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Number: 000846

Date/Time Transmitted: 05/07/2011 16:16

Subject: PROTEST ACTION AT SWAN ISLAND

Comment: HDSO

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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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Date issued: 5 July 2011

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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