

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

**From:** Stevenson, Alex  
**Sent:** Friday, 4 July 2025 11:24 AM  
**To:** Kang, Pablo  
**Cc:** s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
**Subject:** PNG 50th Anniversary gift proposal options [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]  
**Attachments:** PNG 50th Anniversary Gift Recommendations - draft placemat.pptx

**~~OFFICIAL: Sensitive~~**

Hi Pablo

As flagged, Post Moresby have provided the attached placemat for the PNG 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary gift options.

Their recommendation is that we propose the Parliament House ministerial wing as the flagship gift, s 22(1)(a)(ii)

[Redacted]  
[Redacted] We agree with Post [Redacted] s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
[Redacted] All funding would be absorbed by the PNG program. [Redacted]

[Redacted] s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
[Redacted]  
[Redacted]  
[Redacted]  
[Redacted]

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Grateful your views before we circle back to [Redacted] – believe she was keen to have something visual to put in front of the PM for his endorsement asap.

Thanks  
Alex

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**From:** Costello, Bill <[Bill.Costello@pmc.gov.au](mailto:Bill.Costello@pmc.gov.au)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, 26 June 2025 4:04 PM  
**To:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) <[Redacted]@pmc.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) <[Redacted]@pmc.gov.au>  
**Cc:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) <[Redacted]@pmc.gov.au>; Stevenson, Alex <[Alex.Stevenson@pmc.gov.au](mailto:Alex.Stevenson@pmc.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** FW: PNG 50th Anniversary gift proposal options [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

**~~OFFICIAL: Sensitive~~**

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Spoke to Adrian in POM after our call with PMO. I asked for a visual presentation (including pictures, drawings etc, so far as possible) which [Redacted] can put in front of the PM for his endorsement, ASAP.

We agreed they will aim to do a page each on (i) Parliament as major gift referred option; s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

[Redacted]

**From:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) <[Redacted]@pm.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 25 June 2025 5:08 PM  
**To:** Costello, Bill <Bill.Costello@pmc.gov.au>  
**Cc:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) <[Redacted]@pm.gov.au>; Fletcher, Graham <Graham.Fletcher@pmc.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) <[Redacted]@pmc.gov.au>; Kang, Pablo <Pablo.Kang@pmc.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) <[Redacted]@pmc.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) <[Redacted]@pmc.gov.au>; Stevenson, Alex <Alex.Stevenson@pmc.gov.au>  
**Subject:** Re: PNG 50th Anniversary gift proposal options [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

Thanks very much, Bill. Let's chat about this on our hook up tomorrow – keen to have someone from post I guess you and or someone on that call too?  
Sent from my iPhone

On 25 Jun 2025, at 5:04 pm, Costello, Bill <Bill.Costello@pmc.gov.au> wrote:

**~~OFFICIAL: Sensitive~~**

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

As long promised, I am writing with advice and a recommendation for Australia's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of independence gift to PNG. DFAT – led by HOM at post - has considered a number of options s 22(1)(a)

[Redacted]

DFAT/HOM's preference, which we share, is to offer to build a new ministerial wing for PNG's Parliament House.

You would recall from the PM's January 2023 speech to PNG Parliament that the current building, while iconic and historic, lacks adequate office space for ministers and MPs, and is in poor condition. A new ministerial wing would provide an upgraded standard of amenity and bring the building to modern standards. Speaker Job Pomat raised this idea personally with the PM in January 2023.

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s 22(1)(a)(ii)

We agree with DFAT's assessment that the Parliament House proposal would be a project with 'gravitas' that would also serve as a permanent reminder of the strength of our partnership, at the very centre of PNG government.

s 33(a)(m)

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Look forward to discussing at 2.30pm tomorrow. I will advise further on post/DFAT joining us then.

Bill

Bill Costello, Assistant Secretary, Pacific Branch | International Division  
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

p. s 22(1)(a)(ii) | m. s 22(1)(a)(ii)

EA: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @pmc.gov.au

s 22(1)(a)(ii)



Objectives:

- Demonstrate Australia’s contribution to PNG’s independence by strengthening its core democratic institution (Parliament),  
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Option 1: Parliament – new ministerial wing (recommended)

Overview / Strategic rationale

- Project with **gravitas** – lasting reminder of our strong partnership at the centre of the GoPNG in Waigani
- Celebrates PNG’s unbroken record of **democratic elections** since independence
- **Continuity** narrative – the people’s Parliament was designed by Australian architect Cecil Hogan
- In keeping with the spirit of Australia’s **1975 independence gift** of the National Library Building

s 33(a)(iii)

s 33(b)

s 33(a)(iii)

Financial implications & risks

- s 33(a)(iii)
  - s 22(1)(a)(ii)
- s 33(a)(iii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)



s 22(1)(a)(ii)

**From:** s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 3 September 2025 1:58 PM  
**To:** s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
**Cc:** s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
**Subject:** FW: For urgent confirmation: Point on cost of ministerial wing for media [SEC=PROTECTED]

**PROTECTED**

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

FYI we have addressed your comment in one of the products about the cost of the 50<sup>th</sup> gift ministerial wing by including this line *The total cost for this gift will become clearer following consultations with PNG on scope and design.*

As below if needed DFAT can provide further detail on cost on background. Please let us know if you have any concerns with this approach.

Thanks,

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**From:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 3 September 2025 1:26 PM  
**To:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) @pmc.gov.au>  
**Cc:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @pmc.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @pmc.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>  
**Subject:** RE: For urgent confirmation: Point on cost of ministerial wing for media [SEC=PROTECTED]

**PROTECTED**

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

Yes, happy with that description of the costs.

We have estimates on the costs we would be able to confidentially provide for background if required but we would not look to have these estimates public noting the final cost will follow consultation with PNG.

Thanks,

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Australian High Commission, Papua New Guinea  
Waigani, NCD, Port Moresby

T s 22(1)(a)(ii) | M s 22(1)(a)(ii)



From: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @pmc.gov.au>  
Sent: Wednesday, September 3, 2025 11:50 AM  
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>  
Cc: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @pmc.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @pmc.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>  
Subject: For urgent confirmation: Point on cost of ministerial wing for media [SEC=PROTECTED]  
Importance: High

~~PROTECTED~~

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

PM&C Media have requested a point on the cost of the Ministerial wing for our media background documents. Can you please confirm you are comfortable with the below:

*The total cost for this gift will become clearer following consultations with PNG on scope and design.*

Grateful confirmation as soon as possible please.

Best,

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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

Melanesia | Pacific Branch | International Division  
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet  
Ngunnawal Country, One National Circuit Barton ACT 2600 | PO Box 6500 CANBERRA ACT 2600  
e. s 22(1)(a)(ii) @pmc.gov.au | p s 22(1)(a)(ii)



The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (PM&C) would like to acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of Country throughout Australia and their continuing spiritual, social and cultural relationship with the land, waters, skies and community. We pay our respects to their Elders past and present, and to their community leaders, and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.



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