

OFFICIAL

## Port of Darwin

### Whole of Government Talking Points – January 2022

#### REVIEW PROCESS AND OUTCOMES

**1. If asked:** Will the Government act on Defence advice that the Landbridge lease is not a security threat and conclude the review?

- Defence, along with other relevant portfolios and agencies, has been engaged in a review process to provide advice on the Port of Darwin.
- We will not be making any comment regarding the review process, noting its national security implications and the national security agencies involved, other than to say that review process remains ongoing and no decision has been made.

**2. If asked:** Is the lease of the Port of Darwin a national security risk?

- Defence, along with other relevant portfolios and agencies, has been engaged in a review process to provide advice on the Port of Darwin.
- We will not be making any comment regarding the review process, noting its national security implications and the national security agencies involved, other than to say that review process remains ongoing and no decision has been made.
- As the Prime Minister stated on 28 April 2021:
  - "If there is advice from the Defence Department or our security agencies that change their view about the national security implications of any piece of critical infrastructure, you could expect me as Prime Minister to take that advice very seriously and act accordingly."

**3. If asked:** Who is leading the review? Which agencies are involved in the Port of Darwin review?

- The review includes all relevant departments and agencies including Prime Minister and Cabinet, Treasury, Foreign Affairs and Trade, and Home Affairs, as well as members of the National Intelligence Community.

**4. If asked:** Will Government publicly announce the Review's outcomes? If so, when will this occur?

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- We will not be making any comment regarding the review process, noting its national security implications and the national security agencies involved but the Prime Minister has already stated that:
  - “If there is advice from the Defence Department or our security agencies that change their view about the national security implications of any piece of critical infrastructure, you could expect me as Prime Minister to take that advice very seriously and act accordingly.”

**5. If asked:** Has Government engaged with any external stakeholders on the review (international partners, NT Government, Landbridge)?

- We will not be making any comment regarding the review process, noting its national security implications and the national security agencies involved, other than to say that review process remains ongoing and no decision has been made.

**6. If asked:** Will the AUKUS security partnership have any impact on Landbridge’s lease of the Port of Darwin?

- As the Prime Minister said on 16 September 2021, the AUKUS partnership and Landbridge’s lease of the Port of Darwin are unrelated.

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**From:** s47E  
**To:** [SP&I Media](#)  
**Cc:** s47E ; [FASSP Office](#)  
**Subject:** FW: MINDEF request for TPs on the Port of Darwin dur COB today 09 March [SEC=OFFICIAL]  
**Date:** Wednesday, 9 March 2022 5:22:00 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.jpg](#)  
**Importance:** High

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Hi SP&I Media,

Please see below for updated TPs, cleared by FASSP.

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- Information relating to the review into the Port of Darwin is classified, and a matter that is still in process. We will not be making any comment regarding the review process.
- The review has included all relevant departments and agencies including Prime Minister and Cabinet, Treasury, Foreign Affairs and Trade, and Home Affairs, as well as members of the National Intelligence Community.
- As the Prime Minister stated on 28 April 2021:
  - “If there is advice from the Defence Department or our security agencies that change their view about the national security implications of any piece of critical infrastructure, you could expect me as Prime Minister to take that advice very seriously and act accordingly.”

s22



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**From:** s47E <[s47E@defence.gov.au](mailto:s47E@defence.gov.au)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 9 March 2022 2:15 PM  
**To:** SP&I-SP-NDR-FI <[spi-sp-ndr-fi@dpe.protected.mil.au](mailto:spi-sp-ndr-fi@dpe.protected.mil.au)>; s47E  
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Cc: s47E [redacted]@defence.gov.au>; s47E [redacted]  
s47E [redacted]@defence.gov.au>; SP&I Media <spi.media@defence.gov.au>  
**Subject:** MINDEF request for TPs on the Port of Darwin dur COB today 09 March [SEC=OFFICIAL]

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Hi all,

Bruce, thanks for your time. As discussed, **MINDEF has requested up-to-date TPs on the Port of Darwin by COB today.**

The latest that we have on hand are below:

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### Port of Darwin

#### Whole of Government Talking Points – January 2022

- Defence, along with other relevant portfolios and agencies, has been engaged in a review process to provide advice on the Port of Darwin.
- The review has included all relevant departments and agencies including Prime Minister and Cabinet, Treasury, Foreign Affairs and Trade, and Home Affairs, as well as members of the National Intelligence Community.
- We will not be making any comment regarding the review process, noting its national security implications and the national security agencies involved, other than to say that the review process remains ongoing and no decision has been made.
- As the Prime Minister stated on 28 April 2021:
  - “If there is advice from the Defence Department or our security agencies that change their view about the national security implications of any piece of critical infrastructure, you could expect me as Prime Minister to take that advice very seriously and act accordingly.”

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Please update accordingly and return to the SP&I Media team ([spi.media@defence.gov.au](mailto:spi.media@defence.gov.au)). We'll then move that back to the Ministerials team.

Thanks all, appreciate your support given the tight turnaround.

Warmly,

s47E [redacted]

s47E [redacted] | Communications

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## KEY TALKING POINTS

- Defence – along with other relevant portfolios and agencies, including Prime Minister and Cabinet, Treasury, Foreign Affairs and Trade, and Home Affairs, as well as members of the National Intelligence Community – has provided advice to a review process on the Port of Darwin.
- Information relating to the review is classified, and the review is still in process. I will not be making any further comment regarding the review at this stage.

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Lead Division

Contact: Peter Sawczak, First Assistant Secretary

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Date first prepared: 18 January 2022

Originating Source: MO

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