



Minister for Defence – For action
Minister for Defence Industry – For information
Minister for Defence Personnel – For information
Through: Secretary / CDF (delete this line if not applicable)
Copies to: Secretary, CDF, (add SLG members as appropriate)

Krombholz v Commonwealth & Ors - Federal Court Proceedings *(Use 13 point bold uppercase Times New Roman for the title)*

Critical Date: *(Blank if N/A)* **Reason:** *(Required if there is a critical date, otherwise ‘Routine’)*

Recommendation/s: *(List recommendations – examples as follows)*
Note: for information briefs it is not acceptable to just ask the Minister to note the information in the brief. You must outline what the Minister should be noting – see recommendation 2 below as an example.

1. That you agree to Option B.	Agreed / Not agreed
2. That you note that progress will be reviewed and a report provided to you by 21 November 2016.	Noted / Please discuss
3. That you sign the attached letter to the Prime Minister.	Signed / Not signed

Minister for Defence..... Date / /

Key Points: *(List the main points in numbered paragraphs. The Minister’s preference is that the key points be concise and fit on the front page only).*

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

.....
Name
Title
Group
Telephone:

Contact officer: *(Please ensure that the contact officer will be available during the period the brief is being considered by the Minister’s Office)*
Contact officer phone:

Payne: MA16-003151 Ref:

Sensitivity:

Yes/No. (State here if there are any sensitive issues the Minister should be made aware of. If applicable, include electorate and/or media information and/or any adverse reaction anticipated from those affected by the recommended course of action. Ensure clearance of any associated Talking Points through MediaOps by emailing coo-mecc-pa_clearance@defence.gov.au or phoning 02 6127 1999.

Financial Impacts:

If there are no financial impacts please state this and insert the words – “There are no financial impacts”. If there are financial impacts show the impact on the fiscal balance, underlying cash and operating result (where relevant). The impact on assets can also be shown if different to the operating result. Note that the Chief Financial Officer must be consulted when there is a financial impact. Show the impact on each financial year as follows:

2013–14	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18
\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m

FASRA must be consulted through your group finance officer and agree to any resource implication, and DEPSEC DP (DGWP point of contact) must be consulted and agree to any workforce implications. Where ministerial advice relates to ADF financial conditions or superannuation, FASRA must agree to the resource implications of the advice, and DGPECC must also be consulted. Any such advice must be jointly signed by the Secretary and CDF.

Summary of Attachments: (If the brief has any attachments they are to be listed here. Also note that the attachments are not part of the body of the brief and therefore should not be included in the page numbering, e.g. “Page 4 of 5” etc).

- A –
- B –
- C –

Background:

4. State here if you have provided preliminary advice to the Minister’s office on this matter; when and how this was done. For example, ‘Initial advice about this matter was provided to your office on xx October 2015’.

- 5.
- 6.

Related Briefs:

(List related briefs that are currently with the Minister's office, such as question briefs or senate briefs. You should not list previous briefs here for background purposes. If you wish to reference a previous brief as background, this should be listed under the summary of attachments, and the last signed version attached to the PDR).

Consultation:

Yes/No. (State here who you have consulted - this section must be completed and the brief will not be submitted to the Minister’s office if it is incomplete. Consultation with other Groups and Services should be enforced at the SES/star rank level. You must state the name(s) and position(s) of the SES/star-ranked officer(s) who were consulted. If no consultation has been required, then just advise ‘No’).

Notes – Preparing Briefs

1. *Ensure that briefing text is concise and focused. It is important to include clear facts, figures and dates in the brief. For example, the \$ value of things is always important, the number of staff committed to deliver a program or the like.*
2. *If your brief refers to attachments please ensure that they are typed underlined e.g. Attachment A. If your brief refers to a report or other published material, please attach a copy to the brief.*
3. *Briefs should be prepared well in advance of a CRITICAL DATE. The Minister's Office requires a minimum of five working days to clear a brief.*
4. *This template is to be used for all advice EXCEPT meeting/event/visit briefs.*
5. *Consultation – the submission/brief should provide a 'whole-of-Defence' view – not numerous single Group or Service views. You should consider whether another Group or Service may have valid input to your advice and, if so, consult with that Group or Service and note that consultation as per (2) above.*
6. *Advice contained in the letter that is not contained in the brief – the brief should stand alone; the Minister should not have to read the letter to understand the matter.*
7. *Decisions contained in the letter that are not contained in the recommendations at the end of the brief – the letter should not contain any decisions which the Minister has not agreed to in the recommendations in the brief. The most common error is the letter stating that the Minister now considers a matter closed, and that no further correspondence is warranted. If the Minister has not explicitly been asked to agree to such in the recommendations in the submission/brief, the letter should not contain such a decision.*
8. *Gross/numerous grammatical errors/spelling mistakes – in particular, you should correctly spell the names and titles of the Ministers.*
9. *Not answering the question(s) posed by correspondence – read the original correspondence and the proposed draft response letter side-by-side to ensure the response is adequate.*



Senator the Hon Marise Payne
Minister for Defence

Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Telephone: 02 6277 7800

MA16-003151

Mr John Smith
123 Park Street
CANBERRA ACT 2600

(2 spaces)

Dear NAME

(1 space)

Thank you for your <letter/email/representation> of <date 2015> <on behalf of name>
about <subject>. <I apologise for the delay in responding (if 20 or more days overdue).>

Refer to Style Guide for advice on preparing correspondence. There are preferred opening and closing paragraphs, mandatory naming conventions for ministers and other conventions.

The Style Guide is available at

http://drnet.defence.gov.au/dsrg/DMPLS/Documents/Ministerial_style_guide_Jun_14_clear.pdf

The draft response should be prepared as per this template. The text is left aligned, Calibri 12 point, with two spaces between sentences. In the address block, use three spaces between the city, state and postcode. If a post office box address is provided, it should be used in preference to a street address. When a correspondent has written by email and their address is not known, the address block in the response should include the name and email address only:

Mrs Joanne Smith
jsmith@bigpond.com.au

Use plain English and avoid jargon or overly technical language. Military ranks should be spelt out in full with only the first letter of each word capitalised. Abbreviations and acronyms should be used sparingly, and should be spelt out the first time they are used, in the format: Australian Defence Force (ADF). Use the word 'regret' rather than 'sorry' or 'apologise'. Use the active voice rather than the passive voice. Always use a considerate, understanding tone.

The letter should address all issues raised in the original correspondence.

INSERT CLASSIFICATION (DELETE IF NOT REQUIRED)

Do not number or letter paragraphs – for subparagraphs use dot points. The response should not contain:

- classified information
- any referrals of blame to the author or other organisations
- vague statements that are open to interpretation
- politically sensitive or inflammatory statements.

Numbers should be spelt out up to nine and written as numerals from 10 onwards.

When including a reference to a website, it should appear as: Further information can be found at www.defence.gov.au.

For multiple websites, indent the links as follows. Further information can be found at:
www.defence.gov.au; and
www.australia.gov.au

Use 'www.' but not 'http://'. Do not underline or create a hyperlink. Intranet links are not accessible outside Defence and should not be used.

Include a Defence point of contact if appropriate:

Mr John Smith
Director Ministerial and Executive
Department of Defence
R1-5-A003
PO Box 7902
CANBERRA BC ACT 2610

Telephone: 02 6265 4416
Fax: 02 6265 2033
Email: john.smith@defence.gov.au

If enclosures are to be sent, ensure they are referenced in the text of the response and type 'Encl' directly after the signature block – no spaces.

Refer to the style guide for suggested closing paragraphs, which should reflect the tone of the letter and the opening paragraph.

(1 space)

Yours sincerely

(5 spaces)

MARISE PAYNE

Encl (delete if not required)

INSERT CLASSIFICATION (DELETE IF NOT REQUIRED)

INSERT TITLE

MINISTERIAL TALKING POINTS

Talking points *(all talking points must be Calibri 16pt)*

Talking Points should comprise facts and figures (not prose) with individual points no more than 25 words, and be written in plain language

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-
-
-

Contact officer: *(Please ensure that the contact officer will be available during the period the brief is being considered by the Minister's Office)*

Contact officer phone:

Clearance	Name	Appointment	Date and time
<i>Cleared by: (Group/Service)</i>		SES Band 1 / 1 Star or above	
<i>Cleared by: MECC Division</i>			

NOTE: To be cleared prior to submitting to PC (DMPLS) for Quality Check.

MEDIA RELEASE

DRAFT

<Day>, <Date><Month>2016	MECC 000/00
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TITLE CENTRED IN UPPER CASE BOLD UNDERLINED CALIBRI 16PT

For drafting Media Releases, please consult the Corporate Communication intranet site:

<http://drnet.defence.gov.au/dsrg/CC/Pages/The%20Clearance%20Process.aspx>

Insert your text here. Keep the release short – no more than one page. Make sure that you keep to one sentence per paragraph and no more than 30 words to a sentence.

It should be written in Calibri 13 pt and the text should be left aligned, with one space between sentences. Use single-spacing, 0pt before and 0pt after.

Further Information: <Contact name, position, landline and mobile number>

Drafted	Name	Appointment	Date and time
<i>TPs drafted by</i>			

Clearance	Name	Appointment	Date and time
<i>Cleared by: (Group/Service)</i>		SES Band 1 / 1 Star or above	
<i>Cleared by: MECC Division</i>			

NOTE: To be cleared prior to submitting to PC (DMPLS) for Quality Check.