

**From:** s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
**To:** [Willis, Max](#)  
**Cc:** s 22(1)(a)(ii); [Chittick, Craig](#); s 22(1)(a)(ii); s 22(1)(a)(ii); [Gartrell, Tim](#)  
**Subject:** PM meeting with Bill Gates [SEC=PROTECTED]  
**Date:** Monday, 23 January 2023 5:16:02 PM

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~~**PROTECTED**~~

Dear Max

The Dept didn't have a note-taker at the PM's 21/1/23 meeting with Mr Gates, but here's the crux of the issues discussed:

. A good meeting and discussion.

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

. Discussion covered renewables and the energy transition.

- The PM briefed Mr Gates on the government's changed approach to climate change and emission reduction, and the strong settings across the Australia community for stronger, sensible action.
- The PM set out his vision for Australia to play a leading role in new energy, and the enormous potential we had in terms of the best renewable resources, the best, high-quality resource sector experience and high quality innovation and applied research.

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

. Discussion also covered current challenges in global development, including in the context of climate change, and global health and food security.

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

I have copied s 22(1)(a)(ii) who also attended and could add if I missed anything important.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

**s 22(1)(a)(ii) | Principal Adviser, International**

Office of the Prime Minister, the Hon Anthony Albanese MP  
Parliament House, Canberra ACT 2600

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***I acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the lands and waters where I work. I pay my respect to their culture, and their elders past, present and emerging.***

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

**DEPARTMENT OF THE PRIME MINISTER AND CABINET****To:** Prime Minister**SUBJECT:** Meeting with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (the Foundation)**MEETING WITH:** Bill Gates, Co-chair of the Foundation**TIME/DATE:** 11am 21 January 2023**VENUE:** Kirribilli House, Sydney**Purpose of Meeting**

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

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

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

**Key Points**

- Pleased you're back in Australia – we greatly value your contribution to reducing global inequity. Your dedication to giving back is inspiring. You are always welcome here.
- Congratulations – I hear you will become a grandfather in 2023. Children and grandchildren bring focus to our efforts to improve the world for future generations.

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

***Global & regional health security***

- Grateful for the Foundation's commitment to improving global health, including in Australia's region.
- During the pandemic, pleased Australia contributed [A\$300 million] to Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, to support equitable vaccine access. The Foundation's support to Gavi [US\$1.8 billion] saved countless lives.
- Agree we must be better prepared for the next pandemic. Australia is engaged in efforts to strengthen preparedness, including the Pandemic Fund and negotiating a pandemic treaty.
  - s. 47C, s. 47E(d)
- Pleased Australia is also working with the Foundation to eliminate malaria in our region and develop Emergency Operations Centres in the Mekong.
- s. 47C, s. 47E(d)

~~OFFICIAL: Sensitive~~

*Climate Change*

- My Government shares your commitment to ambitious action on climate change.

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

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

the transition is a tremendous opportunity to build new industries and sources of prosperity.

- We've committed to reduce emissions by 43 per cent below 2005 levels by 2030 and to achieve net zero by 2050.
- Climate change is threatening hard won-development gains. Australia's region is seeing an increase in climate-related disasters, leading to increasing poverty and instability, and worsening health outcomes.

s. 33(a)(iii)

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

*Development Finance*

- Australia recognises the enormous challenge of financing the global response to climate change while maintaining progress on development objectives.

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

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

s. 33(a)(iii)

s. 33(a)(iii)

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

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

***Food Security***

- Appreciate the Foundation's commitment to supporting global food security through:
  - Short term assistance to Africa and South Asia; and,
  - Longer-term improvements in agricultural productivity and sustainability.
- Pleased Australia is cooperating with the Foundation to improve the productivity and resilience of tropical crops grown by smallholder farmers in developing countries.
- It's an area where Australia has a lot of expertise and which also helps to build climate resilience in our region. s. 47C, s. 47E(d)

***Gender equality and women's empowerment***

- We are developing a National Strategy to achieve our goal of being one of the most gender-equal countries in the world.
- Our priorities are: women's economic security and independence; balancing family and care responsibilities; leadership, representation and rights; and health and wellbeing.
- Internationally, we welcome collaboration with the Foundation, particularly in Southeast Asia and the Pacific.
  - There are opportunities on sexual and reproductive health and rights, including on preventing cervical cancer through equitable access to the HPV vaccine [Human Pappilomavirus].

**Attachment A - Biography**



**Bill Gates**

Bill Gates co-founded Microsoft in 1975 and led the company to become the worldwide leader in business and personal software and services. In 2008, Bill transitioned to focus full-time on the work of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

As Co-chair of the Foundation, Mr Gates shapes and approves foundation strategies, advocates for the Foundation's issues, and sets its direction. He works with grantees and partners to improve equity globally.

## Attachment B - Background

### *Global & regional health security*

The Foundation's largest global health commitment is to Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance (US\$1.8 billion, 2021-25). Australia is also a strong supporter of Gavi, with a commitment of A\$300 million (2021-25) and is Vice Chair on the Gavi Board. According to UNICEF, coverage of routine immunisation fell globally between 2019 and 2021, with the East Asia and the Pacific region recording the steepest reversal in diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis coverage (drop of 9%, to 83% coverage). Mr Gates also has a particular interest in the global eradication of polio; the Foundation is the largest funder of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI), having committed US\$1.6 billion (2022-26) at the October 2022 GPEI pledging event. Australia committed a further A\$43.55 million (2022-26), making us the 9th largest donor to GPEI in 2022.

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

In his 2022 book *How to Stop the Next Pandemic*, Mr Gates outlines his vision for a new 'Global Epidemic Response and Mobilisation' (GERM) team, described as a global network of 3,000 epidemiologists, geneticists, data scientists, logisticians and other experts employed full-time to monitor, detect and mount a comprehensive response to outbreaks. The Foundation is working with WHO to begin trialling this concept, framed as a 'Global Health Emergency Corps', in 2023. WHO currently administers a mechanism called the Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network (GOARN; "gorn"), which deploys public health experts in a volunteer capacity during active outbreaks in response to requests from governments; s. 33(a)(iii), s. 47C, s. 47E(d)

Australia is establishing an Australian Centre for Disease Control (CDC) to improve Australia's ongoing response to current and emerging public health emergencies. s. 33(a)(iii), s. 47C, s. 47E(d)


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

### *Climate Change*

Bill Gates has a stated goal to eliminate global emissions by 2050. The Foundation has focused its efforts on assisting developing countries through adaptation to reduce human suffering from the impacts of climate change. In 2015, Gates (together with a coalition of private investors), founded *Breakthrough Energy*, a network of entities and initiatives which work to scale the technologies necessary to get to net zero emissions by 2050.


*Breakthrough Energy's* initiatives include:

*Catalyst* – a public private partnership seeking to attract blended public and private investment in clean technology projects to decrease the price of new clean technologies. *Catalyst* has entered into country-level partnerships with the EU, UK and US s. 33(a)(iii), s. 47C, s. 47E(d)



*Ventures* – an investor-led venture fund which has raised \$2 billion capital in ‘patient and risk-tolerant capital’ for cutting edge clean technology companies; and *Fellows* – support for the ‘best and brightest’ individuals and teams tackling climate change, including accelerator-type programs, technology acquisition, or partnerships.

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




### ***Food Security***

In September 2022, the Foundation pledged US\$100 million to address the food security crisis with a focus on Africa and South Asia. It included additional funding for the Global Agriculture and Food Security Program (GAFSP), a multi-donor fund which Australia also supports. Australia has contributed some A\$165 million to GAFSP (a US\$2 billion program) since its inception in 2012.

The Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) is a global network of agricultural research centres which work on key food crops and livestock. The Foundation is one of its largest contributors providing some US\$94 million (out of a total of US\$814 million) in 2021. Australia is also a contributor (about A\$20m a year) through the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR). ACIAR works closely with the Foundation on improving the relevance and effectiveness of the CGAIR.

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





***Development Finance – The Bridgetown Initiative***

The Bridgetown Initiative is a proposal led by Barbados Prime Minister, Mia Mottley, to address the cost of living, developing country debt and climate finance crises. The Initiative proposes to ease debt service obligations on developing countries, significantly increase multilateral financing, and mobilise increased private finance for climate mitigation. To be successful, the initiative would need to find innovative solutions to overcome technical and legislative challenges that prevent channelling Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) outside existing IMF trusts. s. 33(a)(iii), s. 47C, s. 47E(d)

***Gender equality and women's empowerment***

Cervical cancer & HPV: Cervical cancer is the fourth most common cancer among women globally. About 90% of the new cases and deaths worldwide in 2020 occurred in low- and middle-income countries. The vast majority of cervical cancer (more than 95 per cent) is due to the HPV. Vaccination against HPV, particularly for girls aged 9 to 14 years, is a cost-effective way to prevent cervical cancer. The Vaccine Alliance has a goal of providing the HPV vaccine to 86 million girls by 2025, averting 1.4 million deaths from cervical cancer.

**Attachment C – Top lines (provided separately)**

Ash Collingburn  
A/g First Assistant Secretary  
International Division  
18 January 2022

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**Circulation**

**PM&C:** Secretary; DepSec NSIP; FAS International; FAS Economic;  
AS GIB

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

**Cabinet Secretary**

**Other offices:** FMO, MIDPO, MCCEO

**Attachment D - Press remarks (134 words, 1 minute)**


s 47E(d)

- It's a great honour to welcome Bill Gates back to Australia.
- Bill Gates' incredible contribution to reducing global inequity through the work of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation is well known.
- Bill's dedication to improving the lives of the world's poorest people and also protecting the planet is truly inspiring. His goal is to donate the majority of his wealth back to society.
- Interlocking crises in health, climate, food and energy security, war and inflation, have exacerbated global development challenges.
  - Cooperation among states and between the public and private sector is more important than ever in addressing these challenges.
- I look forward to discussing this today with Mr Gates, and how Australia can increase collaboration with his Foundation to assist developing countries in our region on health, climate, food security and gender equality.

## BILL GATES



- Congratulations on **becoming a grandfather in 2023**. It is critical we improve our world for future generations.

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



- We must be better prepared for next **pandemic**.



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



- Keen to continue our work to eliminate **malaria** in our region.



- Australia is committed to ambitious action on **climate change**

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



- **Development finance** for climate action is a challenge

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



- Appreciate your commitment on global **food security** – more we can do together on **agricultural productivity** in our region.
- Welcome collaboration on **gender equality**.



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February 7, 2023

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

Dear Prime Minister,

It was a pleasure to meet you recently. Thank you for taking time out of your weekend to discuss important shared goals. I very much enjoyed our discussion.

I came away from my visit even more convinced of how much Australia has to offer in solving problems in climate, health, and development—from the exciting innovations coming from Australian researchers and companies to the potential of renewed Australian political leadership to advance regional and global action.

s. 33(a)(iii)

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

On the health side, I'm pleased to hear that a new phase of funding has been agreed upon for DFAT's Indo-Pacific Centre for Health Security. We look forward to working with your team there to build on the lessons from our existing collaborations in health research and regional malaria elimination and are excited to identify new opportunities in pandemic preparedness and response.

I'm glad we had the opportunity to discuss the importance of agricultural research for smallholder farmers in Africa and the Indo-Pacific, specifically as it relates to raising productivity and increasing resilience to climate change. I'm grateful Australia continues to be a

*The Hon Anthony Albanese MP, Page 2*

leading funder of CGIAR, helping to ensure agriculture research leads to practical outcomes for farmers in low-income countries. s. 33(a)(iii)

We'd like to be in close touch with your team to identify ways to harness Asia-Pacific regional efforts in support of the agriculture innovation agenda. s. 33(a)(iii)

Sincerely,

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Bill Gates