

From: [Walk, Jason MAJGEN](#)
To: [Naumann, Darren BRIG](#); [JOHNSON Andrew](#)
Cc: [Tyler, Veronica AIRCDRE](#); s22 s22
Subject: 220919:1344 - 220919:1344 - Strategic Fleet Bilateral Discussion - Defence
Date: Monday, 19 September 2022 1:44:49 PM
Attachments: [image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)

OFFICIAL

Darren,

Noted. Thanks.

Regards

Major General Jason Walk

Commander Joint Logistics

Joint Logistics Command | Joint Capabilities Group | Department of Defence

s22 | Campbell Park | Northcott Drive, Campbell, ACT 2600

P: s22 | M: s22 | E: s22 [@defence.gov.au](mailto:s22@defence.gov.au)

Staff Officer s22 | P: s22 | M: s22 E:

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s

From: Naumann, Darren BRIG s22 [@defence.gov.au](mailto:s22@defence.gov.au)>

Sent: Monday, 19 September 2022 1:37 PM

To: JOHNSON Andrew s22 [@infrastructure.gov.au](mailto:s22@infrastructure.gov.au)>; Walk, Jason MAJGEN s22 [@defence.gov.au](mailto:s22@defence.gov.au)>

Cc: Tyler, Veronica AIRCDRE s22 [@defence.gov.au](mailto:s22@defence.gov.au)>; s22 [@infrastructure.gov.au](mailto:s22@infrastructure.gov.au)>; s22

Subject: RE: Strategic Fleet Bilateral Discussion - Defence [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Gents, apologies but I'm going to have to pull out of this today.

CJLOG, noting I'm monitoring from a mobilisation perspective I'll follow up with you / AIRCDRE Tyler in the next few days.

Andrew, I'll be in touch.

Regards,

Darren

Brigadier D.S. Naumann

Mob: s22

Email: s22@defence.gov.au

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-----Original Appointment-----

From: JOHNSON Andrew s22@infrastructure.gov.au>

Sent: Friday, 19 August 2022 11:15 AM

To: JOHNSON Andrew; s22 Walk, Jason

MAJGEN; Naumann, Darren BRIG; Tyler, Veronica AIRCDRE; CJLOG Corro

Subject: Strategic Fleet Bilateral Discussion - Defence [SEC=OFFICIAL]

When: Monday, 19 September 2022 2:00 PM-3:00 PM (UTC+10:00) Canberra, Melbourne, Sydney.

Where: Campbell Park Offices - s22

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Hi all

This meeting will be to continue the conversation around the Strategic Fleet. Below is the original email that was sent for your information. Please let me know if you require anything else prior to the meeting, or if you think another team member with benefit from attending this meeting.

Info relating to the meeting room and parking:

CJLOGS' conference room is booked s22 and there is a CJLOG visitor carpark located at

the front of the building right down the far end of D-Node and it is sign posted.

Thanks,

s22

Executive Assistant to Andrew Johnson • Maritime and Shipping • Surface Transport Policy

s22 [@infrastructure.gov.au](mailto:s22@infrastructure.gov.au)

Ps22

GPO Box 594 Canberra, ACT 2601

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*I would like to acknowledge the traditional custodians of this land on which we meet, work and live.
I recognise and respect their continuing connection to the land, waters and communities.
I pay my respects to Elders past and present and to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders.*

As discussed, we are keen to hold bilateral meetings with agencies as soon as possible to be ready for the first meeting of the Taskforce.

I see a few initial questions to be addressed in these meetings:

- what is the Commonwealth's strategic need for a fleet from the perspective of your portfolio (e.g. national security, fuel, disaster recovery, other?)
- where does the Taskforce need to understand links with other commitments/priorities of Government (e.g. Defence mobilisation, zero emissions, skills)
- Where do potential recommendations affect other agencies regulatory/legislative responsibilities
- What data/reports are available that could help inform the Taskforce
- How do we support the work of the Taskforce in a whole of government way

Of course we are happy to hear about other issues/concerns or ideas.

We will also be preparing a range of papers for the Taskforce to provide some early background. We will be looking to you for relevant input and assistance.

Feel free to invite a broader audience in your Department where you feel this is relevant. We are also happy to do a Strategic Fleet/ shipping 101 if that is helpful.

Please let us know a point of contact. We will set up meetings over the next couple of weeks. We are happy to do a face to face at your offices or a Teams, whichever is preferred. Please contact my EA, s22, to assist with arranging these meetings.

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From: [Turner, Michael CDRE](#) s22
To: s22 [Walk, Jason MAJGEN](#)
Cc: [CJLOG Corro](#); [Tyler, Veronica AIRCDRE](#); s22 [JOHNSON Andrew](#); s22
Subject: 221020 1644 - e-mail - M Turner/Many - Strategic Fleet Taskforce 101 papers
Date: Thursday, 20 October 2022 4:44:18 PM
Attachments: [image002.jpg](#)
[image005.png](#)
[image006.png](#)
[image007.png](#)
[18\) Supporting Defence or national mobilisation requirements.docx](#)

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Hi Sir and s22 – thank-you for including me on this email chain. If it is not too late I have made one minor correction to attached.

Yours Aye,



Commodore Mick Turner, RAN
Director General Force Exploration
Force Exploration Branch
ADF HQ – Force Design Division

SfB: s22 **M:** s22
E: s22 [@defence.gov.au](mailto:s22@defence.gov.au)
W: defence.gov.au/VCDF/forceexploration
s22 | Russell | PO Box 7905 | Canberra BC | ACT 2610

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From: s22 [@infrastructure.gov.au](mailto:s22@infrastructure.gov.au)>
Sent: Thursday, 20 October 2022 3:35 PM
To: Walk, Jason MAJGEN s22 [@defence.gov.au](mailto:s22@defence.gov.au)>
Cc: CJLOG Corro s22 [@defence.gov.au](mailto:s22@defence.gov.au)>; Tyler, Veronica AIRCDRE s22 [@defence.gov.au](mailto:s22@defence.gov.au)>; s22 [@infrastructure.gov.au](mailto:s22@infrastructure.gov.au)>; s22 [@infrastructure.gov.au](mailto:s22@infrastructure.gov.au)>; Turner, Michael CDRE s22 [@defence.gov.au](mailto:s22@defence.gov.au)>; JOHNSON Andrew s22 [@infrastructure.gov.au](mailto:s22@infrastructure.gov.au)>; s22 [@defence.gov.au](mailto:s22@defence.gov.au)>
Subject: RE: Strategic Fleet Taskforce 101 papers [SEC=OFFICIAL]

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Jason

Thanks for the papers and for the quick turnaround.

s22

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From: Walk, Jason MAJGEN s22 <s22@defence.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 20 October 2022 3:33 PM
To: s22 <s22@infrastructure.gov.au>
Cc: s22 <s22@defence.gov.au>; Tyler, Veronica AIRCDRE
s22 <s22@defence.gov.au>; s22 <s22@infrastructure.gov.au>; s22 <s22@infrastructure.gov.au>;
Turner, Michael CDRE s22 <s22@defence.gov.au>; JOHNSON Andrew
s22 <s22@infrastructure.gov.au>; s22 <s22@defence.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Strategic Fleet Taskforce 101 papers [REDACTED]

s22

Thanks for the feedback on the briefs. I have included updated versions, with very minor edits recorded as tracked changes. Importantly, that includes the removal of the key sentence within the Mobilisation brief, which enables its declassification to the 'Official' level. It is not formally marked as such but I offer it can be treated as an Official security classified document.

Regards

Major General Jason Walk
Commander Joint Logistics
Joint Logistics Command | Joint Capabilities Group | Department of Defence

s22 | Campbell Park | Northcott Drive, Campbell, ACT 2600
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s22 <s22@defence.gov.au>

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From: s22 <s22@infrastructure.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 20 October 2022 11:06 AM
To: Walk, Jason MAJGEN s22 <s22@defence.gov.au>
Cc: s22 <s22@defence.gov.au>; Tyler, Veronica AIRCDRE
s22 <s22@defence.gov.au>; s22 <s22@infrastructure.gov.au>; s22 <s22@infrastructure.gov.au>;
Turner, Michael CDRE s22 <s22@defence.gov.au>; JOHNSON Andrew
s22 <s22@infrastructure.gov.au>

Subject: Strategic Fleet Taskforce 101 papers [REDACTED]

Jason

Thank you for the papers. I've attached versions with a few changes from us, to make them comparable with the other papers. We've also identified some content we think we would use later.

I note that the Mobilisation paper is marked protected. We've asked whether with a change (noted) it could be marked at the official level so we can share it with the other members.

We hope to send out the papers to the members tomorrow, ahead of the potential first meeting on Monday. Please let us know if you are happy with the changes and with a reclassification on the Mobilisation paper.

I've also attached a copy of an article from the Australian this morning in case you haven't seen it. I also wanted to say that our media release has your role and rank included correctly! The link to that is here: <https://minister.infrastructure.gov.au/c-king/media-release/strategic-fleet-taskforce-launched>

Happy to discuss further.

Thanks

s22

Director • Strategic Fleet/Maritime and Shipping Branch • Surface Transport Policy Division

s22 [@infrastructure.gov.au](mailto:s22@infrastructure.gov.au)

Ps22 • Ms22

GPO Box 594 Canberra, ACT 2601

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From: Walk, Jason MAJGEN s22 [@defence.gov.au](mailto:s22@defence.gov.au)>

Sent: Monday, 17 October 2022 12:23 PM

To: s22 [redacted] <[redacted]@infrastructure.gov.au>
Cc: CJLOG Corro s22 [redacted] <[redacted]@defence.gov.au>; Tyler, Veronica AIRCDRE
s22 [redacted] <[redacted]@defence.gov.au>; s22 [redacted]
[redacted] <[redacted]@infrastructure.gov.au>; s22 [redacted] <[redacted]@infrastructure.gov.au>;
Turner, Michael CDRE s22 [redacted] <[redacted]@defence.gov.au>
Subject: RE: For Action: Email to Major-General Walk re input on SFTF 101 papers
[SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

s22 [redacted]

As discussed last week, please find attached the two briefs for which you were seeking Defence input. I welcome feedback as to whether these met the mark or you were anticipating different information from Defence.

Regards

Major General Jason Walk

Commander Joint Logistics

Joint Logistics Command | Joint Capabilities Group | Department of Defence

s22 [redacted] | Campbell Park | Northcott Drive, Campbell, ACT 2600

P: s22 [redacted] | M: s22 [redacted] | E: s22 [redacted] <[redacted]@defence.gov.au>

Staff Officer s22 [redacted] | P: s22 [redacted] | M: s22 [redacted] E:

s22 [redacted] <[redacted]@defence.gov.au>

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From: s22 [redacted] <[redacted]@infrastructure.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 5 October 2022 5:35 PM
To: Walk, Jason MAJGEN s22 [redacted] <[redacted]@defence.gov.au>
Cc: CJLOG Corro s22 [redacted] <[redacted]@defence.gov.au>; Tyler, Veronica AIRCDRE
s22 [redacted] <[redacted]@defence.gov.au>; s22 [redacted]
[redacted] <[redacted]@infrastructure.gov.au>; s22 [redacted] <[redacted]@infrastructure.gov.au>;
Turner, Michael CDRE s22 [redacted] <[redacted]@defence.gov.au>
Subject: FW: For Action: Email to Major-General Walk re input on SFTF 101 papers
[SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Good afternoon Major-General

Thanks again to you and your colleagues for meeting with us on 19 September to discuss the Government's strategic fleet commitment - and for your assistance to date on Strategic Fleet

Taskforce matters.

As discussed at our meeting, we are preparing several short '101' style briefing papers that will form part of the induction pack for Taskforce members. The intent of these papers is to provide 1-2 pages of high-level factual information on issues that are referenced in the Taskforce Terms of Reference, or are otherwise relevant to the Taskforce's work.

We have prepared two papers that will require input from Defence (attached) – one relating to the Taskforce undertaking an assessment of how the strategic fleet could support Defence mobilisation; the other on the opportunities for the strategic fleet to enhance critical supply chains (including for Defence materiel).

As the Defence point of contact, we would be grateful if you could please coordinate Defence input for these papers internally. Any input and/or comments on the papers that could be provided by the end of next week would be greatly appreciated.

Happy to discuss.

Thanks

s22

s22

A/g Assistant Secretary • Strategic Fleet/Maritime and Shipping Branch • Surface Transport Policy Division

s22 [@infrastructure.gov.au](mailto:s22@infrastructure.gov.au)

Ps22 • Ms22

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SUPPORTING MOBILISATION REQUIREMENTS

- The Terms of Reference refer to the Taskforce undertaking an assessment of the opportunities for a strategic fleet to contribute to supporting Defence or national mobilisation requirements.
- Mobilisation is the process of generating capability and marshalling national resources.
 - Mobilisation has meant the support of military operations for national defence, but could include coordinated national response to significant non-military crises.
- Maritime vessels (depending on parameters) could assist mobilisation by transporting cargo or personnel between Australian ports.

Additional information related to mobilisation

- Mobilisation can occur as a graduated response across four stages. In its final stage, national mobilisation occurs in the face of a significant threat to the nation and requires total Defence mobilisation and government coordination of a national effort to enable profound re-direction of national support base capability to achieve national objectives. Defence mobilisation for national security draws on the broader economy, requiring support from other Government departments, state and territory governments and industry. Mobilisation may also see Defence supporting activities led by other government departments or state and territory governments, such as for COVID, fire and flood responses, and support to extreme weather events.
- Defence's role in mobilisation are constantly under review and will be informed by the Defence Strategic Review. The Defence Strategic Mobilisation Framework (DSMF) was endorsed within Defence in April 2022 to provide a framework to enable broader consideration across Defence.
- s33(a)(i)
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
- The national support base is dependent on maritime trade and will be placed under extraordinary stress at the same time as Defence will also have demands on global supply chains, such that maritime transport will be a critical capability. In a time of mobilization and/or conflict, Australia's shipping task is expected to increase in scale, frequency, urgency, importance and

risk, leading to increased likelihood and consequence of not being able to access shipping. Worldwide mobilisation is likely to cause a rise in anti-competitive behaviour and severely impact Defence's ability to access commercial vessels.

- As Defence increases in size and activity through mobilisation, a strategic fleet may provide additional capacity and capability by providing access to Australian maritime vessels to move Defence equipment and supplies around the national support base and internationally. A strategic fleet may also provide enhanced capability to import and distribute of materiel critical to an expanding Defence industry as requirement increases and access to global supply decreases.

From: [JOHNSON Andrew](#)
To: s22
Subject: 230420 - 230420 - JOHNSON Andrew s22
Date: Thursday, 20 April 2023 9:09:00 AM
Attachments: [image003.gif](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image001.png](#)

OFFICIAL

Hi s22

Thanks for contacting me. We have been looking at some of the arrangements in other countries in terms of strategic fleets and civilian capability to support Defence and other disruption response activities. NATO has been on of the arrangements we have looked at and there are some areas where we would probably like to find out a bit more as we work through some of our policy questions.

More than happy to take a call today. My contacts are below – I am not in the office today so mobile is the best contact. I have a few meetings but I am sure we can find a time that works with that and timezones.

Regards
Andrew

Andrew Johnson

Assistant Secretary • **Strategic Fleet** • **Surface Transport Emissions and Policy Division**

s22 [@infrastructure.gov.au](mailto:s22@infrastructure.gov.au)

P s22 • M s22

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OFFICIAL

s22



MAJGEN Walk thanks you for the opportunity to contribute to the Taskforce discussion paper into the Maritime Strategic Fleet.

Please contact MAJGEN Walk or s22 [REDACTED] at s22 [REDACTED] [s22 \[REDACTED\]@defence.gov.au](mailto:s22 [REDACTED]@defence.gov.au) or s22 [REDACTED] should you have any questions relating to the submission.

s22
Staff Officer to Commander Joint Logistics – Major General Jason Walk
Joint Logistics Command | Joint Capabilities Group | Department of Defence

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Australian Government
Department of Defence

Maritime Strategic Fleet

Department of Defence Submission



s22

Version 1.0



s22

DEFENCE SUBMISSION TO THE MARITIME STRATEGIC FLEET TASKFORCE

Endorsed by:

s22

J Walk
Major General
Commander Joint Logistics
Taskforce Member (Defence)

30 Nov 22

References:

- A. Strategic Policy Statement – Air and Sea Lift s22
- B. ADF Lift Study Part 1 – 2018 s22
- C. JLC Commercial Support Lift Study s22
- D. Rail and Sea Heavy Lift Validation Study, Forge Advisory, Dec 2020 s22
- E. Joint Project 1655 Additional Military Sealift Draft Joint Capability Needs Statement (JCNS) (PROTECTED)

INTRODUCTION

1. The Department of Defence (Defence) welcomes the opportunity to contribute to the Taskforce discussion paper into the Maritime Strategic Fleet.
2. Defence has fundamental linkages to the Australian shipping industry in terms of maritime security, commercial sea lift, maritime workforce and maritime infrastructure. It is vitally important to maintain engagement between Defence and key government and commercial stakeholders to ensure that Defence requirements are considered.
3. This submission aims to inform the Taskforce of Defence considerations for a Strategic Fleet, including potential ways in which a Strategic Fleet might support Defence activity.

STRATEGIC NEEDS

4. Strategic Sealift is a key Defence requirement, stated in core Defence policy including the Defence White Paper 2016, Defence Strategic Policy Statement on Air and Sea Lift of 2018 and the Defence Strategic Update 2020. The need has been developed over time and is supported by a number of studies. The Defence Strategic Review is currently in progress and may change priorities and alter details of the requirement but is unlikely to remove the need for strategic lift.
5. s33(a)(ii)

s33(a)(ii)

6. Maritime transport is a key capability given Australia's geography - 85% of the population lives within 50 kilometres of the coast. Road and rail networks are limited, especially in the north, and are likely to be disrupted by extreme weather events or conflict. Many remote mining sites, such as Weipa, are logistically supported by sea for these reasons. s33(a)(i) where these issues are magnified. Shipping links national centres of industry and support in Australia's south to operational and training areas in Australia's north and throughout the region.

7. Defence relies on commercial shipping across the spectrum of operations including Defence cooperation activities, Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Response (HADR) and large-scale combat operations, providing sealift for prepositioning activities, force projection of follow-on-forces and sustainment of expeditionary forces. s33(a)(i) & 33(a)(ii)

s33(a)(i) & 33(a)(ii)

9. A Strategic Fleet could mitigate these risks s33(a)(i)

Potential Defence Tasks


10. Detail on potential Defence tasks and example loads that a Strategic Fleet might support are listed below.

11. **Strategic lift of forces to operational areas.** s33(a)(i)

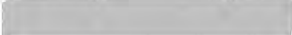
s33(a)(i)

Page 3 of 11


s33(a)(i)



14. s33(a)(i) is
critical to Defence capability s33(a)(i)
Defence currently spends around s33(a)(i)
Security and safety are key considerations. s33(a)(i)



s33(a)(i)



s33(a)(i)

18. **Import of materiel for defence industry.** As Australia's defence industry grows, requirements to import and export materiel will also increase. For example, loads might include s33(a)(i) This activity is not within Defence control but will s33(a)(i)

19. **Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Response (HADR).** A Strategic Fleet would likely be suitable for HADR tasks, delivering food, water, medical supplies and general stores, as well as Defence personnel and equipment. A contemporary example is the Navy's support to the Bushfire Response in 2019. This would relieve pressure on combat vessels, which have traditionally conducted these tasks as a secondary role, improving readiness for Defence tasks and reducing cost. Readiness and responsiveness of a Strategic Fleet would need to be considered for these tasks. Annex G provides an example Defence load for a disaster response task.

s33(a)(i)

Defence Shipping Requirements


21. Defence's priority requirements for shipping are:

s33(a)(i)

22. These characteristics enable support to the critical, high end tasks but are also generally suitable for the range of Defence tasks.

s33(a)(i)

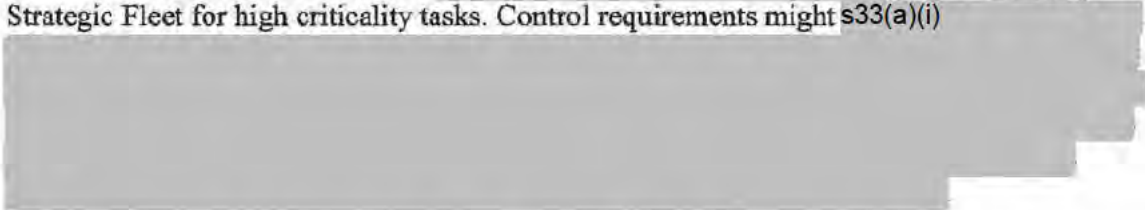
s33(a)(i)



CONTROL AND LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

26. Defence has explored legal considerations such as flagging and ownership to a degree and identified a range of potentially complex considerations. These are summarised below but require further examination.

27. Defence would likely seek s33(a)(i) provided through a Strategic Fleet for high criticality tasks. Control requirements might s33(a)(i)




28. The legal mechanisms to 'take up from trade' and commensurate responsibilities require detailed examination. The Defence Act 1903² provides the Government the ability to compel owners of Australian registered ships to furnish them to the Australian Defence Force (ADF) for the purpose of the defence and protection of the Commonwealth or of any state.

29. Commercial ships on Government non-commercial duty qualify for sovereign protection as declared Naval Auxiliaries, and fly the Australian Flag (White Ensign). Such arrangements are already managed for the Defence Marine Support Services ships in Australian jurisdictions, via agreements with the Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) or under Defence Seaworthiness Management Authority.

30. Acknowledging these provisions, there are two important factors which impact the practicality of their application; the threshold at which these powers would be enacted, and the paucity of suitable Australian registered shipping. If Australian ships were to be requisitioned it would likely have an immediate economic and social impact on the

² Defence Act 1903, Part VI, Special powers in relation to defence

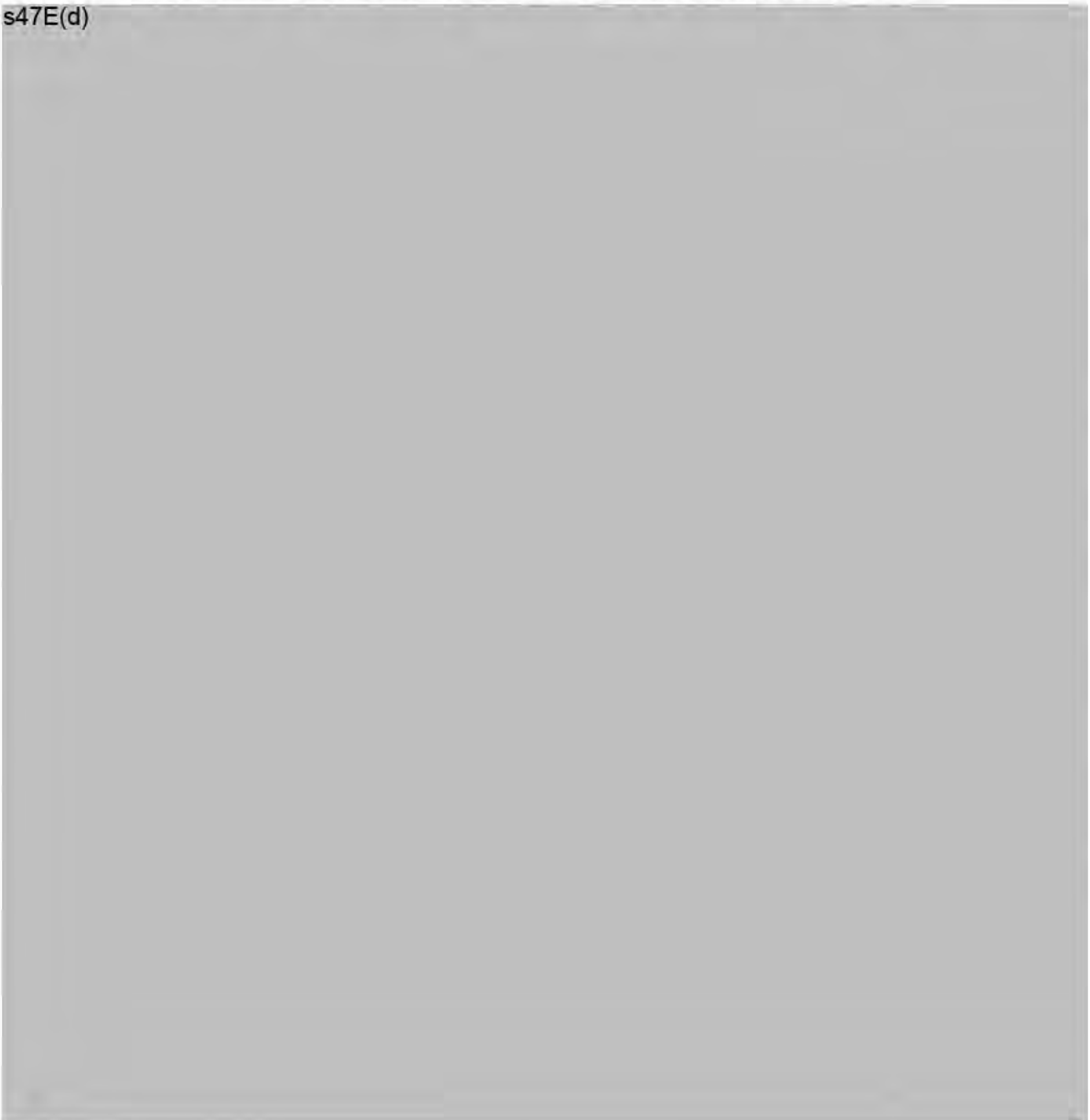


Page 6 of 11

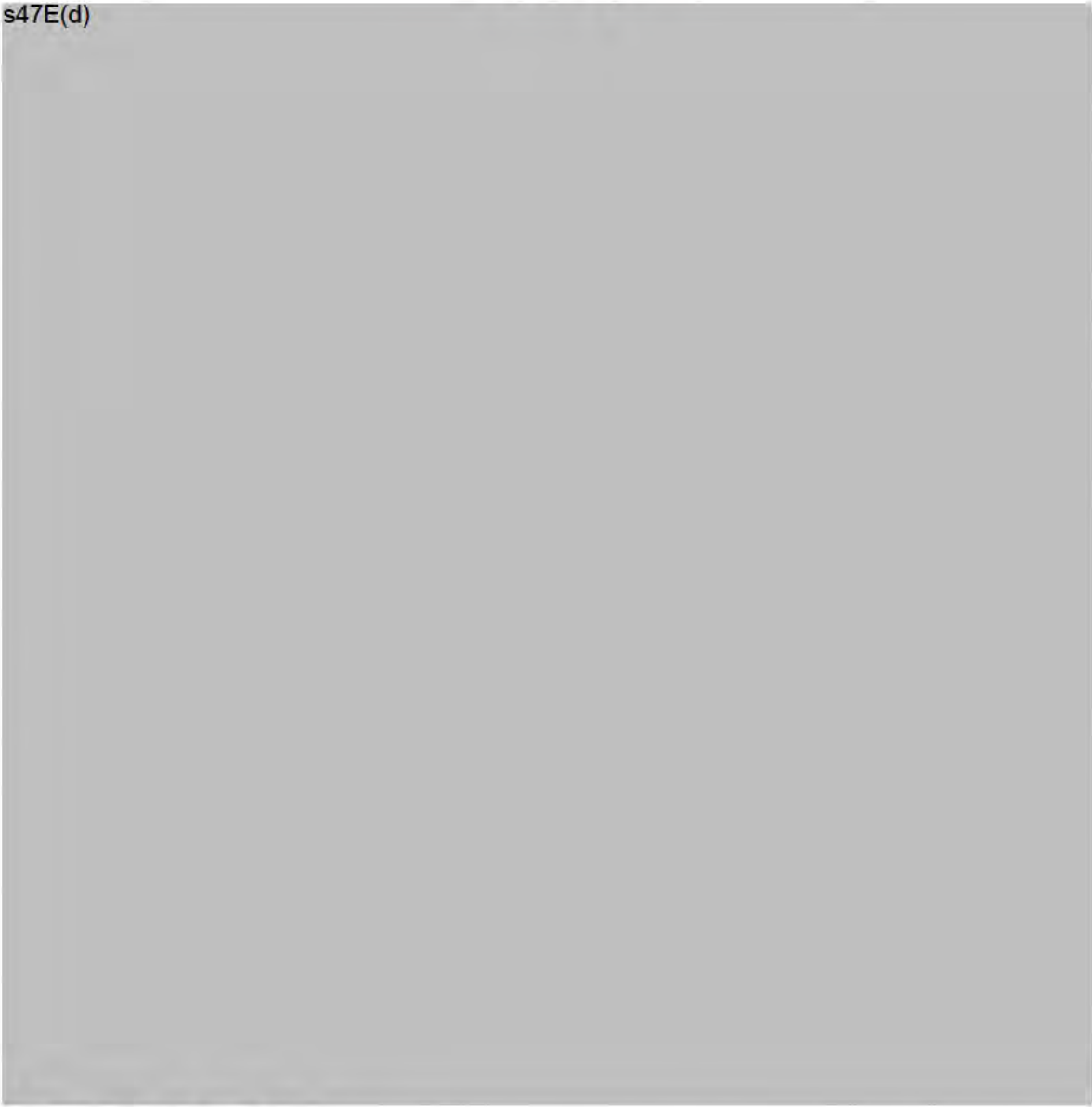
populations that previously relied upon that service. Accordingly the Government would need to carefully consider application of these powers.

31. Under Section 70 of the Defence Act (1903), and associated Deeds of Licence Australian Defence Force vessels are afforded privileged access to Australian ports. This can translate as port access free from berthing or anchorage charges. All other normal fees associated with ports such as the provision of harbour pilots, fresh water, power, provisions and waste removal are charged to Defence in the same way as any other commercial customer. Defence is also liable, where appropriate, for demurrage charges when an ADF vessel requires priority access to a specific berth that is currently occupied by a commercial customer. It should be noted that this requirement is uncommon and where possible Defence seeks to minimise impact on commercial vessel movement and trade. The provisions and exemptions of s.70 of the Defence Act 1903 can also extend to those foreign navies listed in Schedules 1 and 2 of the Defence (Visiting Forces) Regulations 1963. The Taskforce should consider the application of these arrangements to a Strategic Fleet for Defence tasks.

s47E(d)



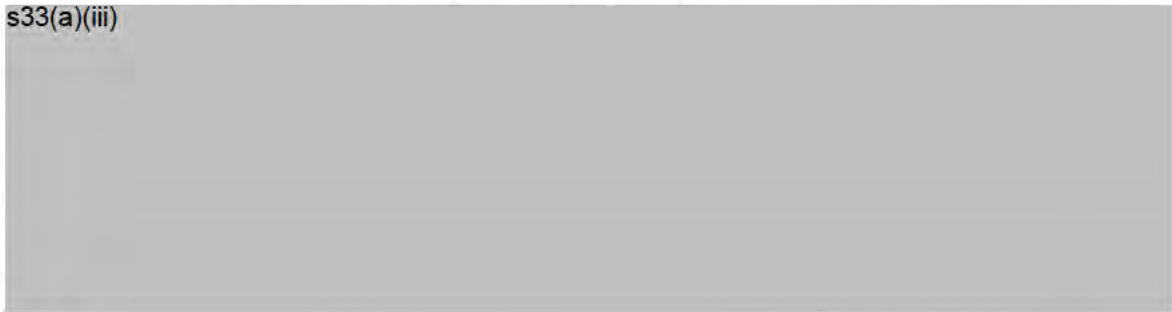
s47E(d)



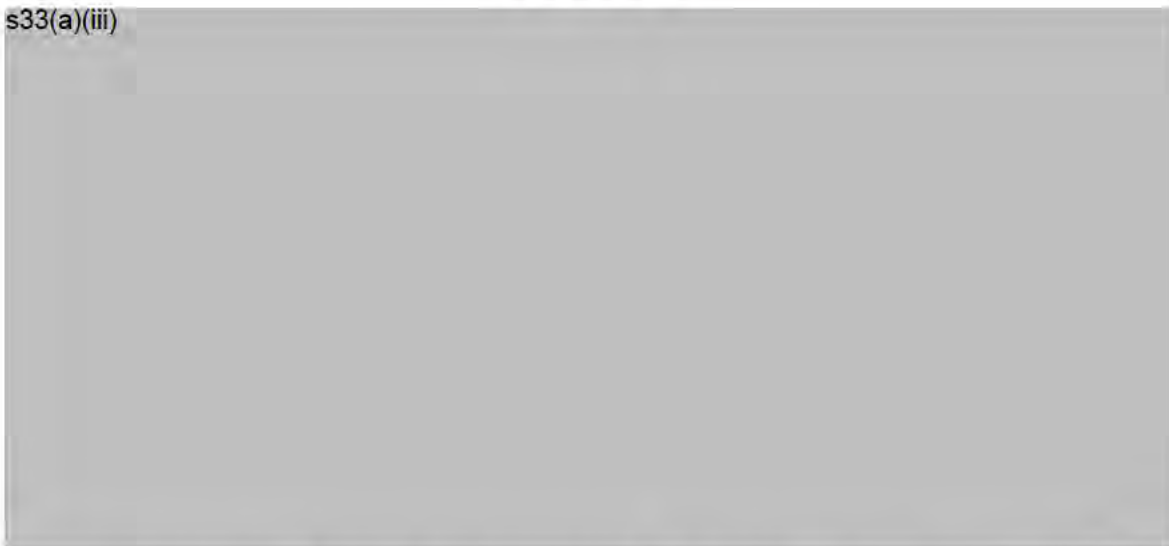
International Exemplars

42. There are a number of models operated by our coalition partners to incentivise and create additional commercial sea lift capacity. Such arrangements in an Australian context could offer not only additional sea lift capacity but could also generate additional national capacity in terms of training, seafarers, construction, repair and maintenance, as well as contributing towards development of a maritime cluster.

s33(a)(iii)



s33(a)(iii)



46. An overview of international exemplars of Defence assured commercial sealift s33(a)(iii)
s33(a)(iii) is attached at Annex I. Further detail on s33(a)(iii)
s33(a)(iii)

ADDITIONAL DEFENCE CONSIDERATIONS

General

47. Defence plays a vital role in ensuring Australia's maritime security, acting to deter potential aggression. Additionally, through the conduct of military, diplomatic and constabulary operations at sea, Defence assists in protecting vital sea lanes. This protection could include specific actions s33(a)(iii)
s33(a)(iii) and s33(a)(iii) These roles may apply to a strategic meet.

s47E(d)



s47E(d)

Maritime Trade

Operations personnel facilitate cooperation and common understanding, drawing on their operational, commercial and regulatory maritime backgrounds to optimise protection while minimising disruption to both military and civil maritime industry activities and resources.

s47E(d)



³ <http://www.foreland-shipping.org/index.html>

⁴ The US Army also have their own vessels for theatre lift purposes, akin to LAND8710 Army Littoral Manoeuvre and not detailed in this paper.

⁵ <https://warontherocks.com/2019/01/sealift-is-americas-achilles-heel-in-the-age-of-great-power-competition/>

⁶ Royal Australian Navy, The Navy Contribution to Australian Maritime Operations, RAN Doctrine 2 Canberra, 2005, p.190

s47E(d)

Defence's Current use of Commercial Shipping

51. Defence operates two standing offers for provision of commercial shipping: one for general shipping services and s33(a)(i)

The services obtained through these arrangements might be subsumed in s33(a)(i)

s33(a)(i)

POTENTIAL DISRUPTION TO MARITIME TRADE

54. Defence offers unique perspective and expertise on potential security related disruptions to Australia's maritime trade. s47E(d)

s47E(d)

CONCLUSION

55. Defence has a strong interest in the Strategic Fleet, as a potential user, through the benefits of secure national supply chains and as an organisation concurrently exploring related areas. Defence offers and seeks ongoing engagement to develop the Strategic Fleet concept for consideration by Government.

s33(a)(i)

[REDACTED]

Page 11 of 11

s33(a)(i)

[REDACTED]

International Explosive Ordnance Transportation



Five level Compliance Framework

Defence FOI 462/23/24
Item 1, Document 5

1. Identify
Compliance
Docs

2. Supplier
Assurance

3. EMB
Security Rules

4. Movement
Security
Plan

5. Management
Review and
Approval

s33(a)(i)



Info Brief on US Strategic Commercial Sealift Programs



Agenda

- Key US Government/DoD stakeholders
- DOD Major Sealift Programs
- Maritime Security Program
- Voluntary Intermodal Sealift Agreement
- Military Sealift Command (MSC)
- SDDC Liner Service (USC-09)
- Assurance in Conflict
- TWCF (cost recoupment)
- Other Exemplars



USTRANSCOM



US Transportation Command (USTRANSCOM)

Conducts globally integrated mobility operations, leads the broader joint deployment and distribution enterprise, and provides enabling capabilities to project and sustain the Joint Force



MARAD

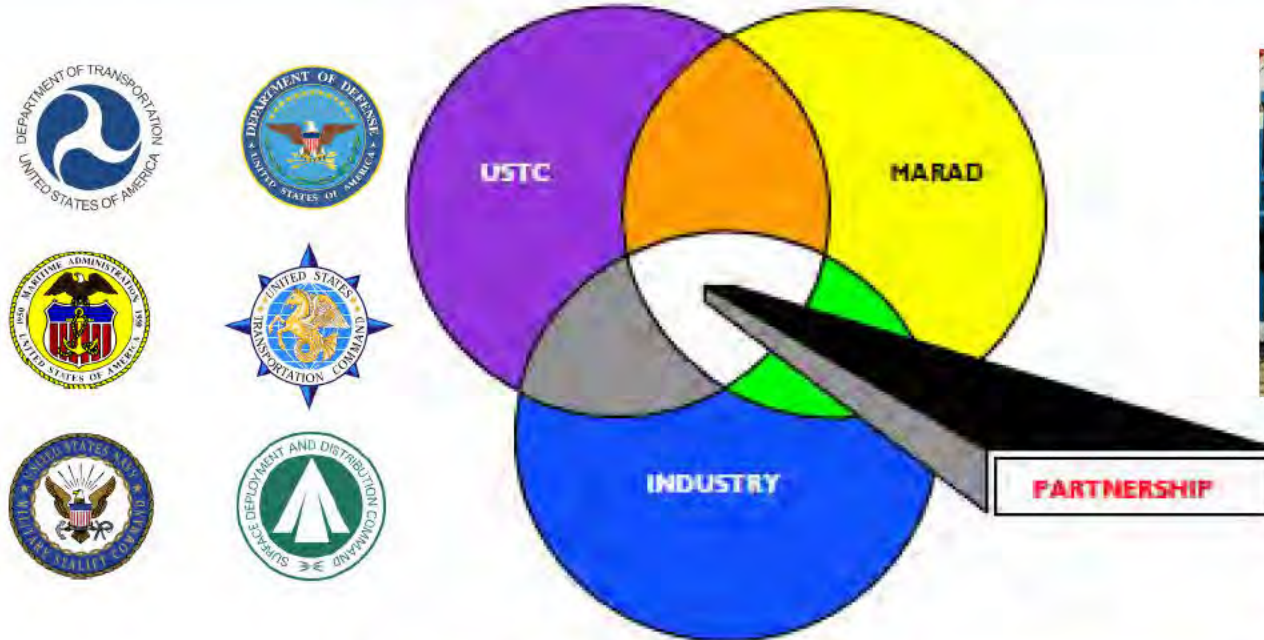


Maritime Administration (MARAD)

Department of Transportation (DOT) agency responsible for waterborne transportation. MARAD also maintains a fleet of cargo ships (Ready Reserve Force) to provide surge sea-lift during war and national emergencies, and is responsible for disposing of ships in that fleet



Army (USTRANSCOM 4th Component)



Government & Industry Partnership:
Providing commercial transportation resources
to meet national security requirements, in a
timely efficient, and cost effective manner

- * US DoD historically relied on commercial surface assets for 80-95% of cargo requirements
- * Over 90% of DoD Wartime demand moved over ocean



NDTA



The National Defense Transportation Association (NDTA) is a non-profit organization that enables Defense and Industry collaboration regarding strategic mobility issues, challenges, and solutions. Senior leaders throughout USTRANSCOM, the wider DoD, and Industry serve as stakeholders to improve the collective national security interests inherent in strategic transportation capability, systems, and infrastructure.



TWCF

- What is the Transportation Working Capital Fund?
- Why TWCF exists
 - Unable to accurately program Variable rates of shipping
 - Creates market environment for prioritization





FOR: Deputy Prime Minister

INFO: Assistant Minister for Defence

THROUGH: s22 [REDACTED]

CC: ASSOC SEC, VCDF, DEPSEC DSRI, CN, CFO, FASMECC

Defence Position on the Proposal to Establish a Strategic Fleet

Key Issues:

In June 2023 the Strategic Fleet Taskforce delivered its final report (the Report). The Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government, the Hon. Catherine King MP will consider the Report and proposed response, which Defence understands identifies ship options and other needs. The Strategic Fleet's utility to Defence will depend on scale, composition, commercial arrangements and priorities. Establishment of a Strategic Fleet is not specifically mentioned in the Government's response to the Defence Strategic Review (DSR), however there are interdependencies between the proposed Strategic Fleet, and DSR initiatives. Defence supports the establishment of a Strategic Fleet if funded external to the Defence budget, ensuring Defence is able to prioritise capabilities directed by the Government.

Media Considerations:

Proposed establishment of a Strategic Fleet and Defence considerations have attracted media attention. No media attention is expected as a result of this brief.

Minister comments

Cleared by: Rear Admiral David Mann
Acting Chief of Joint Capabilities
Joint Capabilities Group

24 August 2023 s22 [REDACTED]

Contact Officer: Major General Jason Walk
Commander Joint Logistics
s22 [REDACTED]

Sensitivity: No.

Financial Impacts: No.

1. An indicative cost of the entire Strategic Fleet proposed by the Taskforce is s47C per annum; however, this figure was noted to require further refinement.
2. During the Taskforce deliberations, Defence was not attributed as a potential funding source. s47C . If Defence is expected to contribute, the impact on Defence will need to be assessed in detail. s47E(d)

Systems/legislation/deregulation: Yes.

3. s42

Consultation: Yes.

4. Major General Matt Pearce, Head Plans and Capability Integration, Defence Strategic Review Implementation Task Force.
5. Mrs Anna Rudziejewski, Defence General Counsel, Associate Secretary Group
6. Mr Edward Louis, Assistant Secretary Investment Portfolio Branch, Force Design Division, Vice Chief of Defence Force Group.
7. Air Commodore Nick Hogan, Director General Force Options and Plans, Force Design Division, Vice Chief of Defence Force Group.
8. Commodore Mick Turner, Director General Force Exploration, Force Design Division, Vice Chief of Defence Force Group.
9. Commodore Ashley Papp, Director General Littoral Capability, Navy Headquarters.

Attachments: Nil.

Background:

10. s33(a)(ii) [REDACTED]
11. On 20 October 2022 the Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government, the Hon. Catherine King MP announced the appointment of the Taskforce to guide the establishment of the Strategic Fleet.
12. Major General Jason Walk, Commander Joint Logistics is the Defence representative in the Taskforce, providing advice on Defence equities.
13. The Taskforce produced an interim report on high-level strategic objectives, including advice on early actions, in December 2022. The Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts is preparing a response to the Strategic Fleet Report for Minister King and aim to have a response considered in the 2023-24 Mid-Year Economic and Fiscal Outlook process.
14. Defence uses commercial partnerships with Teekay Australia, SERCO and Svitzer to operate Australian-flagged commercial shipping in support roles, such as the Pacific Support Vessel Reliant and harbour vessels. Defence is a significant employer of Australian civil mariners and operator of Australian-flagged shipping.
15. Defence also maintains two standing offers to enable ready access to global commercial shipping: one for general shipping services and s33(a)(i) [REDACTED]. These have experienced reliability issues, which may be mitigated by a strategic fleet approach. This could result in savings to the Government by defraying Strategic Fleet ownership costs to meet these Defence requirements.
16. s33(a)(ii) [REDACTED]

Proposal for Establishing a Strategic Fleet

17. The proposed composition of the Strategic Fleet has considered and supports Defence requirements, however is balanced to consider commercial viability as required by the Terms of Reference of the Taskforce.
18. Defence understands the types of vessels proposed for the fleets s33(a)(i) [REDACTED] general cargo and bulk fuel vessels. Depending on the commercial arrangements, Defence could draw on a Strategic Fleet across the spectrum of activity up to and including conflict, with the need increasing as access to commercial shipping decreases. Access to the Strategic Fleet may vary as Defence needs are balanced against other national priorities.

19. A Strategic Fleet could support domestic and regional distribution of s33(a)(i) if available. A Strategic Fleet could expand vessel options for domestic and regional Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief, adding resilience and depth and potentially reducing demand on Navy vessels. A Strategic Fleet could also sustain a range of important activities including s33(a)(i), training and international engagement should commercial shipping be interrupted by crisis or increased geopolitical competition. s33(a)(ii)
- Employment of the Strategic Fleet would be under s47E(d). As such, a Strategic Fleet could contribute to addressing some of the logistic distribution challenges identified within the DSR.
20. The DSR did not reference nor make any recommendations about the establishment of a Strategic Fleet and a Strategic Fleet was not the subject of the Government's six immediate priorities in response to the DSR. Whilst the establishment of a Strategic Fleet could support a number of DSR recommendations agreed by the Government, particularly those relating to logistics and support to disaster relief, s47C
21. The Government's National Defence Statement 2023 noted that the recommendations of the DSR work in concert with other Government Policy priorities which enhance our security and build our economic resilience, of which the Strategic Fleet is one. The interdependencies between the two reviews include the ability of the Strategic Fleet to:
- a. support the development of Australia's strategic, industrial and military logistics capabilities in alignment with the need identified in the DSR for a national logistics support concept;
 - b. help secure fuel supply chains as part of a whole-of-government Fuel Council;
 - c. support industry consolidation options for the Henderson shipyard via investment in maritime infrastructure that could meet the needs of the broader strategic fleet and Defence to ensure that as far as possible s33(a)(i)
 - d. deliver a complementary capability and service to Defence by providing Government more options in responding to natural disasters domestically and in the region; and
 - e. contribute to the concept of 'National Defence', s33(a)(i)
22. s47E(d)

OFFICIAL



Australian Government
Defence

Ministerial Meeting Brief

MB23-000580

FOR: Deputy Prime Minister

CC: SEC, CDF, VCDF, ASSOC SEC, CN, HFD, FASMECC

MEETING WITH CATHERINE KING RE: STRATEGIC FLEET MATTERS

Purpose

1. You will meet with the Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government, Hon Catherine King MP, to discuss Defence's involvement in Australia's Maritime Strategic Fleet (Strategic Fleet) matters.

Meeting Details

Date	3 August 2023
Time	0900 – 0915h
Location	s47E(d)
Defence Officials attending	Nil
Defence Scribe	No

Recent Dealings

2. Major General Jason Walk, Commander Joint Logistics is the Defence representative in the Strategic Fleet Taskforce, providing information on Defence requirements, consideration and opportunities.

Key Issues

3. On 20 October 2022 the Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government announced the appointment of the Strategic Fleet Taskforce (the Taskforce) to guide the establishment of the Strategic Fleet.
4. The Strategic Fleet is proposed to comprise up to 12 Australian flagged and crewed vessels able to be requisitioned in times of national need, including by Defence.
5. Given Australia's geography and s33(a)(i) a strategic fleet providing s33(a)(i), bulk fuel and general cargo vessels could significantly contribute in all of Defence's roles from conflict to disaster response.
6. In addition to representation on the Taskforce, Defence has provided two written submissions to inform the Report (Attachments D and E).

Cleared by	Lieutenant General John Frewen Chief of Joint Capabilities Joint Capabilities Group
2 August 2023	s22
Contact Officer	Major General Jason Walk Commander Joint Logistics s22

Sensitivity: No.

Attachments:

Attachment A

s22

Attachment B

Background information.

Attachment C

Talking points.

Attachment D

Maritime Strategic Fleet – Department of Defence Submission.

Attachment E

Maritime Strategic Fleet Options Strawman.

ATTACHMENT B

Background

1. s33(a)(ii) [REDACTED]
2. The Taskforce produced an interim report on high-level strategic objectives, including advice on early actions, in December 2022 and a final report, identifying ship options and other needs, in June 2023. Both reports were submitted to Minister King and remain Cabinet-in-Confidence.
3. The proposed composition of the strategic fleet has considered and supports Defence requirements, but is balanced to consider commercial viability as required by the Taskforce Terms of Reference.
4. In January 2023 the Assistant Minister for Defence, the Hon Matt Thistlethwaite MP, requested a background brief on Defence's use of s33(a)(i) [REDACTED] planned under the s33(a)(i) [REDACTED] in order to better understand the Maritime Strategic Fleet s22 [REDACTED]
5. Defence uses commercial partnerships with Teekay Australia, SERCO and Svitzer to operate Australian-flagged commercial shipping in support roles, such as the Pacific Support Vessel Reliant and harbour vessels.
6. Defence also maintains two standing offers to enable ready access to global commercial shipping: one for general shipping services and s33(a)(i) [REDACTED]. These have experienced reliability issues that may be mitigated by a strategic fleet approach.
7. s33(a)(i) [REDACTED]



Australian Government

Defence

MINISTERIAL DISCUSSION POINTS


ATTACHMENT C

Background

1. On 20 October 2022 the Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development, Communication and the Arts, The Hon Catherine King MP formally announced the appointment of a taskforce to guide the establishment of Australia's Strategic Fleet. The Terms of Reference caused the Taskforce to consider opportunities to support Defence requirements for s33(a)(i)
2. The Taskforce produced an interim report on high-level strategic objectives, including advice on early actions, in December 2022 and a final report, s33(a)(i). Both reports were provided to Minister King and remain Cabinet-in-Confidence.

Talking Points

- Defence is privileged to have Major General Jason Walk, Commander Joint Logistics, as a member of the strategic fleet taskforce, providing a Defence perspective on needs, issues and options.
- I understand the Taskforce submitted the final report to Government in June 2023, identifying s33(a)(i) following comprehensive research and consultation.

- 
- Subject to Government approval, the Strategic Fleet is proposed to comprise up to s33(a)(i) and s33(a)(i) could be requisitioned in times of national need, including by Defence.
 - The composition of the fleet proposed by the Taskforce has considered and supports Defence requirements, within the context of broader national requirements, whilst balancing the need for commercial viability.
 - The Taskforce also provided recommendations to build an enduring Australian workforce and s33(a)(i), both critical to the sustainability of a Strategic Fleet.

Contact officer: s22

Contact officer phone: s22



Australian Government
Department of Defence

Maritime Strategic Fleet Options Strawman

Department of Defence Submission



{BN60751604}
Version 1.0



BN60751604

DEFENCE SUBMISSION TO THE MARITIME STRATEGIC FLEET TASKFORCE – OPTIONS STRAWMAN

Endorsed by:

s22

Major General
Commander Joint Logistics
Taskforce Member (Defence)

22 Mar 23

Reference:

- A. Defence Submission to the Maritime Strategic Fleet Taskforce of 30 Nov 22
([BN5596596](#))

INTRODUCTION

1. The Department of Defence (Defence) welcomes the opportunity to the development of options for the strategic fleet.
2. Defence has fundamental linkages to the Australian shipping industry in terms of maritime security, commercial sea lift, maritime workforce and maritime infrastructure. It is vitally important to maintain engagement between Defence and key government and commercial stakeholders to ensure that Defence requirements are considered.
3. This submission aims to inform the Taskforce of a strategic fleet composition and characteristics that would best support Defence needs.

STRATEGIC NEED

4. s33(a)(i)

COMPOSITION FOR SUPPORT TO DEFENCE

5. s33(a)(i)

s33(a)(i)

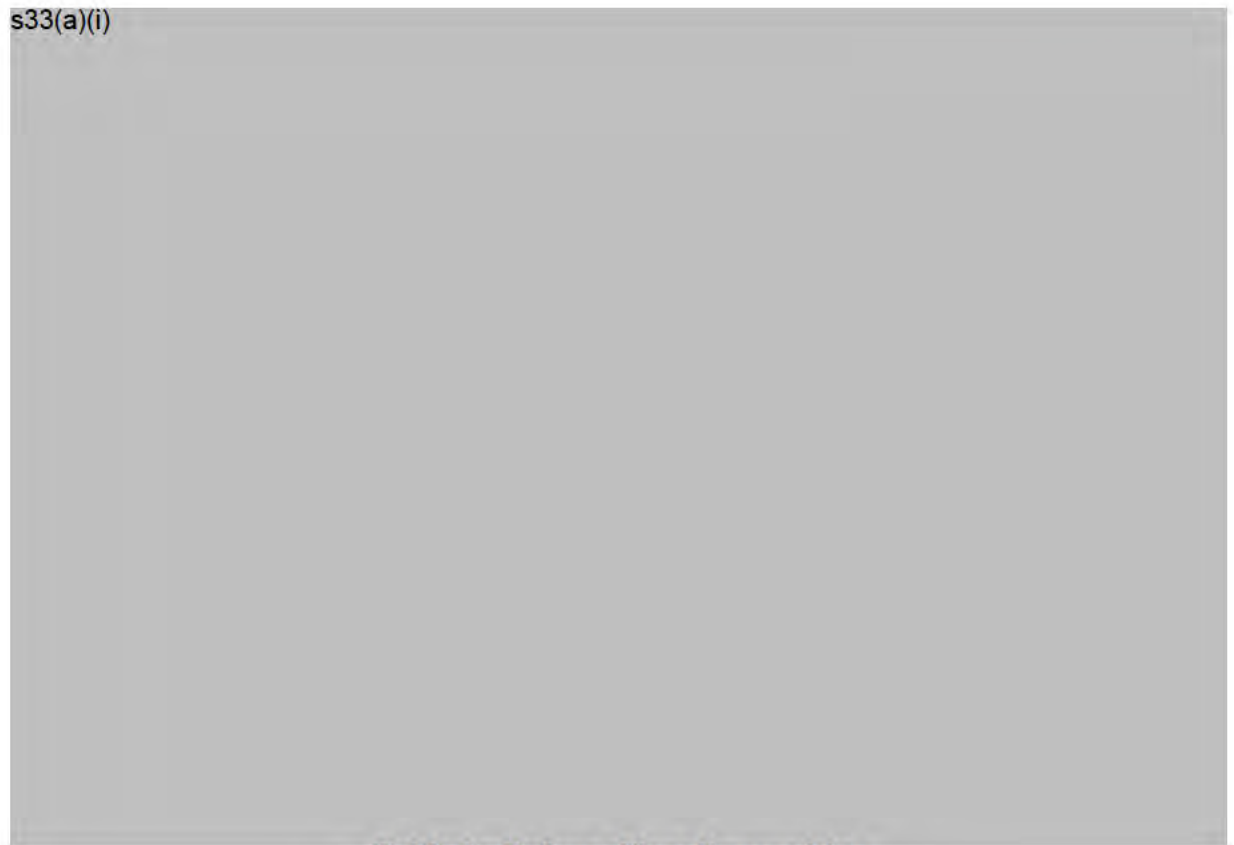



Table 1 - Defence Fleet Composition


INTENDED USE BY DEFENCE

9. Defence would draw on a strategic fleet across the spectrum of activity up to and including conflict, with the need increasing as access to commercial shipping decreases.


s33(a)(i)



s33(a)(i)




s47E(d)



CONCLUSION

17. s47E(d)



This submission provides insight into the composition and characteristics that would best support Defence needs. Defence offers and seeks ongoing engagement to develop the Strategic Fleet concept for consideration by Government.