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Subject: PROTEST ACTION AT SWAN ISLAND
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HOT ISSUE BRIEF

ISSUE: PROTEST ACTION AT SWAN ISLAND

SENSITIVITY: MEDIUM – Protest has made the local newspaper *The Geelong Advertiser*. Minister will need to be informed as the protest looks to be escalating with several arrests occurring by VICPOL today. Children are involved in the protest.

KEY ISSUES:

- **Swan Island Peace Convergence** began a planned protest at Swan Island – 4 – 8 July to coincide with OP Talisman Sabre.
- **Monday 4 July** - Approximately 12 adults and 8-10 children protested between 1400-1530 hrs. No arrests or other incidents.
- **Tuesday 5 July** – 0530-0800hrs approx 20 adults and two children attempted to prevent staff access to base. VICPOL made 10 arrests (6 summary, 4 remand offences) during this period. Protesters then left.
- VICPOL have advised there may be attempts to move blockade to security gate on the island via water.
- VICPOL and Defence are coordinating the response to the protest. VICPOL will be present on Swan Island

for duration of protest in addition to existing security staff.

- SADFO ([REDACTED]) has the lead for any media comments, with DSG in support of SADFO. Media talking points attached.

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TALKING POINTS

- **The Department respects the democratic right of all Australians to express their views, provided this is done in a peaceful and law-abiding way.**
- **Australian Defence Force personnel respect the right of Australian people to voice their opinions**

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