


s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 47E(d)

Title: Serbia: Government confirms termination of Rio Tinto lithium project
MRN: s 47E(d) 20/01/2022 10:13:33 PM CET
To: Canberra
Cc: RR : Beijing, Europe Posts, Ottawa, Washington
From: Belgrade
From File:
EDRMS
Files:
References: s 47E(d)
The cable has the following attachment/s -
s 33(a)(iii) and s 47G(1)
Response: Routine, Information Only

Summary

Serbia's Prime Minister announced today her government had annulled the Spatial Plan for Rio Tinto's Jadar lithium mine, which she says will bring the project to an end. s 33(b)

s 33(a)(iii) and s47G(1)

At a press conference this evening, Prime Minister Brnabic said the government had annulled the Spatial Plan for Rio Tinto's proposed lithium and borate mine in western Serbia, and revoked all administrative acts, permits and decisions relating to the project. She said the decision would put a final end to the project: 'this is the end of the Jadar project, it's over'.

2. Brnabic said the government had listened to the people and now met all of their demands. Brnabic again claimed Rio Tinto had not done enough to explain the project to the community. When asked about having to pay compensation to Rio Tinto, she said the government was not afraid of the company. s 33(a)(iii)

s 33(b)

s 47G(1)



s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 47E(d)

s 47G(1)

s 33(a)(iii)

s 33(b)

s 47G(1)

s 33(a)(iii)

text ends

Sent by: s 22(1)(a)(ii)





s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 47E(d)

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

by:

Approved

by:

Topics: ENVIRONMENT/General, POLITICAL-ECONOMIC/Domestic Political, POLITICAL-ECONOMIC/Foreign Investment, POLITICAL-ECONOMIC/International Political

▼ New Distribution
s 47E(d)

[REDACTED]

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 47E(d)

s 47E(d)

[REDACTED]



Title: Serbia: Lithium mining: s 33(a)(iii) and s 47G(1)
MRN: s 47E(d) 21/01/2022 06:52:37 PM CET
To: Canberra
Cc: RR : Beijing, Europe Posts, Ottawa, Washington
From: Belgrade
From File:
EDRMS
Files:
References: s 47E(d)
Response: Routine, Information Only

Summary

s 33(a)(iii) and s 47G(1)





s 33(a)(iii) and s 47G(1)





s 33(a)(iii) and s 47G(1)

Comment

s 33(a)(iii) and s 47G(1)

text ends

Sent by: s 22(1)(a)(ii)

**Prepared
by:**

**Approved
by:**

Topics: ENVIRONMENT/General, POLITICAL-ECONOMIC/Domestic Political, POLITICAL-ECONOMIC/Foreign Investment, POLITICAL-ECONOMIC/International Political

s 47E(d)





Title: Serbia: Impact of Rio Tinto decision on other Australian miners
MRN: s 47E(d) 28/01/2022 05:13:18 PM CET
To: Canberra
Cc: RR : Europe Posts, Ottawa
From: Belgrade
From File:
EDRMS
Files:
References: s 47E(d)
Response: Routine, Information Only

Summary

s 33(a)(iii) and s 47G(1)





s 33(a)(iii) and s 47G(1)

text ends

Sent by: s 22(1)(a)(ii)

**Prepared
by:**





Approved

by:

Topics: POLITICAL-ECONOMIC/Domestic Political, POLITICAL-ECONOMIC/Foreign Investment, POLITICAL-ECONOMIC/International Political

▼ **New Distribution**

s 47E(d)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Sent: Tuesday, 11 January 2022 3:37 PM
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Cc: s22(1)(a)(ii)
Subject: Campaign for a popular initiative to ban lithium mining and stop the Jadar Project [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Savo Manojlovic, the front man of NGO 'Go-Change' (*Kreni-Promeni*), has stated that his organisation will start collecting signatures for a popular initiative which aims to block the exploitation of lithium in Serbia (closure of the Jadar Project). The campaign will commence on 20 January. Their goal is to submit a popular initiative to the Serbian Parliament by the beginning of February, so that MPs can vote on the initiative before general elections. According to Manojlovic 3,000 volunteers have applied so far to collect signatures. At least 30,000 signatures will be required before citizens can demand a binding vote on this proposed policy by Parliament.

Two SNS MPs have already come out publicly about the 'Go-Change' campaign, stating that they will be signing the popular initiative. The two MPs are Bratislav Jugovic (member of the main board of SNS) and Dr Ljubisa Stojimirovic (one of the founders of SNS). Both gentlemen claim that a majority of MPs are similarly disposed.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Sent: Friday, 14 January 2022 4:24 PM
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Subject: RE: Media: Manojlovic: We have a solution by which Serbia will not need to pay compensation to Rio Tinto [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Follow-up on this story.

Media platform: Novi Magazin

Date: 14 January

Article headline: **Manojlovic: Serbia will not need to pay compensation if the Spatial Plan for the Jadar Project is abolished**

Today, the representative of the 'Go – Change' movement, Savo Manojlovic, requested the abolition of the Spatial Plan of the special purpose area for the Jadar Project [and the opening of a lithium mine in Serbia] and the introduction of a moratorium on lithium and borate exploitation for 20 years.

At a press conference in front of the building of the Government of Serbia, Manojlovic stated that the Spatial Plan for the Jadar Project was adopted because of the company Rio Tinto and that it is the legal basis for the company's business in Serbia. "If this spatial plan does not exist, there is no legal obligation for Serbia to compensate Rio Tinto," Manojlovic said.

He said that a lot of irregularities were found in the Spatial Plan: it does not contain valid data on the life of the mine, a feasibility study has not been done and there are no studies on the ore reserves. Manojlovic pointed out that the potential revocation of permits granted to Rio Tinto for exploration in Serbia, which was mentioned by representatives of the government, will not affect that company because they will certainly expire soon, and the exploration is complete.

Commenting on the statement of the President of Serbia, Aleksandar Vucic, that a moratorium on that project should be put in place for a duration of one year, Manojlovic stated that it was said in order to calm down the situation before the upcoming elections. "The government and the Assembly have to implement our requests in a concrete way by 20 January 20, otherwise we will start collecting 30,000 signatures for the people's initiative," he pointed out.

Dragana Djordjevic, scientific advisor at the Institute of Chemistry, Technology and Metallurgy of the University of Belgrade, supported the initiative presented by Manojlovic, explaining that the state allows activities harmful to the environment and destroys the highest quality areas of Serbia. "The Ministry of Environmental Protection gave permission last summer to prepare an Environmental Impact Assessment, even though Rio Sava (a subsidiary of Rio Tinto) did not meet all the requirements, and the planned technology is dangerous for the environment," she stressed.

Representatives of 'Go – Change' handed over 290,000 signatures to the Government of Serbia for the petition entitled "Rio Tinto, leave the Drina".

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: s 47F(1) (RTM) <s 47F(1) @riotinto.com>
Sent: Monday, 24 January 2022 9:14 AM
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii) s 47F(1)
 s 47F(1)
Cc: s 47F(1)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: Rio Tinto: Teach in Embassies

CAUTION: This email originated from outside the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender.

Dear colleagues,

We will cancel teach in sessions for now due to most recent events. We will get back to you with the new timeslots.

Thank you for understanding.

BR,

s 47F(1)

From: s 47F(1) (RTM)
Sent: Monday, January 17, 2022 12:22 PM
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au; s 47F(1) ; s 47F(1) ; s 47F(1)
Cc: s 47F(1) @riotinto.com>, s 47F(1)
 s 47F(1) @riotinto.com>
Subject: Rio Tinto: Teach in Embassies

Dear colleagues,

As agreed before the holidays, we will organize teach in sessions to present the Jadar project to the embassies.

We have scheduled two time slots for it:

1. 27th of January, 12.30-14.00
2. 3rd of February, 12.30-14.00

Location of the teach ins is Navigator Building, Milutina Mllankovica 1i, 5th floor, Rio Tinto office.

Can I please ask you to pick one of the dates and get back to us by the end of this week? Also, please provide list of the attendees from the embassies that would like to participate.

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact me.

Have a nice day.

BR,

s 47F(1)

Rio Sava Exploration d.o.o.
Bulevar Milutina Milankovića 1i
11070 New Belgrade, Serbia

T s 47F(1)
M s 47F(1)

www.riotintoserbia.com

Јадар пројекат - Рио Тинто | Facebook



This email is confidential and may also be privileged. If you are not the intended recipient, please notify us immediately and delete this message from your system without first printing or copying it. Any personal data in this email (including any attachments) must be handled in accordance with the Rio Tinto Group Data Protection Policy and all applicable data protection laws.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Sent: Friday, 28 January 2022 9:32 AM
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Cc: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] s 47F(1)

[SEC=UNOFFICIAL]

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

An email message from a s 47F(1) was sent to our Embassy inbox (attached). s 47F(1) s 47F(1)
 questions are addressed to s 47F(1)

A translation of s 47F(1) email is set out below:

s 47F(1)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 47E(c)

Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade, Australian Embassy Belgrade
 8th Floor, Vladimira Popovica 38-40, 11070 New Belgrade, Serbia
 Tel: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
 Email: s 22(1)(a) @dfat.gov.au
www.facebook.com/AustraliainSerbia

From: Australian Embassy Belgrade <belgrade.embassy@dfat.gov.au>

Sent: Friday, 28 January 2022 8:22 AM

To: 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: FW: [EXTERNAL] s 47F(1)

[SEC=UNOFFICIAL]

s 47F(1)

s 47F(1)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Sent: Friday, 21 January 2022 1:25 PM
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Cc: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Subject: Serbia/Rio TPs - attached for reference [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]
Attachments: Talking Points - Serbia-Rio Tinto Mine Closure 21 Jan 2022 v1.01.docx

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

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

Please find attached for reference the TPs on Serbia/Rio Tinto. We have added you all to the distribution list, however in case there are any issues attaching now for reference also.

Kind regards

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Assistant Director | Eastern Europe & Western Balkans Section
Latin America & Eastern Europe Branch | Europe & Latin America Division
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
T s 22(1)(a)(ii) | E s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au

The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade 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 past, present and emerging.

OFFICIAL:Sensitive



Australian Government
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

**MEDIA TALKING
POINTS
DISTRIBUTION:
STANDARD**

Topic: POLITICAL-ECONOMIC
Subject: Serbia – Rio Tinto Mine closure

Originating Division: ELD

Version Date: 21/1/2022

**Reason for Update: New
talking points**

Version: 1.01

Expiry: 21/04/2022

Talking Points

- Disappointed by the Serbian Government's decision to revoke Anglo-Australian Company Rio Tinto's licenses to explore and mine lithium in Serbia
 - This comes after national protests against Rio Tinto's lithium mine in Serbia.
- This is a decision for the Serbian Government.
- We note the strong economic benefits of this significant investment by Rio Tinto in Serbia
 - a \$2.4 billion investment was approved by the Rio Tinto board in July 2021.
- Lithium is an important part of transitioning to a low carbon economy.

s 33(a)(iii)

s 47F(1)

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

On 20 January, Serbia's Prime Minister Ana Brnabic advised of the Serbian Government's decision to revoke Rio Tinto's licenses to explore and mine lithium. Prime Minister Brnabic stated "we have fulfilled all the demands from the environmental protests and have put an end to Rio Tinto in the Republic of Serbia," and "all decisions [linked to the lithium project] and all licences have been annulled".

This decision comes on the back of a referendum held on Sunday 16 January, where constitutional amendments, primarily focused on judicial independence needed as part of Serbia's bid to join the EU, were proposed, and accepted by voters. Whilst the vote was supportive (60.48% voted yes), voter turn out was low (approx. 30%) and according to

preliminary results, voters in Belgrade voted against the proposed changes (54%).
s 33(a)(iii)

s 33(a)(iii)

For some months, large anti-Rio Tinto campaigning has been underway in Serbia including in the capital, Belgrade. Local media has been saturated with virulent anti-Rio content, and activists continue to plan protests and disruptions to company activities. s 33(a)(iii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Rio Tinto has developed a significant proposed project in Western Serbia, the Jadar (borate) project, and s 47G(1) with an investment of \$2.4 billion approved by the Rio Tinto discovered jadarite (a lithium sodium borosilicate mineral) in Serbia in 2004, near the city of Loznica in western Serbia, s 47G(1). Jadar was intended to produce battery-grade lithium carbonate, a critical mineral used in large scale batteries for electric vehicles and storing renewable energy. In addition, Jadar would produce borates, which are needed for the development of renewable energy equipment such as solar panels and wind turbines. If developed, the deposit could supply a substantial part of global demand for lithium, providing a significant boost for the Serbian economy in the long term. There is strong interest by European car makers in a European source of electric car battery inputs.

s 33(a)(iii)

Handling Notes

Media Interest

Approval	
Consultation	Post
Author	s 22(1)(a)(ii) ELD; s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Cleared by	Lynette Wood; FAS ELD

Distribution
Media Liaison Section, SES, HOMs/HOPs, STO Directors, Secretary's EO and Senior Executive PAs, A-based public affairs officers, A-based HOM PAs, FMO, MTIEO, PMO

and PM&C addressees.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Moseley, Rachel; s 22(1)(a)(ii) ; s 22(1)(a)(iii)

Version: 9.0

Created at 21/01/2022 10:18 AM by s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Last modified at 21/01/2022 1:17 PM by s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Sent: Monday, 24 January 2022 5:39 PM
To: Media; s 22(1)(a)(ii) ; s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Cc: Michael Growder; s 22(1)(a)(ii) ; Media
Subject: FW: **Priority media enquiry for action** Due to MLS 6pm 24/1 - Via TTIMO - Reuters - follow up questions on Serbia - Rio Tinto - lithium [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Dear Media

s 47C(1)

Regards

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Eastern Europe and Western Balkans Section

s 47G(1)

s 33(a)(iii)

s 47C(1) and s 47G(1) |

From: Media <media@dfat.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, 24 January 2022 4:08 PM
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.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
Cc: Michael Growder <Michael.Growder@dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au; Media <media@dfat.gov.au>
Subject: **Priority media enquiry for action** Due to MLS 6pm 24/1 - Via TTIMO - s 47F(1) - follow up questions on Serbia - Rio Tinto - lithium [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Good afternoon

Please see below a priority request from TTIMO for a draft response to follow up questions from s 47F(1) on the Rio Tinto Serbia and Lithium enquiry from late last week.

Grateful an AS-cleared response by **6pm today** if possible.

For your reference and for filing, see below the final response that TTIMO issued to s 47F(1)

//

Attributable to an Australian Government spokesperson:

The Australian Government regrets the decision to revoke Rio Tinto's licenses to explore and mine lithium in Serbia.

We note the strong economic benefits of the significant investment by Rio Tinto in Serbia.

Australian resources companies have an outstanding reputation around the world, particularly when it comes to their expertise.

On background

s 47F(1)

s 33(a)(iii)

4

With thanks

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Media Liaison Section
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
P: s 22(1)(a)(ii) E: media@dfat.gov.au

Note to media: Unless otherwise specified, the information contained in this email is for background only.

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, 24 January 2022 3:05 PM
To: Media <media@dfat.gov.au>
Subject: FW: Serbia - Rio Tinto - lithium [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hi Team

Can we please draft a response to this.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 47F(1)

s 47F(1)

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, 21 January 2022 7:23 pm
To: s 47F(1)
Cc: s 47F(1)
Subject: [EXT] Re: Serbia - Rio Tinto - lithium[SEC=OFFICIAL]

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments.

OFFICIAL

Hi s 47F(1)

Attributable to an Australian Government spokesperson:

The Australian Government regrets the decision to revoke Rio Tinto's licenses to explore and mine lithium in Serbia.

We note the strong economic benefits of the significant investment by Rio Tinto in Serbia.

Australian resources companies have an outstanding reputation around the world, particularly when it comes to their expertise.

On background

s 47F(1)

s 33(a)(iii)

OFFICIAL

From: s 47F(1)
Date: Friday, 21 January 2022 at 4:05:08 pm
To: "s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>

Cc: s 47F(1)

Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: Serbia - Rio Tinto - lithium

CAUTION: This email originated from outside the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender.

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

I understand your team is pulling together a government statement on this for us. Do you know when that might land?

Kind regards,

s 47F(1)

s 47F(1)