CABINET~~

~~PROTECTED CABINET~~



PRIME MINISTER  
The Hon Anthony Albanese MP

Reference: MC24-025551

29 FEB 2024

The Hon Ed Husic MP  
Minister for Industry and Science  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Minister

*Ed,*

Thank you for your letter dated 20 February 2024 regarding the Strategic Element of the Global Science and Technology Diplomacy Fund (the Global Fund).

I agree to your proposed changes to the list of priority countries under the Strategic Element of the Global Fund, as outlined in your letter. I note you will write to seek agreement to an implementation plan for the Global Fund in the first quarter of 2024.

I have copied this correspondence to Senator the Hon Penny Wong, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Senator the Hon Katy Gallagher, Minister for Finance, and the Hon Chris Bowen MP, Minister for Climate Change and Energy.

Yours sincerely <sup>s 22(1)(a)(ii)</sup>

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

*Anthony Albanese*  
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

~~PROTECTED: CABINET~~



20 FEB 2024

THE HON ED HUSIC MP  
MINISTER FOR INDUSTRY AND SCIENCE

MS23-001333

The Hon Anthony Albanese MP  
Prime Minister  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Prime Minister

I am writing to seek your endorsement of changes to the priority countries for the Strategic Element of the Global Science and Technology Diplomacy Fund (the Global Fund). Under the current implementation plan for the Global Fund, changes to priority countries require your approval.

The Global Fund aims to promote international science and technology collaboration and build relationships through targeted funding. In particular, the Strategic Element identifies priority themes and countries that support Australia's national interests, as well as supporting our geostrategic role in the region. The current priority themes are: advanced manufacturing; artificial intelligence; quantum computing; hydrogen production; and RNA (including mRNA) vaccines and therapies.

To promote science diplomacy in the region, I have reviewed the list of priority countries and believe our science diplomacy efforts could be enhanced by expanding the list to include Indonesia, Vietnam and New Zealand. These additions also align with the upcoming *South-East Asia Economic Strategy to 2040* and our growing interest in science and diplomacy in the region. My recent trips to Indonesia and Singapore confirmed a shared interest to increase science collaboration. **S 47C**

**S 47C**

The complete list of priority countries is included in the table below.

This new list will form the basis of grant rounds that I intend to run in 2024 under the Strategic Element of the Global Fund. These rounds will be delivered by the Australian Academy of Technology & Engineering (ATSE), with the first round to be announced as part of the ASEAN Special Summit in March 2024. To bolster regional science diplomacy, my department will work with ATSE to develop guidelines that incentivise applications for collaboration in our region.

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I would also like to take this opportunity to provide an update on my intentions for the Global Fund in the longer term.

**s 34(3)**

**s 47C**

I am confident that these interim changes to the Global Fund's Strategic Element will enhance our nation's scientific and technological capability in nationally important areas, strengthen ties with key partners, and support international collaborations that benefit Australia.

*Yours sincerely*  
**s 22(1)(a)(ii)**

Ed Husic MP

CC: Senator the Hon Penny Wong, Minister for Foreign Affairs

Senator the Hon Katy Gallagher, Minister for Finance

~~PROTECTED: CABINET~~

MC24-057709

Signature Due Date: 30/04/2024

**POLICY APPROVAL FOR DEEPFAKE RELATED OFFENCES****Prime Minister, we recommend you:**

1. Agree to the proposals of the Hon Mark Dreyfus KC MP, Attorney-General, to amend the *Criminal Code Act 1995* (Cth) to:
  - a) amend the definition of 'private sexual material' to include material that has been created or altered using digital technology, such as deepfake images, and Agreed / Not agreed
  - b) create a new aggravated offence for creating private sexual material that is shared online. Agreed / Not agreed
2. Sign the letter to the Attorney-General with your decision, at Attachment A.

**s 22(1)(a)(ii)**ANTHONY ALBANESE  
Comm<sup>s 22(1)(a)(ii)</sup>

Date:

Signed / Not Signed*30/4/24***KEY POINTS**

1. On 24 April 2024, the Hon Mark Dreyfus KC MP, Attorney-General (Attorney-General), wrote to you requesting policy approval to amend the *Criminal Code Act 1995* (Criminal Code) to:
  - a. amend the definition of 'private sexual material' in section 473.1 of the Criminal Code to explicitly state that the definition applies to material that has been created or altered using digital technology, such as 'deepfake' images, and
  - b. create an additional aggravated offence to build on existing section 474.17A of the Criminal Code by adding an additional element that the person created the private sexual material, with a higher maximum penalty of seven years' imprisonment.
2. 'Deepfake' describes synthetic media that have been digitally produced or manipulated to convincingly depict a person, using artificial intelligence (AI) technology.
  - a. The UK Government announced on 16 April 2024 that it would introduce a new law targeting sexually explicit deepfakes.
3. The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet recommends you agree to the Attorney-General's request.
  - a. The amendment to the definition of 'private sexual material' would make clear that offences applying to private sexual material encompass material created or altered using AI technology.

~~PROTECTED CABINET Legislative Secrecy~~

b. The non-consensual sharing of private sexual material using a private carriage service is currently criminalised under section 474.17A of the Criminal Code, which carries a maximum penalty of six years' imprisonment. This additional aggravated offence applies where the person also *created* the private sexual material. **s 42**

**S 42****SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**

4. The definition of 'private sexual material' refers to material that depicts a person who is or appears to be older than 18 years of age. The Attorney-General advises separate existing offences would apply to deepfake child abuse images.

**S 47C , s 47E(d)**

6. The *Online Safety Act 2021* (Cth) is currently subject to an independent statutory review and broader amendments to deal with deepfakes will be considered as part of this review. The Final Report of the Review is due to be provided to the Minister for Communications by 31 October 2024.

**Risks and Sensitivities**

7. The use of digital technology to create private sexual material is a rapidly growing issue and is most often targeted at high profile public figures. There is a growing community expectation for the Government to strengthen responses to this conduct.

**Financial Implications**

8. Nil.

**Consultation**

PM&C DIVISIONS – Office for Women, National Security Division, Industry, Infrastructure and Environment Division

**Ashleigh McDonald**

Assistant Secretary

Legal Policy Branch

29 April 2024

Policy Officer: **s 22(1)(a)(ii)**

Phone no: **s 22(1)(a)(ii)**

**Circulation**

PM&C Secretary; DS, Governance and Corporate Group, **M Hehir**; DS, Economy, Industry and Resilience, **N Williams**; Executive Director, Office for Women, **P Raman**; AS Social Policy and International Engagement Branch, **R White**; FAS, Government Division, **A Walter**; AS, Industry, Innovation, Science & Communications, **A Fell**; AS Domestic Security, **M McCormack** FAS, Ministerial Support Division **G Martin**

PMO Chief of Staff, **s 22(1)(a)(ii)**

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

Cab Sec – **s 22(1)(a)(ii)** CSO-DLO

**ATTACHMENTS:**

**ATTACHMENT A DRAFT LETTER TO THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL**

**ATTACHMENT B INCOMING CORRESPONDENCE**

~~PROTECTED CABINET Legislative Secrecy~~

PRIME MINISTER  
The Hon Anthony Albanese MP

30 APR 2024

Reference: MC24-057709

The Hon Mark Dreyfus KC MP  
Attorney-General  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Attorney-General

*Mark,*

Thank you for your letter dated 24 April 2024 regarding proposed amendments to the *Criminal Code 1995* (Cth).

I agree to your proposed amendments to create an additional aggravated offence for creating private sexual material that is shared online, and to amend the definition of 'private sexual material' to include material that has been created or altered using digital technology, such as deepfake images. ~~s 47C . s 47E(d)~~

~~s 47C , s 47E(d)~~

~~s 47C , s 47E(d)~~ I support this approach to highlight the significance of the reforms to protect victims of sexually explicit deepfake material.

I recommend your department consult with the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts to manage any risks and sensitivities in relation to this work and the Online Safety Act Review which will consider related matters regarding non-consensual sharing of intimate images.

I have copied this letter to the Hon Michelle Rowland MP, Minister for Communications, the Hon Ed Husic MP, Minister for Industry and Science and Senator the Hon Katy Gallagher, Minister for Women, noting women are almost exclusively the target of sexually explicit deepfake material.

Yours sincerely

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

*ANTHONY ALBANESE*  
~~s 22(1)(a)(ii)~~

~~PROTECTED//CABINET Legal Privilege~~



Attorney-General

Reference: MS24-000467

The Hon Anthony Albanese MP  
Prime Minister  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

By email: [s 47E\(d\) @pm.gov.au](mailto:@pm.gov.au)

Dear Prime Minister

I write to seek your policy approval to amend the *Criminal Code Act 1995* (Cth) to create an additional aggravated offence for creating private sexual material that is shared online, and to make it clear that offences applying to private sexual material encompass material that is created or altered using digital technology, such as deepfake images.

The non-consensual sharing of private sexual material using a carriage service is currently criminalised under section 474.17A of the Criminal Code, and carries a maximum penalty of six years' imprisonment. This offence is framed as an aggravated offence, building on section 474.17 of the Criminal Code, which criminalises the use of a carriage service in a manner that reasonable persons would find menacing, harassing or offensive. Separate offences apply to deepfake child abuse images.

As you are aware, the United Kingdom recently announced its intention to introduce a new offence for creating deepfake intimate images or videos of a person without their consent, for the purposes of sexual gratification or causing alarm, distress or humiliation.

## **s 42**

**s 42**

However, there are opportunities to strengthen Commonwealth offences dealing with deepfake sexually explicit images.

I seek your approval for the following amendments:

- amend the definition of *private sexual material* in section 473.1 of the Criminal Code to explicitly state that the definition applies to material that has been created or altered using digital technology, such as deepfake images
- create an additional aggravated offence to build on existing section 474.17A by adding an additional element that the person created the private sexual material, with a higher maximum penalty of 7 years' imprisonment.

## **s 47C , s 47E(d)**

This reform is a high priority, as it would ensure those who create and share sexually explicit deepfakes that have the potential to cause serious and significant harm are subject to additional criminal penalties.

~~PROTECTED//CABINET Legal Privilege~~

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I have copied this letter to the Minister for Communications, the Hon Michelle Rowland MP, given the *Online Safety Act 2021* (Cth) provides a framework for Australians experiencing image-based abuse to report it to the eSafety Commissioner, and also the Minister for Industry and Science, the Hon Ed Husic MP, given his responsibility for the Government's broader agenda on safe and responsible artificial intelligence.

The Online Safety Act is currently subject to an independent statutory review, and I understand that any amendments to deal with deepfakes would be considered after the review reports.

Yours sincerely

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

THE HON MARK DREYFUS KC MP

*24/4/2024*

CC. *The Hon Michelle Rowland MP, Minister for Communications*  
*The Hon Ed Husic MP, Minister for Industry and Science*

~~PROTECTED//CABINET Legal Privilege~~

**NATIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR THE ASSURANCE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN GOVERNMENT****Prime Minister, we recommend you:**

1. Agree that Senator the Hon Katy Gallagher, Minister for Finance, can endorse the national framework for the assurance of artificial intelligence in Government on behalf of the Australian Government at the 21 June 2024 Data and Digital Ministers Meeting.

 Agreed / Not Agreed

2. Sign the draft response advising of your decision, at Attachment A.

 Signed / Not Signed

ANTHONY ALBANESE  
Comrs 22(1)(a)(ii)

Date:

14/6/24

**KEY POINTS**

1. On 5 June 2024, Senator the Hon Katy Gallagher, Minister for Finance, wrote to you (at Attachment B) seeking authority to endorse the national framework for the assurance of artificial intelligence (AI) in Government (the Framework), on behalf of the Australian Government, at the 21 June 2024 Data and Digital Ministers Meeting (DDMM).
2. The Digital Transformation Agency (DTA) and the New South Wales government have co-led the development of the Framework, based on Australia's AI Ethics Principles. Developed in close consultation with all states and territories, the Framework sets the foundations for a nationally consistent approach to AI assurance, providing clear expectations and consistency to assist governments to develop, procure and deploy AI in a safe and responsible way.
  - a. Centred around 8 high-level AI ethics principles, the Framework does not impose specific obligations on jurisdictions; however it does contain commitments for governments to be exemplars in the safe and responsible use of AI, and to continue to collaborate through DDMM to enhance the Framework over time.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**

3. The DDMM was established to drive intergovernmental cooperation on national data and digital priorities. The Chair of DDMM is the Commonwealth Minister for data and/or digital matters (currently the Minister for Finance). DDMM comprises one ministerial representative responsible for data and/or digital matters from each Australian jurisdiction and New Zealand.
4. DDMM's AI program is distinct from the suite of proposals agreed at the 2024-25 Budget as part of the *Commonwealth-wide Work Plan to Support Safe and Responsible Use of AI* submission. This includes the similarly named Commonwealth AI Assurance Framework, which is focused on Commonwealth agencies and has a more practical and granular focus.

5. Responsibility for AI policy in the Commonwealth is dispersed across several agencies including:
  - a. The Department of Industry, Science and Resources, which leads on policy and whole of Government coordination for the safe and responsible use of AI in the wider economy.
  - b. The DTA, which leads policy work on the application of AI within Government, including being responsible for the Policy for the Responsible use of AI in Government and the Commonwealth AI Assurance Framework, as well as leading work on capability uplift in the APS through the development of an AI training syllabus and learning module.
  - c. The Department of Finance provides support to Australian Public Service (APS) agencies to accelerate the adoption of AI in lower risk cases, through the pilot of a whole of Government AI platform (GovAI).

### Risks and Sensitivities

6. AI policy is developing in an environment of rapid change, with multiple agencies across all levels of Government engaged in efforts to harness and regulate the impact of AI. To avoid duplicative effort and inconsistent approaches, careful coordination and information sharing will be critical to the development of a coherent, nationally consistent AI ecosystem.

### Financial Implications NIL

### Consultation

PM&C DIVISIONS – NSD; GOVERNMENT DIVISION; COMM-STATE RELATIONS; INDUSTRY, INFRASTRUCTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

**Heather Cotching**

A/g First Assistant Secretary

Economic Division

12 June 2024

**Policy Officer:** ~~s 22(1)(a)(ii)~~

Phone no: ~~s 22(1)(a)(ii)~~

### Circulation

PM&C Secretary; DS, Economic, Industry and Resilience Division, *N Williams*; FAS, Economic Division, *H Cotching*; FAS, Industry, Infrastructure and Environment Division, *N Luchetti*; AS, Commonwealth-State Relations, *L Jordan*; FAS, Ministerial Support Division, *G Martin*

PMO Chief of Staff, ~~s 22(1)(a)(ii)~~

Cabinet Secretary ~~s 22(1)(a)(ii)~~

CSO DLO

### ATTACHMENTS:

#### ATTACHMENT A DRAFT RESPONSE

#### ATTACHMENT B INCOMING CORRESPONDENCE



PRIME MINISTER  
The Hon Anthony Albanese MP

14 JUN 2024

Reference: MC24-086140

Senator the Hon Katy Gallagher  
Minister for Finance  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Minister

*Katy,*

Thank you for your letter dated 5 June 2024 regarding the national framework for the assurance of artificial intelligence in Government (the Framework).

I agree to your request for authorisation to endorse the Framework on behalf of the Commonwealth Government at the 21 June 2024 Data and Digital Ministers Meeting.

I note that the Framework does not impose any specific obligations on jurisdictions and is consistent with the approach and practices in the Commonwealth AI Assurance Framework.

Yours sincerely <sup>s 22(1)(a)(ii)</sup>

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

*ANTHONY ALBANESE*  
**s 22(1)(a)(ii)**



## Senator the Hon Katy Gallagher

Minister for Finance  
Minister for Women  
Minister for the Public Service  
Senator for the Australian Capital Territory

REF: MS24-000027

The Hon Anthony Albanese MP  
Prime Minister of Australia  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

PM  
Dear Prime Minister,

I am writing to seek your authority to endorse the national framework for the assurance of artificial intelligence in government (the national framework) on behalf of the Australian Government at the 21 June 2024 Data and Digital Ministers Meeting (DDMM).

The Digital Transformation Agency (DTA) and NSW Government have been co-leading the development of the national framework through the DDMM Senior Official Group and the National AI Working Group.

The national framework establishes nationally consistent cornerstones of AI assurance centred on Australia's AI Ethics Principles, including AI governance, a risk-based approach, alignment to standards, procurement and core assurance practices aligned to the principles. While the national framework does not impose specific obligations on jurisdictions, it does contain two specific commitments for government to:

1. be exemplars in the safe and responsible use of AI. This requires a lawful, ethical approach that places the rights, wellbeing and interests of people first; and
2. continue to collaborate, through the DDMM, to improve the national framework.

This national framework has been developed in close consultation with all states and territories and members of the National AI Working Group including the Department of Science, Industry and Resources (DISR).

The national framework aligns with the assurance approach and practices in the Commonwealth AI Assurance Framework and complements the Safe and Responsible AI work being undertaken by DISR on whole-of-economy AI guidance and mandatory guardrails.

Yours sincerely,

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

**Katy Gallagher**

5 June 2024

~~PROTECTED CABINET~~

MC24-115138

## PROPOSALS PAPER FOR INTRODUCING MANDATORY GUARDRAILS FOR ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN HIGH-RISK SETTINGS

Prime Minister, we recommend you:

CC: Cabinet Secretary

1. Sign the response at Attachment A to the Hon Ed Husic MP, Minister for Industry and Science (Minister Husic), agreeing to the release of the *Proposals Paper for Introducing Mandatory Guardrails for Artificial Intelligence in High-Risk Settings*, **s 47C, s 47E(d)**

**s 47C, s 47E(d)**

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

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

**Signed / Not Signed**

**3/9/24**

Date:

ANTHONY ALBANESE

Comments: **s 22(1)(a)(ii)**

### KEY POINTS

1. On 23 August 2024, Minister Husic wrote seeking your agreement to release the *Proposals Paper for Introducing Mandatory Guardrails for Artificial Intelligence in High-Risk Settings*, **s 47C, s 47E(d)**

**s 47C, s 47E(d)**

- a. In January 2024, in its interim response to the Safe and Responsible AI in Australia consultation, the Government committed to develop a regulatory environment that builds trust and promotes the adoption of artificial intelligence (AI).

**s 34(3)**

- a. A set of six proposed principles to define high-risk uses of AI, which include having regard to impacts on human rights, health and safety, legal effects, impacts on groups, systemic impacts and severity of potential impacts.

- b. Ten proposed guardrails which may be put in place, focused on ensuring the testing, transparency and accountability of AI models being used in high-risk settings.
  - c. Options to implement the guardrails, ranging from a domain-specific approach of adapting existing regulatory frameworks to a new, standalone Australian AI Act.

- a. We recommend you agree that the Minister release the Proposals Paper, **s 47C, s 47E(d)** **s 47C, s 47E(d)** with final details and timing of the paper's release to be settled between offices. A draft response is provided for your signature at Attachment A.

- a. PM&C supports agreeing the release of the Proposals Paper **s 47C, s 47E(d)** **s 47C, s 47E(d)**

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# s 47C , s 47E(d)

## SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

1. While AI has important potential social and economic benefits, it requires a regulatory system that is fit for purpose. Internationally, governments are introducing new regulations to address the risks of AI, with a focus on preventative, risk-based guardrails across the AI supply chain and lifecycle.
2. The Proposals Paper forms part of the Commonwealth-wide work plan to support safe and responsible AI, **s 47C , s 47E(d)** Other streams of work include:

a. Creation of the *Policy for responsible use of AI in government*, commencing 1 September 2024;

## S. 47C

- Establishment of an AI Advisory Body to advise Government on AI-related policy; and
- Reviews of consumer, copyright and health and aged care regulations as they pertain to AI.

## Risks and Sensitivities

Some stakeholders may raise concerns that the Government is not moving quickly enough to regulate AI, noting Government previously consulted on AI from June-August 2023. Earlier consultation sought feedback on the role of Government to mitigate the risks of AI and support safe and responsible AI practices. The Government's interim response to that consultation was released on 17 January 2024.

## Financial Implications: Nil

## Consultation

PM&C DIVISIONS – Industry, Infrastructure and Environment Division; Social Policy Division; Intergovernmental Relations and Reform Division; Economic Division; National Security Division; Multilateral Economic Engagement Division; Government Division; Cabinet Division; Office for Women.

DEPARTMENTS – DISR; Treasury

**Peter Good**

A/g Assistant Secretary

Industry, Innovation, Science, Communications

30 August 2024

**Policy Officer: s 22(1)(a)(ii)**

Phone no: **s 22(1)(a)(ii)**

## Circulation

PM&C Secretary; DS, Economy, Industry and Resilience Group, **N Williams**; DS, International and Security Group, **G Fletcher**; DS and COO, Governance and Corporate Group, **M Hehir**; Executive Director, Office for Women, **P Raman**; DS, Social Policy Group, **L Hefren-Webb**; FAS, Industry, Infrastructure and Environment Division, **N Luchetti**; a/g FAS, Economic Division, **J Neil**; FAS, Intergovernmental Relations and Reform Division, **L Steel**; FAS, National Security Division, **K Morony**; a/g FAS, Cabinet Division, **P Hupalo**; FAS, Ministerial Support Division, **A Spyrou**; a/g AS, Industry, Innovation, Science and Technology, **P Good**; AS, Data, Digital and Analytics, **H Cotching**; AS, Gender Based Violence and Social Policy, **R White**; AS, Commonwealth-State Relations, **J McLean Dreyfus**; AS, Defence and Intelligence, **C Heath**; AS, Domestic Security, **L Webber**; a/g AS, Cabinet Secretariat, **R Conway**; a/g AS, Fiscal Policy, **D Holmes**; AS, Financial Sector, Taxation and Workplace Relations, **S Iyer**.

PMO Chief of Staff; **s 22(1)(a)(ii)**

Cabinet Secretary **s 22(1)(a)(ii)**

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

PROTECTED CABINET

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**ATTACHMENTS:**

**ATTACHMENT A DRAFT RESPONSE**

**ATTACHMENT B INCOMING CORRESPONDENCE**

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PRIME MINISTER  
The Hon Anthony Albanese MP

Reference: MC24-115138

03 SEP 2024

The Hon Ed Husic MP  
Minister for Industry and Science  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Minister

*Ed.*

Thank you for your letter received 23 August 2024 seeking agreement to release the *Proposals Paper for Introducing Mandatory Guardrails for Artificial Intelligence (AI) in High-Risk Settings* (the Proposals Paper).

I agree to release of the Proposals Paper, with final form and details of the release to be settled between our offices and the offices of relevant Ministers.

**s 47C , s 47E(d)  
s 34(3)**

I have copied this correspondence to the Hon Richard Marles MP, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Defence, the Hon Dr Jim Chalmers MP, Treasurer, Senator the Hon Katy Gallagher, Minister for Finance and Minister for Women, the Hon Tony Burke MP, Minister for Home Affairs, the Hon Mark Dreyfus KC MP, Attorney General and Cabinet Secretary, the Hon Michelle Rowland MP, Minister for Communications, and Senator the Hon Murray Watt, Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations.

Yours sincerely

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

*ANTHONY ALBANESE*

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

Parliament House CANBERRA ACT 2600  
Telephone (02) 6277 7700  
[www.pm.gov.au](http://www.pm.gov.au)

~~PROTECTED CABINET~~

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**THE HON ED HUSIC MP  
MINISTER FOR INDUSTRY AND SCIENCE**

MS24-000704

23 AUG 2024

The Hon Anthony Albanese MP  
Prime Minister  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Prime Minister

I am writing to seek your agreement to release the *Proposals Paper for Introducing Mandatory Guardrails for Artificial Intelligence (AI) in High-Risk Settings* (the Proposals Paper - enclosed), with final details to be confirmed between your office and the offices of relevant Ministers.

AI provides immense opportunities to boost productivity and provide capabilities to support a future made in Australia. However, consultations on safe and responsible AI highlighted that our current regulatory system is not fit-for-purpose to respond to the risks posed by AI. I have worked across government to consider how Australia can develop a fit-for-purpose regulatory settings to support the adoption of AI and build public trust in AI. The work has focused on creating the right regulatory environment to capture the benefits of AI while ensuring the pace of development and deployment is safe and responsible.

**S 34(3)**  
**s 34(3)**

The Proposals Paper has been informed by advice of the temporary AI Expert Group, which was established in January this year. It has also been developed in close consultation with your department and with advice from across the Commonwealth. The AI Expert Group supports the paper. There is also broad agreement across the Commonwealth on the Proposals Paper and its release.

I am seeking agreement to release the Proposals Paper by correspondence as it will not pre-empt a decision of government. The Proposals Paper instead seeks public feedback on key issues such as defining high-risk settings for AI, the types of guardrails that need to be put in place and regulatory options to implement the proposed guardrails.

~~PROTECTED: CABINET~~

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Should you agree to the release of the Proposals Paper, I propose that the final form and details of the release of the Proposals Paper be finalised between my office, your office and the offices of the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Defence, the Attorney-General, the Treasurer, the Finance Minister and Minister for Women, the Minister for Home Affairs, the Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations, and the Minister for Communications **s 47C , s 47E(d)**  
**s 47C , s 47E(d)**

Agreement to release the Proposals Paper by correspondence enables public engagement at the earliest opportunity, maximising time for consultation **s 47C , s 47E(d)**

**s 47C , s 47E(d)** Releasing the Proposals Paper soon will also signal to the public that the Commonwealth is taking a coordinated and cohesive regulatory response to AI, **s 34(3)**  
**s 34(3)**

It is critical for the Commonwealth to consult with stakeholders and the public on these key issues. **s 47C , s 47E(d)**

# **s 47C , s 47E(d)**

## **s 47C**

**s 47C**

Setting the right regulatory environment will be central to building trust with the community and boosting the adoption of AI across the economy. In turn, this will provide important capabilities for our businesses to support the Government's ambitions for a Future Made in Australia. I look forward to continuing to work with you and other Ministerial colleagues to help the Government to achieve our shared goals to mitigate risks of AI while supporting innovations in AI development and deployment.

I have copied this letter to the Hon Richard Marles MP, Deputy Prime Minister, and Minister for Defence, Treasurer, the Hon Dr Jim Chalmers MP, Senator the Hon Katy Gallagher, Minister for Finance and Minister for Women, the Hon Tony Burke MP, Minister for Home Affairs, the Hon Mark Dreyfus KC MP, Attorney-General, Cabinet Secretary, the Hon Michelle Rowland MP, Minister for Communications, and the Hon Murray Watt MP, Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations.

Thank you for your consideration of these matters.

## **s 22(1)(a)(ii)**

Enc 1

CC: The Hon Richard Marles MP, the Deputy Prime Minister, Minister for Defence  
The Hon Dr Jim Chalmers MP, Treasurer  
Senator the Hon Katy Gallagher, Minister for Finance, Minister for the Public Service, Minister for Women  
The Hon Tony Burke MP, Minister for Home Affairs, Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, Minister for Cyber Security, Minister for the Arts  
The Hon Mark Dreyfus KC MP, Attorney General, Cabinet Secretary

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The Hon Michelle Rowland MP, Minister for Communications  
The Hon Murray Watt MP, Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations

~~PROTECTED: CABINET~~

~~PROTECTED CABINET~~

MC24-131257

**s 47C**

Prime Minister, we recommend you:

1. Sign the draft response to the Hon Ed Husic MP, Minister for Industry and Science, at Attachment A,

**s 47C**

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

Signed /  Not Signed

*30/10/24*

Date:

ANTHONY ALBANESE

~~Co~~**s 22(1)(a)(ii)**

#### KEY POINTS

1. On 10 October 2024, the Hon Ed Husic MP, Minister for Industry and Science (Minister Husic), wrote to you

**s 47C**

**s 34(3)**

**s 47C , s 47E(d)**

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**PROTECTED CABINET**

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**

1. The AI Advisory Body forms part of the Commonwealth-wide work plan to support safe and responsible AI, **s 47C , s 47E(d)** Other streams of work include:
  - a. public consultation on options to implement mandatory guardrails for high-risk uses of AI, which opened on 5 September and closed on 4 October 2024
  - b. creation of the *Policy for responsible use of AI in government*, which took effect on 1 September 2024

**s 47C**

- d. reviews of consumer, copyright and health and aged care regulations as they pertain to AI.
2. On 26 March 2024, the Senate established a Select Committee on Adopting AI. The Committee tabled an interim report on 10 October 2024. During a hearing of the Committee on 16 August 2024, Senator David Pocock directed questions to DISR officials on whether the Body would be remunerated. Officials indicated that remuneration of the Body was still an open question, and that DISR was considering how it might be funded.

**Risks and Sensitivities:**

**s 34(3)**  
**s 47C , s 47E(d)**

**Consultation**

PM&C DIVISIONS – Economic; Office for Women; Cabinet Division

DEPARTMENTS – DISR.

**Peter Good**

Assistant Secretary

Industry, Innovation, Science and Communications

24 October 2024

**Policy Officer: s 22(1)(a)(ii)**

Phone no: **s 22(1)(a)(ii)**

**Circulation**

PM&C Secretary; DS, Economy, Industry and Resilience Group, **N Williams**; DS, Corporate and Governance Group, **M Hehir**; ED, Office for Women, **P Raman**; FAS, Industry, Infrastructure and Environment Division, **N Luchetti**; FAS, Ministerial Support Division, **A Spyrou**; A/g FAS, Cabinet Division, **P Hupalo**; A/g FAS, Fiscal, **J Neil**; FAS, Office for Women, **M Leahy**; AS, Industry, Innovation, Science and Communications, **P Good**; A/g AS, Cabinet Secretariat, **B Costigan**; A/g AS, Fiscal Policy, **D Holmes**; AS, Gender Based Violence and Social Policy, **R White**.

PMO Chief of Staff: **s 22(1)(a)(ii)**  
**s 22(1)(a)(ii)**

Advisers: **s 22(1)(a)(ii)**

CSO – **s 22(1)(a)(ii)** CSO-DLO

~~PROTECTED CABINET~~

**ATTACHMENTS:**

**ATTACHMENT A DRAFT RESPONSE**

**ATTACHMENT B INCOMING CORRESPONDENCE**

~~PROTECTED CABINET~~

~~PROTECTED CABINET~~



**PRIME MINISTER**  
The Hon Anthony Albanese MP

Reference: MC24-131257

30 OCT 2024

The Hon Ed Husic MP  
Minister for Industry and Science  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Minister

Thank you for your letter dated 10 October 2024  
**s 47C**

**s 47C , s 47E(d)**

I have copied this correspondence to the Hon Dr Jim Chalmers MP, Treasurer, Senator the Hon Katy Gallagher, Minister for Finance, and the Hon Mark Dreyfus KC MP, Cabinet Secretary.

Yours sincerely

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

ANTHONY ALBANESE

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

~~PROTECTED CABINET~~

MC24-142689

Signature Due Date: 15/11/2024

## APPROVAL OF JOBS AND SKILLS AUSTRALIA ANNUAL WORK PLAN

**Acting Prime Minister, we recommend you:**

**CC Cabinet Secretary**

1. Agree to the request of the Hon Andrew Giles MP, Minister for Skills and Training (Minister Giles) to approve the Jobs and Skills Australia (JSA) 2024-25 Annual Work Plan (work plan) and its public release.
2. Sign the letter at Attachment A informing Minister Giles of your decision.

**Agreed / Not Agreed**

**Signed / Not Signed**

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

*20/11/24*

RICHARD MARLES

Date:

**Comments:**

### KEY POINTS

1. On 6 November 2024, Minister Giles wrote to the Hon Anthony Albanese MP, Prime Minister, seeking agreement to the JSA work plan and its public release on JSA's website as soon as practicable following agreement.
  - a. The work plan outlines JSA's business-as-usual activities, as well as new studies on Artificial Intelligence **s 22(1)(a)(ii)**

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

2. The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (PM&C) support the request from Minister Giles to agree to the work plan and its publication. **s 22(1)(a)(ii)**

**s 22(1)(a)(i)**

~~PROTECTED CABINET~~

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

**Caitlin Delaney**  
Assistant Secretary  
Immigration and Education  
12 November 2024

**Policy Officer:** s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
Phone no: s 22(1)(a)(ii)

**Circulation**

PM&C Secretary; DS, Social Policy Group, *L Hefren-Webb*; FAS, Social Policy Division, *G Doherty*; A/g FAS, Cabinet Division, *P Hupalo*; FAS, Economic Division, *J Evans*; FAS, Industry, Infrastructure and Environment, *N Luchetti*; AS, Fiscal Policy, *J Neil*; AS, Immigration and Education, *C Delaney*; A/g AS, Cabinet Secretariat, *B Costigan*; AS, Human Services, *E Rule*; AS, Environment, Resources and Agriculture, *M Strapp*. A/g FAS, Ministerial Support Division, *B Keily*

PMO Chief of Staff: s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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

CSOs: s 22(1)(a)(ii) CSO DLOs

~~PROTECTED CABINET~~

**ATTACHMENTS:**

**ATTACHMENT A DRAFT RESPONSE**

**ATTACHMENT B INCOMING CORRESPONDENCE**

~~PROTECTED CABINET~~

~~PROTECTED CABINET~~



ACTING PRIME MINISTER

Reference: MC24-142689

The Hon Andrew Giles MP  
Minister for Skills and Training  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Minister

*Andrew*

Thank you for your letter dated 6 November 2024 to the Hon Anthony Albanese MP, Prime Minister, seeking agreement to the Jobs and Skills Australia (JSA) 2024-25 Annual Work Plan (work plan) and its publication.

I agree to the work plan and its public release.

I have copied the Hon Dr Jim Chalmers MP, the Treasurer, Senator the Hon Katy Gallagher, Minister for Finance and Minister for Women, the Hon Mark Dreyfus KC MP, Cabinet Secretary, Senator the Hon Murray Watt, Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations, the Hon Jason Clare MP, Minister for Education, the Hon Ed Husic MP, Minister for Industry and Science, and Senator the Hon Malarndirri McCarthy, Minister for Indigenous Australians.

Yours sincerely

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

RICHARD MARLES

*20/11/24*

~~PROTECTED/CABINET~~



**THE HON ANDREW GILES MP  
MINISTER FOR SKILLS AND TRAINING**

MS24-000921

The Hon Anthony Albanese MP  
Prime Minister  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

~~s 47E(d)~~ [@pm.gov.au](mailto:@pm.gov.au)

Dear Prime Minister

I am writing to seek your agreement of the Jobs and Skills Australia (JSA) 2024–25 Work Plan (Work Plan) at Attachment A and for JSA to publicly release the Work Plan as soon as practicable following your agreement.

This Work Plan has an economy wide perspective framed around 5 strategic Commissioner's outcomes—fostering inclusive participation; understanding today's workforce; shaping Australia's future workforce; optimising pathways and system architecture; and activating and informing dialogue. These 5 strategic outcomes aim to advance inclusive participation and inform dialogue of Australia's current and future workforce needs and priorities.

Following extensive consultation commencing in November 2023, I am proposing this Work Plan for your agreement which includes JSA's business-as-usual activities while also looking to improve upon data, analytics, workforce forecasting and advice in the following areas:

- the implications of generative artificial intelligence for the labour market and education and training systems

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

The proposed Work Plan will improve JSA's nationally accessed evidence-base and provide deeper research and analysis of Australia's labour market and skills systems. These projects will be valuable investments supporting the Government to address key workforce and skills challenges, maximise its return on investment, and holistically boost labour force productivity in Australia's current and future economy.

Subject to your approval, the Work Plan would be published on JSA's website as soon as practicable following approval. ~~s 22(1)(a)(ii)~~

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

~~PROTECTED/CABINET~~

~~PROTECTED//CABINET~~

I have copied this letter to Senator the Hon Murray Watt, Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations, the Treasurer, the Hon Dr Jim Chalmers MP, Senator the Hon Katy Gallagher, Minister for Finance and the Hon Jason Clare MP, Minister for Education.

Yours sincerely

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

ANDREW GILES

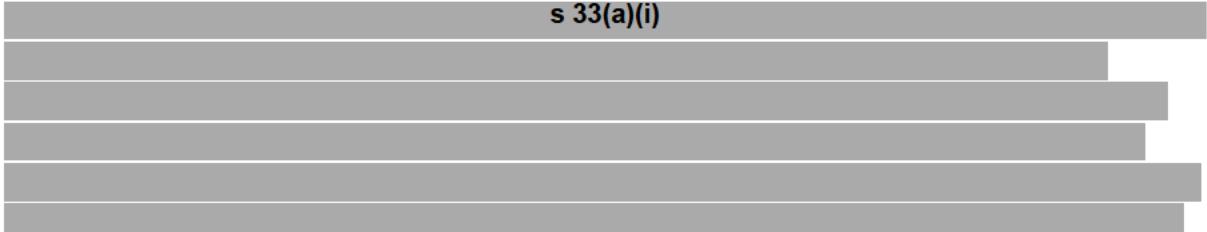
*6/11/2024*

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s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 33(a)(i)



s 47C , s 47E(d)

~~PROTECTED CABINET~~

MS24-001204

Signature Due Date: 12/12/2024

MINISTERIAL INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL REQUEST - HUSIC - SINGAPORE -  
15 - 17 DECEMBER 2024

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

TRAVEL SUMMARY

Travelling Party:	Minister Husic <b>s 22(1)(a)(ii)</b>
Travel dates:	Sunday, 15 December to Tuesday, 17 December 2024
Key event(s):	Signing of a renewed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Artificial Intelligence (AI) cooperation between Australia and Singapore
Strategy:	Singapore is a global leader in AI investment and innovation, and Singapore's broader digital economy comprises a significant component of its GDP. The Australia-Singapore MoU on AI Cooperation enables collaboration on areas spanning AI governance, workforce, and standards.

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

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**PROTECTED CABINET**

2. The purpose of the visit would be to:

- a. Sign a renewed MoU on AI cooperation between Australia and Singapore, consistent with commitments you made on 5 March 2024 during the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Leaders' Meeting with Prime Minister Lee.
- b. Announce the outcomes from the first round of the Global Science and Technology Diplomacy Fund – Strategic Element program and promote Australia's ongoing commitment to strengthening scientific collaboration with our nearest neighbours and embed Australia as a priority partner for science and technology.

## **s 22(1)(a)(ii)**

3. PM&C support the travel noting the following:

- a. Prime Minister Albanese and the then Prime Minister Lee agreed to enhance cooperation on digital transformation including on artificial intelligence at the 5 March 2024 Annual Leaders' Meeting.
  - i. Minister Husic's travel and proposed activities will allow Australia to renew this element in our broader strategic engagement with Singapore, strengthen existing pathways for scientific collaboration, and more broadly contribute to Australia's strategic objectives under the *Southeast Asia Economic Strategy to 2040*. Ministers welcomed bilateral cooperation on AI at the 3 December Singapore-Australia Joint Ministerial Committee.
- b. The Minister's visit presents an opportunity to announce from the first round of Australia's Global Science and Technology Diplomacy Fund – Strategic Element program, **s 22(1)(a)(ii)**

## **s 22(1)(a)(ii)**

### **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**

The travel will compliment Departmental Secretaries attendance at the 9<sup>th</sup> Singapore-Australia Public Service Roundtable. The event will focus on AI, **s 22(1)(a)(ii)**

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

## **s 22(1)(a)(ii)**

- d. Should the travel be approved, we understand that DISR will work with the Minister Husic's office to arrange bilateral meetings with the Minister, Secretary Quinn and Singaporean counterparts.

### **Risks and Sensitivities**

PM&C notes the Minister Husic's travel request proposes a potential speech on "Australia's AI agenda and guardrails" to a Singaporean audience of industry and academics. PM&C considers it will be important to align any public-facing messaging with the Government's ongoing work on AI guardrails, including avoiding pre-empting any decision yet to be taken.

## **s 34(3)**

~~PROTECTED CABINET~~

f. Given the whole-of-economy equities involved in the Government's ongoing work on AI regulation and guardrails, PM&C considers any proposed speech be tested with your office. PM&C will work with DISR to ensure any proposed speech is aligned with broader ongoing work on AI.

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

**Consultation**

PM&C DIVISIONS – International, Cabinet, II&E, Digital and Data

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

Senior Adviser, Government Section  
Parliamentary and Government Branch  
6 December 2024

**Policy Officer: s 22(1)(a)(ii)**

Phone no: **s 22(1)(a)(ii)**

**Circulation**

PM&C Secretary; DS, Governance and Corporate Group, **M Hehir**; DS, International and Security Group, **G Fletcher**; A/g FAS, Ministerial Support Division, **B Keily**; FAS, International Division, **P Kang**; A/g FAS, Government Division, **A McDonald**; AS, Parliamentary and Government Branch, **D Belgrove**; SA, Government Section, **s 22(1)(a)(ii)**  
**s 47E(d)**[@pmc.gov.au](mailto:@pmc.gov.au)

**PMO Chief of Staff: s 22(1)(a)(ii)**

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

**Advisers: s 22(1)(a)(ii)**

**ATTACHMENTS:**

**ATTACHMENT A DRAFT RESPONSE TO THE MINISTER'S OFFICE**

**ATTACHMENT B INCOMING CORRESPONDENCE**

**OFFICIAL: Sensitive**

**Classification 'Official: Sensitive'**

Email to Minister Husic CoS s 22(1)(a)(ii) [@industry.gov.au\) cc s 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\) s 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\) \[@pm.gov.au\\); Ministerial Travels 47E\\(d\\) \\[@pmc.gov.au\\\); Prime Minister's DLO s 47E\\\(d\\\) \\\[@pm.gov.au\\\\); IPEA s 47E\\\\(d\\\\) \\\\[@ipea.gov.au\\\\\); Minister's DLO/s \\\\\(s 47E\\\\\(d\\\\\) \\\\\[@industry.gov.au\\\\\\); Acting Minister's CoS s 22\\\\\\(1\\\\\\)\\\\\\(a\\\\\\)\\\\\\(ii\\\\\\) \\\\\\[@dcceew.gov.au\\\\\\\); EO to the Secretary of the Minister's Department/s s 22\\\\\\\(1\\\\\\\)\\\\\\\(a\\\\\\\)\\\\\\\(ii\\\\\\\) \\\\\\\[@industry.gov.au\\\\\\\\); s 22\\\\\\\\(1\\\\\\\\)\\\\\\\\(a\\\\\\\\)\\\\\\\\(ii\\\\\\\\) \\\\\\\\[@pm.gov.au\\\\\\\\\); s 22\\\\\\\\\(1\\\\\\\\\)\\\\\\\\\(a\\\\\\\\\)\\\\\\\\\(ii\\\\\\\\\) \\\\\\\\\[@pm.gov.au\\\\\\\\\\); s 22\\\\\\\\\\(1\\\\\\\\\\)\\\\\\\\\\(a\\\\\\\\\\)\\\\\\\\\\(ii\\\\\\\\\\) \\\\\\\\\\[@pm.gov.au\\\\\\\\\\\);\\\\\\\\\\]\\\\\\\\\\(mailto:@pm.gov.au\\\\\\\\\\)\\\\\\\\\]\\\\\\\\\(mailto:@pm.gov.au\\\\\\\\\)\\\\\\\\]\\\\\\\\(mailto:@pm.gov.au\\\\\\\\)\\\\\\\]\\\\\\\(mailto:@industry.gov.au\\\\\\\)\\\\\\]\\\\\\(mailto:@dcceew.gov.au\\\\\\)\\\\\]\\\\\(mailto:@industry.gov.au\\\\\)\\\\]\\\\(mailto:@ipea.gov.au\\\\)\\\]\\\(mailto:@pm.gov.au\\\)\\]\\(mailto:@pmc.gov.au\\)\]\(mailto:@pm.gov.au\)](mailto:@industry.gov.au)

**SUBJECT: APPROVAL – International Travel – Minister Husic – Singapore – 15 to 17 December 2024**

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

I refer to your correspondence dated 2 December 2024 seeking approval for the Minister for Industry and Science, the Hon Ed Husic MP, to travel to Singapore from 15 to 17 December 2024.

The Prime Minister has asked me to convey to you that:

- He has approved Minister Husic's travel to Singapore from 15 to 17 December 2024, accompanied by two advisers.

**s 47E(d)**

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

**OFFICIAL: Sensitive**

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

Kind regards

**OFFICIAL: Sensitive**

OFFICIAL

## Ministerial International Travel Request Form

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

**Minister:** The Hon Ed Husic, Minister for Industry and Science

**Is the minister travelling on behalf of another Minister? No**

**If yes, who:** N/A

**Destination Country/ies:**

Singapore

**The Minister intends to depart Australia on:**

15/12/2024 3:55 PM

**And return to Australia on:**

17/12/2024 8:25 AM

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

**Trip Purpose:**

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

Singapore is a global leader in research and development, ranking first in Asia and fifth globally in the 2023 Global Innovation Index. Its *Research, Innovation and Enterprise 2025* (RIE2025) plan allocates S\$28 billion to advanced manufacturing, health, sustainability, and the digital economy. Recent funding signals Singapore's focus on deep tech, including semiconductors (Singapore currently produces 10% of the world's chips), nucleic acid therapies and medtech. Its vital role in AI and quantum computing also offers additional opportunities for deeper bilateral collaboration.

The objective of Minister Husic's visit to Singapore is to sign a renewed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on AI cooperation between Australia and Singapore, alongside Singapore's Minister for Digital Development and Information, Josephine Teo.

**s. 47E(d)**

**s. 47E(d)**

Signing of this MoU is a timely impetus to reinvigorating our cooperation with Singapore in areas such as AI development and deployment; workforce and talent; ethics and governance; and safety, security and standards. Renewing the MoU is also consistent with and acquires commitments made on March 5, 2024

**OFFICIAL**

during the 9th Annual Leaders' Meeting (ALM) between Prime Minister Albanese and then Prime Minister Lee to renew AI cooperation.

The visit is also an opportunity to announce the outcomes from the first round of the Global Science and Technology Diplomacy Fund (GSTDF) – Strategic Element program. Three of the nine successful applications from this first round will involve partnerships with Singaporean institutions and companies. It is intended for Minister Husic to visit a university site with one of the successful Singaporean partners. This will allow the Minister to promote the government's ongoing commitment to strengthening scientific collaboration with our nearest neighbours and embed Australia as a priority partner for science and technology. This is consistent with broader government objectives under the Southeast Asia Economic Strategy to 2040.

**S 22(1)(a)(ii)**

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

DPAA

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MS24-000850

**MINISTERIAL INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL REQUEST - O'CONNOR - FRANCE -  
7 TO 15 SEPTEMBER 2024**

**Prime Minister, we recommend you:**

1. Approve travel for the Hon Brendan O'Connor MP, Member for Gorton, representing the Hon Andrew Giles MP, Minister for Skills and Training, to France from 7 to 15 September 2024, under regulation 46 of the *Parliamentary Business Resources Regulations 2017*.

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

Approved / Not Approved

3/9/24

Date:

ANTH  
Comm

**TRAVEL SUMMARY**

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

**KEY POINTS**

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

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~~PROTECTED CABINET~~

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

7. Mr O'Connor would also join Ms Sally Curtain, CEO of Bendigo Kangan Institute (TAFE, VETASSESS), on a visit of the Tata Global Artificial Intelligence (AI) Centre of Excellence in Paris, which focuses on brain-machine interfaces, machine empathy and AI creativity. The centre supports France's 2030 National Strategy for AI by creating jobs and internships, aiming to double the AI-skilled workforce in five years. The centre will also drive AI adoption across BFS, manufacturing, energy, and consumer sectors in the French economy.

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

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

- The Hon Brendan O'Connor will join Sally Curtain, CEO of Bendigo Kangan Institute (TAFE, VETASSESS), on a visit the Tata Global Artificial Intelligence (AI) Centre of Excellence in Paris. Tata (TCS) launched this centre at the Choose France Summit, hosted by President Emmanuel Macron. Located at TCS Pace Port™ in Paris, the centre will focus on brain-machine interfaces, machine empathy, and AI creativity. It supports France's 2030 National Strategy for AI by creating jobs and internships, aiming to double the AI-skilled workforce in five years. The centre will also drive AI adoption across BFS, manufacturing, energy, and consumer sectors in the French economy.

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