



OPENING REMARKS

BILATERAL MEETING WITH SECRETARY BLINKEN

- It is a pleasure to host my friend, Secretary Tony Blinken, in Brisbane for our meetings today and tomorrow.
- This is not Secretary Blinken's first visit to Australia, but it is his first time in Queensland – Australia's gateway to the Pacific.
- Our countries are aligned by who we are, what we stand for and what we seek - a region that is stable, peaceful and prosperous.
- The US is an essential partner in contributing to the region's strategic balance, including through its economic weight and network of alliance partners.
- As Secretary Blinken and I discussed recently in Jakarta, US engagement in Southeast Asia has never been more important.
- Nor has our work with the United States and Pacific Island Countries on priorities including economic, development and climate change.
- There's lots on the agenda for today and tomorrow at our AUSMIN consultations – I'm looking forward to it.



OPENING REMARKS

AUSTRALIA–UNITED STATES MINISTERIAL CONSULTATIONS 2023

- Thank you, Secretary Blinken and Secretary Austin, for joining us in Brisbane for our AUSMIN consultations.
- The location of this year's AUSMIN is significant – highlighting the importance of the Pacific region for both of us.
- Our Alliance is a story of two nations working together to secure peace and to foster prosperity across the Indo-Pacific region. The advancement of our Alliance will continue to underpin stability in Southeast Asia and the Pacific.
- Australia and the United States pursue a world where sovereignty is respected, and internationally agreed rules and norms are adhered to.
- We are modernising our Alliance and broadening AUSMIN to integrate new areas for cooperation, in line with the region's priorities, including emerging technologies, the clean energy transition and the essential role of critical minerals.
- I look forward to our discussions today on how Australia and the United States can evolve our Alliance and deliver on priority issues for the region.

Pages 3-4 redacted under s 33, s 47C and 47E(d)

**Foreign Minister – Senator the Hon Penny Wong
MEDIA BRIEF**

Event	AUSTRALIA-UNITED STATES MINISTERIAL CONSULTATIONS
Date	28-29 July 2023
Adviser	Caitlin Raper – Senior Press Secretary

s47C, s47E(d)

Section 33(a)(iii), s 47C and s 47E(d)

2. AUSTRALIA-US BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP

s 47C, s 47E(d)

- The United States is Australia's vital ally and our closest global partner.
- We are the closest of partners across a broad range of areas including defence cooperation, foreign policy, development, climate, and trade and investment.
- The United States and Australia share a vision for a peaceful, stable and prosperous region where sovereignty is respected.
- The Alliance, including through AUKUS, increases Australia's ability to protect itself and its interests by providing access to world-leading defence capability and technology, training and combined exercises
 - we exercise our own agency and make decisions in our own interests.
- We are committed to deepening our cooperation, bilaterally and with regional partners and institutions, to support and deliver tangible benefits to the Indo-Pacific, including promoting:
 - economic development, climate change cooperation, security, connectivity, good governance, disaster management, health, and resiliency, consistent with regional and national priorities.
- Australia and the United States have an extensive and mutually beneficial economic relationship
 - the United States is the largest investor in Australia by a wide margin.

s47C, s47E(d)

- The Australian Government welcomes the Biden Administration's work with the United States Congress on legislative reform to streamline defence cooperation and expand export control exemptions for AUKUS partners.
- In a tougher strategic environment, it is vital that we combine strengths and pool resources across the alliance and through AUKUS
 - overcoming barriers to technology transfer between the United States and AUKUS partners will be essential to maximising the strategic and technological potential of this partnership
 - it will also enhance Australia's bilateral cooperation with the United States.
- Australia remains closely engaged with the United States as this legislation progresses through Congress.
- Australia will continue to work with the United States and the United Kingdom on developing trilateral protective security standards for secure defence trade between our nations.
- This legislation has the potential to be of significant benefit to Australian businesses and research institutions that are engaging in defence collaboration, research, co-development, or sales activities with the United States

- it would encourage innovation, genuine cooperation, and enable defence industry to speed up the development process and deliver military capability sooner
- the Government will continue to engage with the relevant sectors as this matter progresses.
- Australia's alliance with the United States is unprecedented in scale, scope, and significance.

s 47C, s 47E(d)

- The Biden Administration has finalised a legislative proposal that would alter its defence export control system to help facilitate the goals of AUKUS partners.
- The Administration has shared the draft with Congress.
- We see the Administration's legislative proposal as an important step towards realising the intent of AUKUS.
- If passed as drafted, the legislative proposal:
 - would enable the licence-free transfer of eligible unclassified and classified ITAR-controlled defence articles and defence services to eligible recipients
 - would authorise re-exports and re-transfers between and among Australia, the United Kingdom, and the United States.
- However, there is still a long way to run as Congress considers this proposal.

s33(a)(iii), s 47C, s 47E(d)

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

s 47C, s 47E(d)

- We welcome the invitation for the Prime Minister to visit the United States for an official state visit later this year.
 - We will work with the United States on scheduling and make announcements in due course.

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

s33(a)(iii), s 47C, s 47E(d)

s 47C, s 47E(d)

- Our Force Posture Initiatives now include the original Marine Rotational Force – Darwin and Enhanced Air Cooperation Initiatives, as well as Enhanced Maritime and Land Cooperation, and the Combined Logistics, Sustainment and Maintenance Enterprise.
- Activities across these domains continue to evolve and grow in breadth and complexity.
- Force posture provides a platform for defence cooperation – not only bilaterally – but also multilaterally with our valued Indo-Pacific partners
 - it enhances our collective capability, interoperability, and ability to respond to regional crises, including natural disasters.

s 47C, s 47E(d)

- The trilateral grouping brings together the United States, our closest ally, and Japan, our indispensable partner, to pursue our shared vision for an open, inclusive, and resilient Indo-Pacific
 - a region where sovereignty is respected and power is exercised in a responsible manner to enhance stability.

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

Pages 12-13 redacted under s 33(a)(iii), s 47C and s 47E(d)

4. AUKUS

- AUKUS is one element of Australia's approach to addressing a more challenging strategic environment and contributing to strategic equilibrium in our region.
- The Optimal Pathway to acquire conventionally-armed, nuclear-powered submarines through AUKUS is the single greatest defence capability in Australia's history.
- This is an unprecedented investment in our national power.
- Our region is in the midst of the largest military build-up anywhere in the world since the Second World War, with limited transparency and reassurance.
- Fundamental to a step up in Australia's defence capability is deterrence, so that no state will ever conclude the benefits of conflict outweigh the risks.
- We want to contribute to providing a regional balance in capability which helps underpin regional stability.
- Nuclear-powered submarines will transform our ability to deter, or respond to, any future threats. They will add to this regional balance.
- We want all countries to exercise their agency to choose the kind of region they want, guided by rules, where no country dominates and no country is dominated.
- Our nuclear submarines will be an Australian sovereign capability, commanded by the Royal Australian Navy and sustained by Australian shipyards.
- Crucially, these are nuclear-powered, not nuclear-armed submarines.
- All three AUKUS partners recognise the responsibility we have to strengthen the global non-proliferation regime.
- Australia has a proud history of championing practical international non-proliferation and disarmament efforts – and we are resolutely committed to the Treaty for the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT). We will ensure we continue to meet its obligations to the highest and most rigorous standards.
- Australia will never seek to acquire nuclear weapons.
- Naval nuclear propulsion is consistent with Australia's obligations under the Treaty of Rarotonga, and we are committed to ensuring that the rotational presence of UK and US nuclear submarines aligns with our longstanding commitments under the Treaty.
- Our AUKUS partners understand and recognise Australia's obligations under international law, including the Treaty of Rarotonga.
- And while we are not a party to it, Australia will continue to act in a manner that is consistent with the basic principles of the Bangkok Treaty.

- We are working openly and transparently with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to develop an appropriate, robust non-proliferation approach to underpin Australia's nuclear-powered submarine program.
- This will enable the IAEA to provide assurance to the international community that Australia is continuing to meet its obligations.
- Strong partnerships and mutually agreed rules enable more stability and choices, which in turn means greater autonomy and sovereignty.
- Put simply, none of us can achieve the region we need alone.
- So, none of us can afford to make the choice to remain uninvolved.
- We have engaged extensively with partners across our region and the world. We will continue to engage, openly and transparently.
- We will continue to listen carefully to partners' views about safety, security and strategic issues affecting our region.

5. QUAD

- As Indo-Pacific countries, Australia and our Quad partners are deeply invested in the success of the region
 - the Quad harnesses our four countries' collective strengths and enables us to respond more effectively to the region's needs
 - supporting a region that is peaceful and predictable, governed by widely agreed rules and norms, where we can all cooperate, trade and thrive.
- The Quad is delivering for the Indo-Pacific, addressing shared regional challenges through a positive and practical agenda.
- In May, Prime Minister Albanese convened the Quad Leaders' Summit in Japan
 - where leaders agreed to outcomes that progress the Quad's support for the region on climate and clean energy, health security, infrastructure and connectivity, and critical and emerging technology.

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

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

s 47C, s 47E(d)

s 47C, s 47E(d)

- It is in the interests of both Australia and China to continue on the path of stabilising and developing the relationship.
- I had a constructive discussion with Director of the Chinese Communist Party Central Commission for Foreign Affairs Wang Yi in the margins of ASEAN meetings in Jakarta.
- Australia and China have shared interests, but also big differences to manage. We can grow our bilateral relationship and uphold our national interests if both countries navigate our differences wisely.
- We will cooperate where we can, disagree where we must and, above all else, engage in and vigorously pursue our national interest.

s47C, s47E(d)

- China is our largest trading partner and will remain so for the foreseeable future
- We have been clear publicly and privately with China that the resumption of normal trade is important for stable and sustainable relations
 - and is in the interests of China, Australia and the region.
- Sustained engagement has led to some positive trade developments in recent months [resumption of trade in coal; China's expedited review of duties on barley; lifting of quarantine restrictions on timber logs] – and I welcome that
 - but there's more work to do to unwind China's measures; we want to see continued progress.

s47C, s47E(d)

- Australia's longstanding bipartisan one-China policy has not changed.
- We do not want to see any unilateral change to the status quo.

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

- It is in all our interests to have a region at peace and not in conflict.
- Australia will continue to work with partners to urge restraint and de-escalation.

s 33(a)(iii), s 47C, s4 7E(d)

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

- Australia and the United States share a vision for an open, stable and prosperous Indo-Pacific
 - a peaceful and predictable region where sovereignty is respected and people can cooperate, trade and thrive
 - and where adherence to internationally agreed rules and norms prevails over the exercise of power.
- But we face the most challenging strategic circumstances in the post-war period, as the rules and norms that have underpinned our security and prosperity come under increasing pressure
 - Australia is actively contributing to a regional balance of power that keeps the peace.
- Strategic competition is a contest over the way our region and world work – it can and must be managed responsibly to minimise economic disruption and reduce the risk of conflict
 - US efforts to establish effective communications and mechanisms with China for managing strategic competition are welcome – we all have an interest in these overtures being met
 - encouraged by recent visits to China by US Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Secretary of the Treasury Janet Yellen.

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

Pages 20-23 redacted under s 33, s 47C and 47E(d)

7. SOUTHEAST ASIA ENGAGEMENT

- Deepening engagement with Southeast Asia is a priority for the Australian Government
 - we are invested, engaged and committed to the region.
- We share a region and we share a future
 - we have longstanding connections and are tied together by more than geography — across family, business, education, tourism and more.
- Australia is keen to work with the United States to help address the region's greatest challenges – including climate change, energy security and food security
 - including through the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework.
- We support a predictable region operating by agreed rules, standards, and norms, where no one country dominates, and no country is dominated
 - a region where sovereignty is respected, and all countries benefit from a strategic equilibrium.
- We are deepening our cooperation with ASEAN under our Comprehensive Strategic Partnership in areas of shared interest
 - including programs to combat climate change, advance ASEAN infrastructure projects and support the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific.
- Australia is proud to be hosting a Special Summit to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of ASEAN-Australia Dialogue Relations in 2024.
- Australia's Special Envoy for Southeast Asia, Mr Nicholas Moore, is driving the Southeast Asia Economic Strategy to 2040
 - to be released later this year
 - and which will identify new opportunities to strengthen our shared economic future.

s 47C, s 47E(d)

- Both Australia and the US have a long history of working with the countries of Southeast Asia.
- We are working closely with key partners – including Japan and India – to provide economic, security and development options for Southeast Asia.
- Australia's engagement in the Quad complements our deep engagement in the Indo-Pacific bilaterally and through regional institutions, such as ASEAN and the Pacific Islands Forum
 - Australia and Quad partners are unwavering in our support for ASEAN centrality in Southeast Asia, and the leadership role of the ASEAN-led architecture

- in Southeast Asia, the Quad's work will be guided by ASEAN's priorities and those of ASEAN Member States.
- The defence capabilities Australia is acquiring through AUKUS are an element of Australia's approach to addressing a more challenging strategic environment and contributing to strategic equilibrium in our region.
 - we want to contribute to providing a regional balance in capability which helps underpin regional stability
 - we want all countries to exercise their agency to choose the kind of region they want, guided by rules, where no country dominates and no country is dominated.
- Our AUKUS partners understand and recognise Australia's obligations under international law, including the Treaty of Rarotonga
 - and while we are not a party to it, Australia will continue to act in a manner that is consistent with the core principles of the Bangkok Treaty.
- We will continue to engage openly and transparently with our regional partners on AUKUS.
- New and advanced capabilities make Australia a more capable security partner, better able to contribute to a strategic equilibrium in the region.

s 47C, s 47E(d)

- Australia strongly supports ASEAN centrality and ASEAN-led regional architecture
 - Australia is proud to be ASEAN's first dialogue partner and now a Comprehensive Strategic Partner [since October 2021].
- We strongly support Indonesia as ASEAN Chair and its priorities, including implementation of the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific.
- We will work with ASEAN to shape the kind of region we all want
 - a region that is stable, prosperous and respectful of sovereignty.

s 47C, s 47E(d)

- Countries of the region want growth, opportunity and prosperity
 - we know that the region's success is our success.
- As our Southeast Asian partners look for options to boost their growing and modernising economies, Australia has much to offer as a trusted and reliable partner

- while Australian products, services and expertise are valued in the region, both sides can do more, especially in developing skills and investment.
- We have a solid foundation on which to further regional growth, including through multilateral agreements and our bilateral trade agreements with individual ASEAN members
 - these agreements and memberships underline the importance of Indo-Pacific economic integration for Australia and the region.
- The Southeast Asia Economic Strategy to 2040 will set out a practical pathway to strengthen Australia's economic engagement with Southeast Asia
 - it will identify current and emerging opportunities to bolster two-way trade and investment between Australia and the countries of ASEAN and Timor-Leste
 - and build on Australia's existing contribution to the energy, food security and infrastructure investment needs of our Southeast Asian partners.
- Development of the strategy has been genuinely bottom-up – ensuring the Strategy reflects the voice and views of business and the community.
 - the Special Envoy has visited all ASEAN countries [except Myanmar] to inform the strategy.
- Trade and investment diversification is key to our shared future prosperity and economic security.
- Our future growth will depend on how we address trade and investment barriers, as well as how we fulfil partnerships and opportunities.

s47C, s47E(d)

- The Government will soon release Australia's new international development policy to support our vision of a peaceful, stable and prosperous Indo-Pacific region
 - the policy will ensure our development program plays its part, alongside other tools of statecraft, to achieve this vision.
- Australia shares a region and a future with Southeast Asia
 - we have deep and longstanding partnerships with our Southeast Asian neighbours
 - and will assist our partners to sustain and protect their hard-won development gains.
- In 2023-24, Australia will increase our development assistance to Southeast and East Asia to an estimated \$1.24 billion.

- Working together with our Southeast Asian partners, this funding is helping to address some of our region's most pressing priorities and challenges
 - including climate and the clean energy transition, gender equality, health and infrastructure
 - and to ensure closer cooperation with ASEAN under our Comprehensive Strategic Partnership.

s 47C, s 47E(d)

- We are working with our partners in Southeast Asia on an orderly transition to net-zero by 2050 while supporting energy security, reliability, and access.
- We will work closely with ASEAN under our new Comprehensive Strategic Partnership to support the region's priorities.
- We are pursuing new, innovative ways to facilitate trade and investment in environmental goods and services
 - and to develop standards to support regional decarbonisation efforts – for example our first-of-its-kind Green Economy agreement with Singapore.
- We are sharing our own experience addressing climate change and establishing a new Southeast Asia Government-to-Government Partnerships program to deepen and sustain engagement with counterparts in the region.
- We are supporting countries to attract clean energy and green investment by helping strengthen infrastructure policy, planning and procurement
 - and through our growing blended finance programs such as the Emerging Markets Impact Investment Fund.
- We are establishing a new \$200 million climate and infrastructure partnership with Indonesia
 - and Prime Minister Albanese recently announced support to Vietnam to increase its uptake of clean energy and clean energy infrastructure.
- We all share in the challenges – and opportunities – of climate change and the net-zero transition
 - which is why we must all act together.

s 47C, s 47E(d)

- The military coup in Myanmar has reversed years of democratic, economic and development gains and plunged the country into a deep political and humanitarian crisis.

- In the two years since the coup, the people of Myanmar have demonstrated their courage, their commitment to a democratic country and demanded respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms.
- Australia strongly condemns the ongoing violence and repression being perpetrated by the Myanmar military regime
 - we urge the regime to end violence, engage in dialogue, release those unjustly detained, and allow open and unimpeded access for humanitarian assistance.
- Australia strongly supports ASEAN's leadership as a key element in responding to the Myanmar crisis and is dismayed that the regime continues to disregard its commitments under the ASEAN Five Point Consensus.
- We recognise the efforts of Indonesia in its year as ASEAN Chair, and the work of the Office of the Special Envoy on Myanmar.

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

s 47C, s 47E(d)

- As a member of the Pacific family, Australia's priority is to ensure the Blue Pacific remains peaceful, prosperous and equipped to respond to the challenges of our time.
- Australia is continuing to work with likeminded partners, including the United States, to ensure Pacific priorities guide decisions on engagement and resourcing
 - we encourage partnerships that aid Pacific cohesion, support Pacific institutions and advance regional aspirations for sustainable economic growth.
- Australia welcomes the United States enduring commitment to the Pacific Islands, and the strong alignment in our approach to Pacific engagement, including on climate change.
- Initiatives such as Partners in the Blue Pacific (PBP) will be crucial
 - enabling stronger coordination and unlocking new resources for the region
 - prioritising and complementing existing regional mechanisms
 - with a sharp focus on unlocking resources and delivering tangible initiatives in line with priorities that Pacific Island countries have expressed.
- We look forward to continuing to work with the United States S to deepen the strong partnership between our two countries in support of Pacific priorities
 - welcome President Biden's commitment to host a second Washington summit with Pacific leaders later this year.

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

9. CLIMATE CHANGE (COP27, COP26 BID)

- Australia recognises the urgency of the climate crisis and is committed to achieving the Paris Agreement's goals.
- Australia is strengthening international engagement on climate change and energy transformation to scale up global action.
- Earlier in July, Australia joined the Climate Club, joining the G7 and other high ambition countries to further international climate action
 - complementing Australia's climate objectives, green economy opportunities and allowing us to bring our unique regional perspectives to global emissions reductions action.
- Australia and the US have pledged to drive stronger global action to address the climate crisis and to strengthen efforts throughout this critical decade to keep the limit of 1.5 degrees temperature rise within reach.
- Delighted Prime Minister Albanese and President Biden announced the Australia-US Climate, Critical Minerals and Clean Energy Transformation Statement of Intent and Compact in May
 - realising Leaders' commitment to make climate and clean energy a third pillar of the Australia-US Alliance and amongst the highest bilateral priorities
- Australia's bid to host COP31 in 2026, in partnership with Pacific partners, which aims to bring profile to the climate challenges and vulnerabilities faced by the region

s 47C, s 47E(d)

- Australia is implementing a comprehensive suite of policies to drive the net zero transition
 - on 18 July, the Government announced development of a Net Zero 2050 plan with government-guided sectoral decarbonisation plans in electricity and energy; industry; the built environment; agriculture and land; transport and resources
 - positioning Australia to become a renewable energy superpower and contribute to energy security and decarbonisation efforts globally, particularly in the Indo-Pacific.

- Pleased Australia and the US have now committed to establishing a joint action plan on climate security by 2024
 - including the integration of climate considerations into military exercises and planning.
- Australia and the US will strengthen coordination with regional organisations on climate mitigation, adaptation, and resilience, including to support information and expertise sharing on climate finance and clean energy investment
 - to deliver meaningful climate outcomes in alignment with existing regional architecture, including the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF), ASEAN, the Pacific Islands Forum, Partners in the Blue Pacific, and the Quad.
- AUSMIN has committed to continue coordination on building greater climate preparedness and resilience
 - especially in consideration of those most vulnerable to the effects of climate change, including women, girls, Indigenous Peoples and First Nations, and people with a disability.

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

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

10. NUCLEAR ISSUES (INCL. TPNW)

- Australia welcomes the Biden Administration's commitment to arms control.
- We will continue working closely to deliver progress while safeguarding our shared interests
 - strengthening the cornerstone Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty is a priority, as are tangible efforts to enhance transparency and reduce risks of miscalculation in the Indo-Pacific.

s47C, s47E(d)

- The Australian Government shares the ambition of TPNW States Parties of a world without nuclear weapons and is committed to engaging constructively to identify possible pathways towards nuclear disarmament.
- The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) remains the cornerstone of the global nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament regime and offers the best pathway towards these objectives. Australia is a longstanding supporter of the NPT.
- We need to ensure the TPNW contains the verification arrangements and achieves the near-universal support that has underpinned the NPT's success, and that it does not undermine the NPT – these issues were identified in the 2021 Australian Labor Party's (ALP) National Platform.
- The ALP National Platform also made clear the centrality of the US Alliance to Australia's national security and strategic policy.

s33(a)(iii), s47C, s47E(d)

11. INDO-PACIFIC ECONOMIC FRAMEWORK AND SUPPLY CHAINS

- Australia and the United States are committed to delivering strong outcomes on the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF) to support an open, connected, prosperous, resilient, and inclusive Indo-Pacific region.
- Together with 12 other IPEF partners, Australia and the United States are committed to tackling new and emerging economic challenges
 - including by strengthening trade connectivity and regional supply chains, unlocking green trade and investment to support the clean energy transition, and enhancing anti-corruption efforts in the region.
- Australia welcomes the substantial conclusion of the IPEF Supply Chains Agreement in Detroit in May
 - as a valuable first-of-its-kind agreement to better address modern supply chain challenges
 - represents a concrete step towards greater economic cooperation in the Indo-Pacific region.
- In our most recent Federal budget, the Australian Government committed to invest \$25 million in capacity building and technical assistance across all streams of the IPEF work agenda
 - complementing the United States' financial support to help developing country partners to meet IPEF's high standards.

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

12. CPTPP ACCESSIONS

- The CPTPP is one of the most comprehensive trade deals ever concluded with a combined GDP of \$11.8 trillion and population of over 500 million people (2022).
- Australia, along with the CPTPP membership, welcomes the participation of its newest member, the United Kingdom, at this CPTPP Ministerial meeting.
- The United Kingdom's accession to the CPTPP will further an already close trade and investment relationship between Australia and the UK, underpinned by a commitment to openness, transparency and rules-based trade.
- The CPTPP's common set of rules on issues such as rules of origin, investment, intellectual property and e-commerce will support the UK's integration into resilient value chains in the Indo-Pacific.
- CPTPP membership will enhance the UK's engagement in the Indo-Pacific and support Australia's interests in working with like-minded partners to realise an open, inclusive and prosperous region.
- Any economy that seeks to accede to the CPTPP must demonstrate that it can meet, implement and adhere to the rules and high standards of the CPTPP and have a demonstrated track record of complying with trade commitments.

s33(a)(iii), s47C, s47E(d)

13. CRITICAL MINERALS (INCL. DEFENSE PRODUCTION ACT LISTING)

- Australia is a world leader in critical minerals, boasting some of the world's largest reserves of deposits, a mining industry with talented people and an excellent investment destination reputation.
- Australia's new Critical Minerals Strategy [released 20 June 2023] sets a vision to grow our critical minerals industry, create jobs and downstream industries, strengthen global supply chains, and help Australia become a renewable energy superpower.
- Australia is committed to continuing our role as a trusted and reliable critical minerals partner to the US
 - both bilaterally under our new Australia-US Climate, Critical Minerals and Clean Energy Transformation Compact, and through initiatives such as the Minerals Security Partnership.
- We welcome further US investment and stand ready to meet the needs of US manufacturers as they look to diversify and source critical minerals responsibly.
- We are pleased Australian companies such as Lynas, Jervois and Syrah Resources are progressing critical minerals projects in the US.

s33(a)(iii), s47C, s47E(d)

s33(a)(iii), s47C, s47E(d)

14. US CONSULAR CASES

Julian Assange

- The Australian Government has been clear in our view that Mr Assange's case has dragged on for long enough and needs to be brought to a conclusion
 - the Prime Minister and I continue to raise this view with the governments of the United States and the United Kingdom
- We are doing what we can government to government but there are limits until Mr Assange's legal processes have concluded.
- I understand that Mr Assange has filed a renewal of appeal application in the United Kingdom
 - the Australian Government is not party to these legal proceedings, nor can we intervene in them.

s47C, s47E(d), s47F(1)

15. KOREAN PENINSULA

- North Korea's ongoing missile and Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) programs pose a grave threat to our region and undermine global security and non-proliferation efforts.
- We urge North Korea to comply fully with all UNSC resolutions which require it to abandon its nuclear, ballistic missile, and other WMD programs in a complete, verifiable, and irreversible manner.
- We further appeal to North Korea to change course and make a sustained commitment to meaningful talks with the United States and the Republic of Korea
 - both have stated their willingness to engage in diplomacy with North Korea without conditions, and
 - permanent peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula can only be achieved through dialogue.

16. RUSSIA'S INVASION OF UKRAINE

- Australia and the United States condemn Russia's illegal and immoral war against of Ukraine. It is a gross violation of international law and the UN Charter.
- Australia and the United States are committed to working closely to support Ukraine and maintain pressure on Russia.
- Australia is proud to deploy a Royal Australian Airforce E-7A Wedgetail Aircraft to Europe for approximately six months starting in October 2023
 - the deployment of the E-7A Wedgetail will integrate with the efforts of our partners, including the US.
- Announcements by PM Albanese at NATO Leaders Summit [13 July] and in Berlin [10 July] has taken Australia's Ukraine commitments to AUD 890 million
 - including more than AUD 710 million in military assistance and AUD 75 million in humanitarian aid.
- Australia's total provision of Bushmasters is now 120, demonstrating our ongoing commitment to Ukraine's defence against Russia's aggression.
- Australia's significant support makes it one of the largest non-NATO contributors of military assistance. We are proud to stand alongside our allies and partners to support Ukraine in its fight against Russia's illegal and immoral invasion.
- Australia continues to work with partners to impose costs on Russia [*sanctions, import and export bans, pressure in the multilateral system, legal accountability mechanisms*].
- We want to see an end to this appalling conflict and peace restored as quickly as possible.

s33(a)(iii), s 47C, s 47E(d)

17. FIRST NATIONS FOREIGN POLICY

- The Australian Government is committed to a foreign policy that projects Australia's shared and full identity: our modern diversity and the rich heritage of First Nations People.
- Mr Justin Mohamed, Australia's inaugural Ambassador for First Nations People, leads an Office of First Nations Engagement in the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.
- The Ambassador and the Office will work in genuine partnership with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, advocates and leaders.
- This position ensures, for the first time, that Australia has dedicated Indigenous representation in our international engagement.
- The Ambassador and the Office will support First Nations business and exporters, deliver practical action on climate change, build connections across the Indo-Pacific region and support Indigenous rights around the world.

s 47C, s 47E(d)

s 47C, s 47E(d)

18. GENDER EQUALITY

- Australia has a steadfast commitment to advancing gender equality and the human rights of women and girls, domestically, in our region and globally.
- Gender equality is central to Australia's foreign policy, development, humanitarian, economic and trade and security efforts.
- The significance and necessity of gender equality for our security, resilience and prosperity is evident in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, climate change, conflict and the energy and food crises.
- Australia is committed to reversing the regression on gender equality and partnering to address the challenges faced by women and girls, and persons of diverse gender identities.
- The inaugural Australia-US Strategic Dialogue on Gender Equality took place in Washington DC on 12-13 June, delivering on an AUSMIN 2022 commitment. Discussions strengthened the bilateral relationship and commitment to collaborate on joint priorities to achieve gender equality, including:
 - addressing sexual and gender-based violence;
 - supporting sexual and reproductive health and rights through international development;
 - implementing the Women, Peace and Security agenda, including in relation to climate, cyber, and space security;
 - advancing gender equity and equality in international trade; and
 - strengthening diverse women's participation in climate-decision making and gender-responsive disaster risk reduction, response and resilience.

19. CYBER

- Australia is reviewing its domestic and international policy settings for a new 2023-2030 Cyber Security Strategy
 - we are considering how we can do more to improve our national resilience to cyber threats, strengthen our responses to cyber incidents and enhance Australia's role as a trusted and influential global cyber leader, working in partnership with our neighbours to build a cyber resilient region.
- On 19 May 2023 the Minister for Industry and Science announced Australia's updated List of Critical Technologies
 - the List is accompanied by a Critical Technologies Statement outlining Australia's vision for maximising the opportunities and managing the risks posed by critical and emerging technologies.
- Australia shares the United States concerns about the increased scale and severity of malicious cyber activity by state and non-state actors
 - we will continue to work with the United States and our international partners to deter and respond to malicious actors threatening our national interests
 - including collaborating on potential future cyber sanctions cases.
- As states increasingly exert power through cyberspace, it is essential that clear rules are in place
 - pleased by the ongoing close cooperation with the United States in the UN, setting the rules and expectations for what states should and shouldn't do in cyberspace
 - and combined efforts to protect human rights fundamental freedoms, gender equality and diversity in the negotiation of a new UN treaty to combat cybercrime.
- It is important that we work in close coordination to ensure our cyber capacity building efforts in the Indo-Pacific meet the requirements of our partners
 - pleased to partner with the US and co-sponsor the Pacific Cyber Capacity and Coordination Conference (P4C, 2-4 October 2023) to identify and engage the cyber resilience needs of the region.

s 47C, s 47E(d)

