

E-mail Message

From:
To: [SMTP:s 22(1)(a)(ii)]
Cc: [SMTP:s 22(1)(a)(ii)]
Sent: 27/05/2016 at 4:26 PM
Received: 27/05/2016 at 4:26 PM
Subject: UNESCO report: media reporting [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

UNCLASSIFIED

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Lots of media on the UNESCO report.

See:

<http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2016/may/27/australia-scrubbed-from-un-climate-change-report-after-government-intervention>

and

<http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2016/may/27/great-barrier-reef-un-report-lead-author-shocked-all-australian-references-removed>

Below is a copy of the statement that Dept of Environment provided to the Guardian journalist.

Regards

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @environment.gov.au
 Sent: Friday, 27 May 2016 4:21 PM
 To: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
 Cc: Callister, Deb; Media
 Subject: DoE statement

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

Here is a copy of the statement we have been providing to journalists.

I understand other information will be provided to you via our policy area.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

The World Heritage Centre initiated contact with the Department of the Environment in early 2016 for our views on aspects of this report.

The Department expressed concern that giving the report the title "Destinations at risk" had the potential to cause considerable confusion. In particular, the World Heritage Committee had only six months earlier decided not to include the Great Barrier Reef on the in-danger list and commended Australia for the Reef 2050 Plan.

The Department was concerned that the framing of the report confused two issues - the world heritage status of the sites and risks arising from climate change and tourism. It is the World Heritage Committee, not its secretariat (the World Heritage Centre), which is properly charged with examining the status of World Heritage sites.

Recent experience in Australia had shown that negative commentary about the status of World Heritage properties impacted on tourism.

The Department indicated it did not support any of Australia's World Heritage properties being included in such a publication for the reasons outlined above.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

The Department of the Environment conveyed these concerns through Australia's Ambassador to UNESCO.

The Department did not brief the Minister on this issue.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Acting Director

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Department of the Environment

GPO Box 787

CANBERRA ACT 2601
T 02 6275 s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

@environment.gov.au

Note to media: Unless otherwise agreed, the information contained in this email is for background only and is not for attribution.

The Department acknowledges the traditional owners of country throughout Australia and their continuing connection to land, sea and community. We pay our respects to them and their cultures and to their elders both past and present.

HYPERLINK

"http://www.environment.gov.au/about/publications/rss.html" <http://www.environment.gov.au/includes/default/images/ico-rss.gif> HYPERLINK "http://www.environment.gov.au/about/publications/index-subscribe.html" <http://www.environment.gov.au/includes/default/images/ico-email.gif> HYPERLINK "http://twitter.com/envirogov" <http://www.environment.gov.au/includes/default/images/ico-twitter.gif> HYPERLINK "http://www.youtube.com/user/DeptEnvironment" <http://www.environment.gov.au/includes/default/images/ico-youtube.gif>

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Sent: Friday, 27 May 2016 12:58 PM
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Subject: FW: Urgent questions about UNESCO report and Great Barrier Reef [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

UNCLASSIFIED

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Sent: Friday, 27 May 2016 12:17 PM
To: Mina, George; s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Cc: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Subject: FW: Urgent questions about UNESCO report and Great Barrier Reef [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

UNCLASSIFIED

For your records.

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Sent: Friday, 27 May 2016 11:49 AM
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Cc: Media
Subject: FW: Urgent questions about UNESCO report and Great Barrier Reef [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

UNCLASSIFIED

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

For your records, please note we have responded to S 47F(1) confirming that DoE's response can be considered a whole-of-government response.

Thanks very much for your kind assistance on this query.

Best regards
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Sent: Friday, 27 May 2016 11:47 AM
To: s 47F(1)
Cc: Media
Subject: RE: Urgent questions about UNESCO report and Great Barrier Reef [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

UNCLASSIFIED

Hi s 47F(1)

I note that you were provided with a response to these questions by the Department of Environment last night.

This consolidated response was prepared in consultation with DFAT and may be considered a whole-of-government response.

If you have any further queries or require any clarification, please don't hesitate to get in touch with us again.

Kind regards

s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Media Liaison Officer
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
Phone +61 2 6261 1555

From: s 47F(1) [@guardian.co.uk](mailto:s47f1@guardian.co.uk)
Sent: Thursday, 26 May 2016 2:49 PM
To: Media
Subject: Fwd: Urgent questions about UNESCO report and Great Barrier Reef

Hi there,

I have some urgent questions for the department. They are listed below, along with some context.

I will need responses by **today**, but only by **9pm**. Can you let me know if this will give the department adequate time?

Regards,
s 47F(1)

Context: A UNESCO report – jointly published with the Union of Concerned Scientists and UNEP – on world heritage sites, climate change and tourism is being released on Friday. It is called "World Heritage, and Tourism in a Changing Climate". It has no mention of Australia in it. However, an earlier draft had a key chapter in it on the Great Barrier Reef.

Questions:

1. Did DFAT know that this report was coming out?
2. Did DFAT know that an earlier version of the report had a key chapter in it about the Great Barrier Reef?
3. Did DFAT have any contact with UNESCO in relation to this report?
4. Did DFAT have any involvement in, or knowledge of, Australian involvement in delaying or removing the section on the Great Barrier Reef?
5. Specifically, did the ambassador to UNESCO have any knowledge of this report coming out?
6. Specifically, did the ambassador to UNESCO know there was a section on the Great Barrier Reef in the report?
7. Specifically, did the ambassador to UNESCO have any contact with UNESCO or the Union of Concerned Scientists or UNEP about the section on the Great Barrier Reef in the report?

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s 47F(1)
Environment Reporter
The Guardian | Australia

s 47F(1)

REDACTED

Sent: Thursday, 26 May 2016 3:07 PM

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

Cc: Media; s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Subject: RE: Urgent questions about UNESCO report and Great Barrier Reef [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

UNCLASSIFIED

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

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Not sure if this is one for the UNESCO expert or the Great Barrier Reef experts s 22(1)(a)(ii) but have cc'd them both and someone will get back to the media team.

Cheers

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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

Sent: Thursday, 26 May 2016 2:58 PM

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

Cc: Media

Subject: FW: Urgent questions about UNESCO report and Great Barrier Reef [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

UNCLASSIFIED

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

Is this one for your section?

If not, are you able to advise who the relevant contact might be?

The journalist has called to ask if it might be possible to get a response by 9pm tonight, but if not he would like an indication of when we might be able to get back to him.

I'm heading off a little early this afternoon, but if you reply to media@dfat.gov.au someone in the team will pick it up in my absence.

Thanks

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Media Liaison Officer | Media Liaison Section
Parliamentary & Media Branch | Public Diplomacy & Communications Division
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www.dfat.gov.au

remainder of e-mail trail duplicate of document at p. 4

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Sent: Thursday, 26 May 2016 3:45 PM
To: Mina, George; s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Cc: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Subject: FW: Urgent questions about UNESCO report and Great Barrier Reef
[SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Morning Chaps,

Sorry to hit you first thing.

A query from the media team re an upcoming report on world heritage, climate change and tourism – a UNESCO/UNEP/Union of Concerned Scientists co-production, apparently.

Questions from a Guardian Australia journalist are at the bottom of the page.

s 22(1)(a)(ii) and I know nothing about this report (questions 1 to 4), though s 22(1)(a)(ii) is asking around just in case, and we were wondering what to say, particularly in response to questions 5 to 7?

I note the journalist has asked for answers by 9pm Canberra time (midday in Paris) but that we can delay if necessary.

Please advise how best to respond to the media team as soon as you can.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

remainder of e-mail trail duplicate of document at p. 6

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Subject: RE: Urgent questions about UNESCO report and Great Barrier Reef [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]
Date: Thursday, 26 May 2016 3:32:59 PM

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Not that I recall

Might be worth checking with s 22(1)(a)(ii) but she has an out of office message on.

Might also be worth calling s 22(1)(a)(ii) to let her know about the query

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Director | s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Sustainability and Climate Change Branch | Multilateral Policy Division
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
Phone +61 2 6261 s 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Sent: Thursday, 26 May 2016 3:17 PM
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Subject: FW: Urgent questions about UNESCO report and Great Barrier Reef [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

UNCLASSIFIED

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

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

This media query has come through. s 22(1)(a)(ii) is going to get back to media saying Q5-7 will need to go to Post/Amb UNESCO. As for Q1-4 – the answer is no from s 22(1)(a)(ii) (and myself) but just s 22(1)(a)(ii) wanted to check if either of you had heard of the report (given it traverses CC and WH)?

Appreciate a nil response or otherwise for due diligence.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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remainder of e-mail trail duplicate of document at p. 6

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Sent: Thursday, 26 May 2016 3:18 PM
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Subject: FW: Urgent questions about UNESCO report and Great Barrier Reef
[SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

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s 22(1)(a)(ii)

A media query re a UNESCO report and Australia. Neither I nor [redacted] in the Environment Unit knows anything about it, and I can't say whether George did or not, so will flick the query on to him to respond to that bit.

Questions from a journo at the Guardian are at the bottom of the chain.

I'll come in in a minute to discuss.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

remainder of e-mail trail duplicate of document at p. 4