

From: [Media](#)
To: [SP&I Media](#)
Cc: [Media](#)
Subject: Finalised media enquiry: s47E(d) - EOS Remote Weapon System [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date: Friday, 11 April 2025 9:09:09 AM
Attachments: [ATT00001.htm](#)
[image001.jpg](#)

OFFICIAL

Hi all,

Please consider this finalised.

The below updated response was sent to s47F .

Thanks

s47E(c) | Assistant Director Defence Media

Media and Information Disclosure Branch | Department of Defence

Russell Offices | Canberra ACT 2600

P: s47E(c)

M: s22

E: s47E(c)

Alt E: s47E(d)

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From: Media s47E(d)
Sent: Thursday, 10 April 2025 10:55 PM
To: s47F >; Media s47E(d)
Subject: RE: EOS Remote Weapon System [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hi s47F

Thank you for your enquiry. Please see a response below.

//

The following statement can be attributed to a Defence spokesperson:

Australia has not supplied weapons or ammunition to Israel since the conflict began and for at least the past five years.

As the circumstances of the conflict have evolved, the Government has calibrated its approach and has only approved new export permits to Israel for items for Australian defence and law enforcement that will return to Australia.

Defence has also been undertaking a process to scrutinise the pre-existing export permits to Israel. These pre-existing permits were all approved before the conflict began and none of the permits relate to weapons or ammunition.

Background – not for attribution

Defence officials provided further details on this matter at Senate Estimates on 26 February 2025, available here<https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Senate_estimates/fadt/2024-25_Additional_estimates>.

//

Kind regards,

s47E(c)

Defence Media | Department of Defence

Russell Offices | Canberra ACT 2600

E: s47E(d)

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From: s47F

Sent: Thursday, 10 April 2025 10:49 AM

To: Media s47E(d)
Subject: EOS Remote Weapon System

EXTERNAL EMAIL: Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe. .

Dear MediaOps,

I refer to a demonstration of counter drone technologies which took place in Israel earlier this year.

Israel Ministry of Defense - Israel MOD Completes Extensive Testing of Advanced Counter-Drone Technologies<<https://doverq.mod.gov.il/en/press-releases/press-releases/israel-mod-completes-extensive-testing-of-advanced-counter-drone-technologies>>

The ABC has confirmed that one of the companies involved was Australian firm EOS, which demonstrated its R400<<https://eos-aus.com/defence/firepower-systems/r400/>> product, as shown below in an Israel Defence Ministry picture.

Questions:

Can Defence confirm if departmental permission was sought before this Australian made weapons system was sent to Israel?

Does sending a lethal product like this overseas to demonstrate to potential buyers require formal approval from Defence or the Australian government?

Was Defence aware of an Australian company's involvement in this demonstration, and does Defence know if the product was sent directly to Israel, or if it went via a third country such as the United States?

I'm hoping for a response by 4pm if possible.

Kind regards,

s47F

s47F

s47F

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s47F does not represent or warrant that this transmission is secure or virus free. Before opening any attachment you should check for viruses. s47F liability is limited to resupplying any email and attachments.

From: [Hall, Emily MS 2](#)
To: s47E(c)
Subject: Fwd: EOS R400 Exports [SEC=OFFICIAL:]
Date: Friday, 11 April 2025 7:40:57 AM

s22

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Wright, Kylie MRS 3" <s47E(c)>
Date: 11 April 2025 at 6:47:20 am AEST
To: s47F
Cc: "Reid, John Mr 7" <s47E(c)>, "Blain, Jason MAJGEN" <s47E(c)>, "Nockels, David MR" <s47E(c)>, "Hall, Emily MS 2" <s47E(c)>, "Bazzacco, Mark Dr" <s47E(c)>
Subject: EOS R400 Exports [SEC=OFFICIAL:]

OFFICIAL: ~~Sensitive~~

Hi s47F

EOS Australia has confirmed to the Department that the R400 system demonstrated in Israel was not exported from Australia.

Regards
Kylie

Kylie Wright
Acting First Assistant Secretary

Defence Trade, Regulation and Industrial Collaboration Division | Strategy, Policy and Industry Group | Department of Defence
L: s47E(c) | P: s47E(c) | M: s22
E: s47E(c)

EA: s47E(c) | P: s47E(c) | E: s47E(c)

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From: [Jeffrey, Hugh MR](#)
To: [Hall, Emily MS 2](#)
Cc: [Nockels, David MR](#); [Philip, Bernard Mr](#); [Wright, Kylie MRS 3](#); s47E(c)
Subject: Re: ABC News: Australian weapon trialled by Israel's military ahead of potential sale
[SEC=OFFICIAL:~~Sensitive~~]
Date: Monday, 14 April 2025 10:00:20 AM

Thanks. s47E(d)

On 11 Apr 2025, at 1:31 pm, Hall, Emily MS 2
<s47E(c)> wrote:

OFFICIAL: ~~Sensitive~~

A quick update to the below.

s47E(d)

Emily

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From: Hall, Emily MS 2
Sent: Friday, 11 April 2025 12:37 PM
To: Jeffrey, Hugh MR <s47E(c)>; Nockels, David MR <s47E(c)>; Philip, Bernard Mr <s47E(c)>
Cc: Wright, Kylie MRS 3 <s47E(c)>; Nockels, David MR <s47E(c)>
Subject: RE: ABC News: Australian weapon trialled by Israel's military ahead of potential sale [SEC=OFFICIAL:~~Sensitive~~]

OFFICIAL: ~~Sensitive~~

Hi Hugh,

s47E(d)

s47E(d)

[Redacted]

I've spoken to David and we can brief you on appropriate next steps s22
s22

Emily

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From: Jeffrey, Hugh MR <s47E(c)>
Sent: Friday, 11 April 2025 9:44 AM
To: Nockels, David MR <s47E(c)>; Hall, Emily MS 2 <s47E(c)>; Philip, Bernard Mr <s47E(c)>
Subject: ABC News: Australian weapon trialled by Israel's military ahead of potential sale

Pls s22 come back with update. Thanks

Australian weapon trialled by Israel's military ahead of potential sale

The Defence Department told the ABC that “Australia has not supplied weapons or ammunition to Israel” since the Gaza war began in 2023. [Read the full story](#)

Shared from [ABC app](#)

s47E(c)

Sent: Friday, 11 April 2025 5:51 PM
To: SP&I Media
Cc: Media; s47E(c); s47E(c); s47E(c); Ashworth, Karen
AIRCDRE; s47E(c); s47E(c); Bazzacco, Mark Dr; s47E(c)
s47E(c); s47E(c); s47E(c); s47E(c); s47E(c);
s47E(c); s47E(c); s47E(c);
DPGHQ Parliamentary Business; s47E(c); Fallet, Benjamin Mr;
s47E(c); s47E(c); Gu, Rebecca MS; s47E(c);
s47E(c); s47E(c); s47E(c); s47E(c);
s47E(c); s47E(c); s47E(c); s47E(c); King, Melissa Ms 4;
s47E(c); s47E(c); s47E(c); s47E(c);
s47E(c); s47E(c); s47E(c); s47E(c);
MECC-MID-Directors; Navy Media; s47E(c); Owens, Chris
MR 1; s47E(c); s47E(c); s47E(c); s47E(c);
s47E(c); s47E(c); Social Media; s47E(c); s47E(c);
s47E(c); Stokes, Sally MS; s47E(c); s47E(c);
s47E(c); s47E(c); s47E(c); s47E(c);
Subject: 20250411 (1750h) - Finalised media enquiry: s47E(d) - Weapons to Israel

OFFICIAL

Hi all,

Please consider this enquiry finalised as below.

Thanks

s47E(c) | Assistant Director Defence Media
Media and Information Disclosure Branch | Department of Defence

Russell Offices | Canberra ACT 2600

P: s47E(c)

M: s22

E: s47E(c)

Alt E: s47E(d)

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From: Media s47E(d)
Sent: Friday, 11 April 2025 5:50 PM
To: s47F Media s47E(d)
Subject: RE: Request for statement - weapons to Israel [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hi s47F

Thank you for your enquiry. Please see a response below.

//

The following statement can be attributed to a Defence spokesperson:

Australia has not supplied weapons or ammunition to Israel since the conflict began and for at least the past five years.

As the circumstances of the conflict have evolved, the Government has calibrated its approach and has only approved new export permits to Israel for items for Australian defence and law enforcement that will return to Australia.

Defence has also been undertaking a process to scrutinise the pre-existing export permits to Israel. These pre-existing permits were all approved before the conflict began and none of the permits relate to weapons or ammunition.

Background – not for attribution

The company has confirmed with Defence that the particular system referred to in media reporting was not exported from Australia.

Defence officials provided further details on this matter at Senate Estimates on 26 February 2025, available [here](#).

Further questions on this particular matter should be directed to the company.

//

Kind regards,

s47E(c)

Defence Media | Department of Defence

Russell Offices | Canberra ACT 2600

E: s47E(d)

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From: s47F
Sent: Friday, 11 April 2025 11:09 AM
To: Media s47E(d)
Subject: Request for statement - weapons to Israel
Importance: High

 **EXTERNAL EMAIL:** Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe. 

Hi there,

I was wondering if your team can provide a statement and some background information about the Australian-built (Australian Electro Optic Systems) weapon Israeli officials were seen posing with in January.

<https://greens.org.au/news/media-release/new-evidence-australian-weapons-being-used-israeli-military>
<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2025-04-11/australian-weapons-trialled-by-israel-military/105163388>

I understand the department claims Australia has not for years supplied weapons to Israel not has it supported the campaign against Gaza – so I am also hoping to confirm why and how an Australian-built weapon would end up there with the Israeli officials if this is the case.

Was the allegedly Israeli-trialled R400 RWS weapon approved prior to the conflict? And if this is the case, how long do such approvals last for before expiry and how often are they reviewed?

Hoping to confirm or deny all these points with the information to offer a clear view of matters if at all possible. We would also like to cover this today, however if a response is not possible by then, please do let me know when it might be, by 1.30pm so I can reassess our reporting deadlines.

All the best,
s47F

s47F

s47F

F
s47F

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s47E(c)

Director Business Management and Performance
Defence Export Controls
Defence Trade, Regulation and Industrial Collaboration Division
Strategy, Policy and Industry Group
Department of Defence
P: s47E(c) | M: s22 | E: s47E(c)
s47E(c) | Russell Offices | Canberra, ACT 2600



I acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of Country throughout Australia. I recognise their connection to traditional lands and waters and pay my respects to their Elders past and present.

From: s47E(c)
To: s47E(c)
Subject: FW: Finalised media enquiry - s47E(d) - EOS Remote Weapon System [SEC=OFFICIAL:~~Sensitive~~]
Date: Friday, 11 April 2025 10:50:00 AM
Attachments: [image001.jpg](#)

s22



From: s47E(c) **On Behalf Of** s47E(c)
Sent: Friday, 11 April 2025 10:45 AM
To: s47E(c) Wright, Kylie MRS 3
s47E(c)
[Redacted]
[Redacted]
Cc: s47E(c) s47E(d)
[Redacted] Hall, Emily MS 2 s47E(c)
Subject: RE: Finalised media enquiry - s47E(d) - EOS Remote Weapon System
[SEC=OFFICIAL:~~Sensitive~~]

OFFICIAL: ~~Sensitive~~

Good morning all,

Further to the below, this was raised in the PM's presser this morning. Please see the below transcript of the question and response.

//

JOURNALIST: An Australian designed weapon system has been trialled by Israel's Defence Force. Will your government move to prevent the sale of any lethal EOS product to Israel?

PRIME MINISTER: We do not sell arms to Israel.

JOURNALIST: But you sell parts that have been assembled in the US.

PRIME MINISTER: We do not sell arms to Israel. I'm aware of the report that you referred to. We looked in this matter. The company's confirmed with the Department of Defence. The particular system was not exported from Australia. Australia does not export arms to Israel.

ENDS

//

Kind regards,

s47E(c)

Communications Officer

Media and Strategic Communications | Strategy, Policy and Industry Group

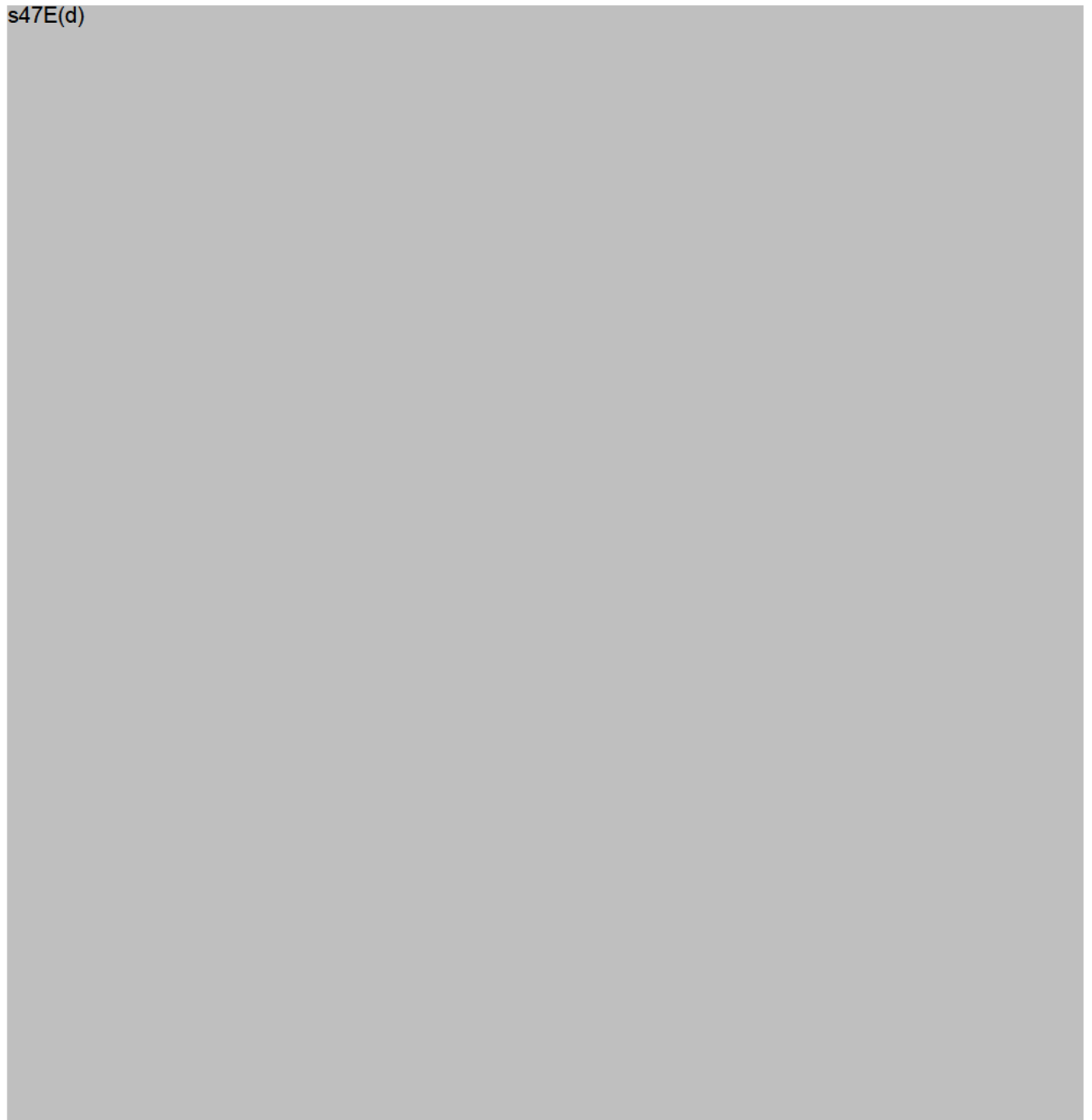
Department of Defence

Russell Offices, s47E(c) | Canberra ACT 2610

E: s47E(c) | Group mailbox: s47E(d)

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s47E(d)



s47E(d)

From: Media s47E(d)
Sent: Thursday, 10 April 2025 10:55 PM
To: s47F Media s47E(d)
Subject: RE: EOS Remote Weapon System [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hi s47F

Thank you for your enquiry. Please see a response below.

//

The following statement can be attributed to a Defence spokesperson:

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Defence has also been undertaking a process to scrutinise the pre-existing export permits to Israel. These pre-existing permits were all approved before the conflict began and none of the permits relate to weapons or ammunition.

Background – not for attribution

Defence officials provided further details on this matter at Senate Estimates on 26 February 2025, available [here](#).

//

Kind regards,

s47E(c)
Defence Media | Department of Defence

Russell Offices | Canberra ACT 2600
E: s47E(d)

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From: [Hall, Emily MS 2](#)
To: s47E(c)
Subject: Fwd: FYSA - Transcript - Prime Minister Joint Press Conference, Darwin [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date: Friday, 11 April 2025 6:36:12 PM
Attachments: [TRANSCRIPT - PM at Darwin Joint Press conference.docx](#)

s22

Begin forwarded message:

From: s47E(c)
Date: 11 April 2025 at 5:58:56 pm AEST
To: "Wright, Kylie MRS 3" s47E(c), "Hall, Emily MS 2" s47E(c)
s47E(c), s47E(c)
s47E(c), s47E(c)
s47E(c), s47E(c)
s47E(c), "Timbs, Sally MS"
s47E(c)
Cc: s47E(c)
s47E(c), s47E(c)
s47E(d)
Subject: FYSA - Transcript - Prime Minister Joint Press Conference, Darwin [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Good evening,

FYSA - Please see attached an unofficial transcript from the Prime Ministers Joint Press Conference in Darwin this morning.

Defence issues raised include: Defence export controls (Israel); deterrence/submarines (US, China); Defence spending.

Thank you

s47E(c)
Director
Media and Communications — Strategy, Policy and Industry Group
Department of Defence

Russell Offices | Canberra ACT 2600

P: s47E(c)

M:s22

E: s47E(c)

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TELEVISION TRANSCRIPT

PREPARED: FRIDAY 11 APRIL 2025

TITLE: PRIME MINISTER PRESS CONFERENCE DARWIN

SUMMARY: PRIME MINISTER PRESS CONFERENCE DARWIN

CHANNEL: SKY NEWS REGIONAL AUSTRALIA

PROGRAM: BREAKFAST SHOW

DATE BROADCAST: 11 APRIL 2025

TIME BROADCAST: 8:48 AM - 9:07 AM

NOTE: This instantly-available transcript is compiled using a combination of technologies. Please note Stream offers verbatim, human generated Transcription services at an additional cost. This Transcript provides a first pass that is immediately available.

Transcription

Speaker A: Proud Australians all, and we're very proud of the work that she's doing. So, without further ado, I'll hand over to the boss, the Prime Minister of Australia, Anthony Albanese. Well, thanks very much, Goss, and it's great to be back here in the territory once again making positive announcements. Indeed. This is my second visit to this urgent care clinic, one of the 87 that we have operating right around Australia. We promised 50, we've delivered 87 and will deliver another 50, including in Darwin. This election is a clear choice between Labour building Australia's future, investing and strengthening Medicare and Peter Dutton, who has to find \$600 billion of cuts for his nuclear plans. Peter Dutton, who does not have a positive plan for Australia and who chops and changes what policies he's putting forward on a day to day basis. We are building Australia's future with the largest investment in Medicare in 40 years. And today we have very significant announcements indeed to back that up. We're investing up to \$60 million to support construction of a new residential care home in Darwin, delivering no less than 120 new residential care beds, addressing acute shortages which are here in the top end. Anika Wells has done an amazing job as our Minister for Aged Care. That's why I promoted her to the Cabinet. The largest reforms in aged care this century. Literally just one of the big issues that we've addressed in government. When we came to office, there'd been an aged Care Royal Commission. The interim report was summed up best in the title Neglect. We had a programme of dealing with the immediate issues. We've provided a 28% increase in wages of people working in the aged care sector. What the Royal Commission found was that unless we addressed those issues, you simply wouldn't have a workforce. People were leaving the workforce who were dedicated professionals dedicated to caring for older Australians, giving them the respect and dignity that they need in their later years. But they simply couldn't afford to stay in those jobs and they were leaving the sector. What we have now is the leaving rates dropping dramatically. We have people coming into the sector, we have 99% of the time there's a nurse back in nursing homes. Something that, when we announced that as a policy, when I announced that from opposition, in the days when oppositions had fully costed policies, it was dismissed by the coalition as not being possible. Well, it's real, it's happening right now and making an enormous difference. Everything from that to the work that we've done with Maggie Beer to make sure the aged care residents get more Nutritional food. All of these issues have been dealt with. There's more to do, which is why we changed the Aged Care act last year and delivered it through the Parliament. Our health and aged care plan for the territory is a comprehensive plan. It's delivering on aged care, but it's doing more as well. \$10.1 million to CareFlight to purchase a plane to support medical evacuations from remote communities. Patients in remote NT do not have reliable access to timely emergency medical retrieval services, especially during the wet season. And this will provide care for up to 700 patients a year. Will deliver an upgraded Medicare mental health centre in Alice Springs and a Headspace plus and a youth specialist care centre in Darwin. This is on top of the record investment that we've made in Northern Territory hospitals. When we made the announcement earlier this year about the \$1.7 billion of additional funding over just one year for hospitals. Of that the Northern Territory was the biggest increase per capita, a 30% increase, the largest of any jurisdiction. Playing catch up here in the Northern Territory, making sure that that care is given. We have already delivered the eight urgent care clinics and of course Northern territorians will also benefit from our tripling of the bulk billing incentive. We want people to be able to see a doctor up to 90% and to just need their Medicare card, not their credit card. We're addressing the catch up that was needed from bulk billing in free fall, from the disastrous time that Peter Dutton was health Minister, when \$50 billion was ripped out of hospitals funding, when they tried to introduce a

GP tax and a tax every time people visited an emergency department. And when they couldn't get their way on that, they froze the Medicare rebate for six years. And we are determined to make sure that we strengthen Medicare and we do it right throughout the country, including here in the territory. The last measure, of course I'll talk about today, is cheaper medicines making an enormous difference. Bring it down to just \$25, the same price that PBS medicines were back in 2004. And of course we've frozen the maximum amount to just \$7.70 for pensioners and concession card holders for the rest of this decade. So, whether it is urgent care clinics, hospital funding, aged care, mental health support, cheaper medicines, we have a comprehensive plan that we're launching here today. And that's why I'm so pleased that we're joined by our Health Minister as well as our Aged Care Minister. And I'd ask. Annika's going to make some comments and then Katy Gallagher is going to make some comments. In her capacity as Public Service Minister. And then we're happy to take some questions.

Speaker B: Thank you, pm. Good morning, everyone. It's great to be back here in the nt. Our local journalists will remember I spent some of my formative years here in the nt, including including going to preschool at Ida Stanley in Alice Springs as the aged Care Minister. It's my fourth trip back here, I think two in the last month. And last time I was here, Luke and I went to Pearl Supported Care and Jan, who runs Pearl Supported Care there, she's been in aged care for more than two decades. She told us that she had a wait list of over 100 people waiting for a bed at Pearl Supported Care. So, I promised Jan that we'd go away and do some more work and see if we could help her. And today we return with \$60 million worth of good news to build 120 new aged care beds here in Darw. That will be on top of the \$40 million we have already invested in building more residential aged care facilities here in Darwin this term. What that process looks like now is we will open EOIs. We have already been talking to providers who have the kind of experience and capability to be able to deliver this facility. We've had significant interest and we'll continue to work through that. It is part of the ambitious agenda that the Albanese government has had for aged care this term. It was the very first bill that we put through the 47th Parliament. We have invested more than \$35 billion in fixing the aged care crisis this term. That looks like \$17.7 billion in wage rises for our aged care workers who have long been undervalued and under serviced. And we need those people back in the sector. And like the PM said, because he keeps a close eye on this and I appreciate his support, they are flooding back to the sector. The staffing rates look great now compared to where they were three years ago. And despite the fact in Question Time every single day, the opposition asked me how on earth I was going to do it. We have put nurses back into nursing homes. 99% of there is a nurse on site in a residential aged care facility, something they scoffed at the possibility of happening. That's on top of 4.8 million minutes of care that we've added into residential aged care every single day. And I appreciate, shamelessly take this opportunity to thank the Prime Minister and Ministers Butler and Gallagher for their support of me and believing in me and my ability to get this done together. We can't wait to keep working for older Australians to lift the standard of care in aged care.

Speaker C: Thanks, Annika. Well, today we've been up here talking about public service and the importance of public services to the people of the Northern Territory and the importance of public servants as a workforce. Here in the Northern Territory and here in Darwin, there are a pretty large workforce, well over 2,000 public servants across the Northern Territory. And if Peter Dutton has his way with his 20% cut to the public service, that will mean around 500 jobs will go from the Northern Territory. The big employer in the territory is Services Australia, but also those other frontline service delivery agencies. We know the people in Northern Territory because I hear it from Luke and Malindiri all the time about the importance of those roles, the importance of having additional help to make sure those services can be provided to the people of the territory. Whether it's getting your pension on time, being able to engage with Centrelink, being able to see a person, have your issue resolved. That's the work that Luke and Malindiri have been doing up here to make sure that the public service is funded properly and able to do the job that we need it to do. And that is all at risk because we know Peter Dutton has said he will cut 41,000 jobs from the public service. Senator Nambijimba Price was put in the job of essentially shadow Minister for Doge not long after Elon Musk was appointed to that position in in America and she was given the job to go out and work out how to make cuts to the public service. She has repeated that 41,000 jobs will go this week. This morning on radio, Senator Patterson has said there will be redundancies in the public service. So, this rubbish that it's all going to be found by attrition has been put to bed today. It is actually redundancies which means sacking of public servants. Now, Senator Nambijimba Price, her backyard, of course, here she's refusing to say where those cuts will come from. But we know those cuts are coming. They've been very clear that they're going to cut hundreds of billions of dollars, which they see as waste. That will mean jobs will go, services will go, and then the real kicker is they're not going to tell you when those cuts are going and where they're going from until after the election. So, that is what is at risk up here in the Territory. Jobs going, services going, and an opposition who is refusing to say where those cuts will be made.

Speaker A: Thanks very much, Katie. Welcome, Katina. Thank you. Welcome to the tour you missed out on the Great Barrier Reef.

Speaker B: I was devastated. Looking forward to getting to wa.

Speaker A: We may well be heading there.

Speaker B: Elon Musk has been put in charge of running the ruler over the submarine production in the US and the AUKUS deal. How concerned should Australia be and is the US really still a reliable national security partner?

Speaker A: I'm confident about AUKUS because I've had those first hand discussions with the President of the United States and also with more than 100 members of Congress and the Senate during my state visit to the United States. I'm also confident that people when they make an assessment know that this is in Australia's national interest but it's also in the national interest of the United States on AUKUS. Hang on. We'll do it in an orderly way.

Speaker C: Just following on Katina's question. Australia, you know, obviously is contributing in the near term over 4 billion Ausdollars to shipbuilding capacity under AUKUS. Would you accept any changes to those near term arrangements or to future funding arrangements? Now DOGE is looking at the set up look.

Speaker A: We support the existing arrangements that we have with the United States. I support the existing arrangements we have with the United States.

Speaker C: Are you concerned though that it will cost more with these tariffs in place?

Speaker A: I support the existing arrangements that we have with the United States. PM the President said overnight that countries on the 10% baseline tariff can negotiate a better deal. Is it difficult timing for Australia given the election caretaker period? How will the government manage that between now and the 3rd of May? Well that of course is a factor. That's just a reality but it doesn't mean that we can't continue to engage and we are continuing to engage with the United States on a daily basis. I welcome the President's comments overnight. I have seen them. He has spoken about of course the change that was made the David overnight a day ago when he made the 10% change. This is a new statement by the President. We welcome it. We believe that reciprocal tariffs on Australia should be zero. Let's be very clear Prime Minister, is.

Speaker C: The Federal Government prepared to and then.

Speaker B: I'll come over nuclear submarines against China?

Speaker A: What? Sorry?

Speaker C: Is the Federal Government prepared to use.

Speaker B: Nuclear substantial against China?

Speaker A: We have, we are building and are going to have nuclear powered conventionally armed submarines. We don't want to use weapons against any country. We want peace and security. We don't have. Australia does not have nor are we accessing nuclear weapons Short. No, absolutely. Thank you.

Speaker D: Thanks James MT News the Commonwealth has made a number of what I call phantom commitments around Infrastructure in the Northern Territory. 1.2 billion for Arafura rare earth. Not on the ground. 1.9 billion around middle arm. Not on the ground. 440 billion around local logistics hubs. That money hasn't been spent either. Given

that, would you be prepared to make a commitment around funding upgrades to Tennant Creek Airport as part of a 35 million dollar plan to boost infrastructure there? And on another matter, in 2013 you were visited by the NNT Infrastructure Minister, Peter Styles.

Speaker A: Sorry, I was.

Speaker D: When you were Infrastructure Minister, you were visited by Peter Styles, the NT Infrastructure Minister at the time.

Speaker A: I don't recall Peter Styles. I've got to say, with respect to.

Speaker D: Mr. Stiles, Peter Styles requested funding to upgrade Port of Darwin. You knocked him back. Do you acknowledge that that's a part of the fact that that then prompted the lease arrangement to be put into place? Do you do acknowledge that reflects sort of the infrastructure shortfall that is delivered here to the Northern Territory on a regular basis or the lack thereof?

Speaker A: Thank you for that comprehensive question and I will endeavour to answer it succinctly. No is the short answer. When I was the Infrastructure Minister, we delivered record infrastructure funding for the Northern Territory, including at the Port. When I was the Minister, the railway line didn't go to the Port. We delivered that. And on the way here I went along this little road called Tiger Brennan Drive. You know what Tiger Brennan Drive was before I was the Minister? It was a goat track. What I did was convert it into the road that everyone here at this press conference has just driven on the first funding and some of it, not only did we promise it, we funded it and I opened some of it. While I was a Minister, that was the most important road project for connecting up Darwin and Palmerston. That's my record as a Minister and I don't. With respect to Mr. Styles, I actually don't remember him, but there's a lot of people rotate through Ministerial positions. Can I say this about the Port of Darwin, What a longbow that is. I, as Infrastructure Shadow Minister in 2015 and then in 2016 when the Port of Darwin was flogged off. 2016. April 2016 is when the incentive payment of \$19.5 million was forwarded to the NTCLP government as an incentive payment to flog off the Port. The key date wasn't any meetings in 2013. The key date for the privatisation of that asset was the Joe hockey budget of 2014 that put in place an asset recycling programme that provided an incentive to State and territory governments to flog off public assets. That was the key date. For that, we responded appropriately for ports around the country. I've addressed a national ports conference here and if you speak to the people who run the national ports, they will say that I, as Minister, was one of the first. I was the first infrastructure Minister Australia has had with that title, but I also attended all of those national ports meetings. We delivered infrastructure, including the road and rail networks to upgrade, which were important for productivity lifting at those ports. The CLP made a decision to flog off that Port. We opposed it. At the time, the Commonwealth government provided incentive. We opposed the asset recycling programme was one of the key elements that led to the flogging off of the Port of Darwin.

Speaker D: PM in relation to power bill.

Speaker A: Sorry, just one thing on tenant. Look, we have a programme. It's under consideration. Like other programmes, what we do is we go through a business case and that's the appropriate way. So, are there any locals? And then we'll come to James and then we'll do that. Thank you.

Speaker B: Here in the nt, our most at risk populations in aged care are First Nations people in remote communities. Why aren't we investing there?

Speaker B: Good news we are. Last time I was here, we were in Darwin and then in Maningrida, where we announced, I think, it was \$12.6 million to build new beds for residential aged care residents out in Maningrida. And that town in particular, I think, is a great testament to the work that we've done in the urgent care clinics to integrate that with other primary health measures that we fund federally, because as a health hub there in Maningrida, they have two nurses on call overnight. They found a way to use the urgent care clinic funding to boost access there. It's over the road from the residential aged care facility and we're now investing as part of, I think it's 800 billion, \$800 million, nearly a billion dollars in total of First Nations investment in aged care this term. But particularly here in the nt,

we're up to hundreds of billions of dollars in, in investment and in building new beds in particular. So, I think we're at Pearl because we're building new beds out there. We're at Manning Greeter. We're due to go to Nullanboy for the same thing. It's part of the \$300 billion ACAP round that focuses on building new beds in rural, remote and First Nations communities in particular.

Speaker B: Thank you.

Speaker D: Yep.

Speaker B: Just.

Speaker E: Yeah, thank you, Prime Minister. This announcement is probably sounding eerily familiar to a lot of territorians because in May last year, the NT Labor government announced preparation for works of 120 bed aged care facility in Palmerston. That land is still there. Why not build the facility that you're announcing now in that location?

Speaker B: That's precisely what we intend to do.

Speaker F: Ian, on power bills, you've announced plans for subsidies for solar batteries, but what about for people who can't afford or are unable to install these batteries on their homes? What are you doing to bring down power bills for those people? And further to that, will power prices be cheaper than they are today when your energy rebates run out in December?

Speaker B: The good news about our batteries programme, as I think I might have said before, is that one, it will assist people who obviously access the programme, people who either put on solar panels with batteries or people who currently have solar panels on their roof, which, as we know, we're the largest number per capita in the world, but not enough batteries. So, it will help those people, but what it will also do, because it enables the power to be stored that is there during the daytime to be used during peak time. It takes pressure off the grid and therefore lowers demand during that period as well. So, everyone benefits. That's the beauty of this programme is it assists not only those people who access the batteries programme, but will also assist everyone else as well as well. I've just said what it will do for the grid, but is there a.

Speaker F: Specific figure and will power plant cheaper after the rebates end in December?

Speaker B: James, what it will do is make a difference. There are a range of measures that go into those issues that you raise, depending upon which house, where, what the time is, what else is happening in the global economy as well. There are a range of factors there.

Speaker G: You said you'd have more information for us on Labor's plan to bring the Port of Bowen back into Australian hands. So, how do you plan to do that and with what money from what fund? And if I may, on a second issue, we've seen in the odds today how Peter Dutton was the target of an alleged terror plot. Adjacent to that, we know threats and reports of harassment, nuisance, etc. Has doubled since 2021. You've been in Parliament since 1996. Do you feel more anxious about your personal safety now than ever before?

Speaker B: On the 1st. Can I say that I've reached out to Peter Dutton this morning and it is a fact that the number of threats that have been made to parliamentarians has increased in recent times and that has been reported on by the appropriate authorities. I myself have been the subject of. Of a range of issues, at least one of which is before legal processes at the moment, there was a pretty serious incident. So, what I have confidence in, though, is the Australian Federal Police and the authorities to do what they can to keep us safe. But that is one of the reasons why you've seen an increased number of security measures put in place. Because we do live in times that unfortunately we've seen around the world as well. But here as well, these threats be made, they shouldn't be. There's no place

whatsoever in politics for any of this. And I have ensured that anytime any Member of Parliament, regardless of who they are, have asked for support, they have received it from the Port of Darwin.

Speaker G: You said you'd have more information for us. So, what is your plan? How will you do that and where will you get the money from?

Speaker B: Well, we certainly are looking for a private buyer, as I've said, and there is interest. I mean, I'll ask Luke to comment on this as well, but this isn't something this was something that was flagged on the Thursday with you. We won't go through commercial negotiations and the interested parties. But there are interested parties here in the Port of Darwin. If we can secure an arrangement and a transfer of ownership back to Australian control in an orderly way without Commonwealth intervention and compulsory acquisition we will do so. But we are prepared also to use compulsory acquisition powers. What you do when you negotiate commercially. What you don't do is respond publicly in that way. Because that is not in taxpayers interests. What we will do? What we will do? What we will do of asking about the timing. You can ask about it.

Speaker A: Strategic threat timing.

Speaker B: Isn't it?

Speaker A: It's not just about a commercial deal.

Speaker B: It is about a commercial arrangement. The Port would never have been flogged off. That's the time frame if we were. And I've told you what we will do. I've told you what we will do. We will enter into commercial negotiations. If you're in a commercial negotiation and you want to buy a house and you say we've got to buy that house. I need to buy it by the 13th of April, guess what? You lose your power in the negotiations. What we will do is negotiate in the interest of Australian taxpayers. In the national interest. It will come back under Australian control. We would never have flogged this off. We would never have had an asset recycling scheme to encourage the privatisation of essential national assets. That's what the coalition had. If you all talk at once. An Australian designed weapon system has been.

Speaker E: Trialled by Israel's Defence Force.

Speaker B: Will your government move to prevent the.

Speaker E: Sale of any lethal EOS product to Israel?

Speaker B: We do not sell arms to Israel. But you sold parts that have been assembled. We do not sell arms to Israel. I'm aware of the report that you referred to. We looked in this matter. The companies confirmed with the Department of Defence the particular system was not exported from Australia. Australia does not export arms to Israel. Prime Minister, Some members of the crossbench and also the Greens believe that they can quarter the government in a minority.

Speaker D: Maybe even in the Senate into changes.

Speaker B: Like capital gains tax and negative gearing. Despite the pressure they put on.

Speaker D: Will you budge?

Speaker B: No. And our position is very clear. Let me make this clear. I want people to get that pencil in the ballot paper and put a 1 next to their Labor candidate. That is the way that you elect a majority Labor government. That's my objective. That's what we're aiming for. That's what I've said consistently. That's what I've done. Consistently.

Speaker F: Peter Dutton has claimed this morning that.

Speaker B: Scrapping the fines for emissions caps under the scheme that Labour proposes will reduce, will reduce future price rises that you've baked in for the car buyers. What's your response to that? This is another change in policy. He said he'd get rid of it now. He said that he'll change something that is essentially the incentive for the policy to be implemented. So, there's no incentive, but it's another change in policy. Let's be clear, there were, before this legislation was passed, only two countries in the world that did not have fuel standards, Australia and Russia under Vladimir Putin. The only countries in the world. We have not put an allocation of, an expectation of any revenue from this measure in terms of so called fines because we expect that the companies, the way that it's been designed, and we designed it, you might recall, in partnership, we sat down and went through the legislation with companies, we expect them to comply. What it is doing is making sure that Australians get cheaper vehicles. And I find it extraordinary that Peter Dutton, who says he cares about the price of fuel, doesn't want people to have more fuel efficient cars which reduce the costs of filling up their car. It's a nonsensical policy that Mr. Dutton has come up with. But I await a couple of days time. He'll probably have another one on the same thing. Sure. Hang on.

Speaker A: I mean, there's concern in Washington about. There's concern in Washington about your reluctance to talk about using attack submarines against China. I'll just quote one of the experts there. If you want to deter conflict in peacetime, you need to talk about using it in wartime. And we haven't seen a willingness yet on the part of the Australians. Why won't you talk about it?

Speaker B: I have no idea who you're quoting.

Speaker A: I'll tell you. It's U.S. navy strategist Brian Clark and he's advising the Australian Defence Force on the design of those submarines.

Speaker B: Look, we want, if people think that it's a good idea to want anything other than security in our region, we. One of the things that we're doing is investing in our assets. We're investing in our assets so that we're more secure. Obviously you have assets there as deterrents. The great benefit of nuclear powered submarines, as I've spoken about many times, the reason why the government supports them is because of their stealth capacity, because they can stay underwater for longer. They don't have to snort, they don't have to come up as often. They are a strategic asset of which everyone is aware. So, the idea, though, that it is in everyone's interest to talk up war, which is what you're inviting me to do, is, in my view, not a responsible thing for the Prime Minister of Australia to do.

Speaker E: More than 60 beds Aged care patients are taking.

Speaker B: I said we'd go to the ticket, then we'll come to you. Sure, Take it in, Pam.

Speaker A: One for Luke and then one for you as well, after. Mr. Gosling, do you think that Australia's defence spending, which is set to reach 2.3% by 2030, is enough to defend Australia in the current strategic threat environment?

Speaker H: We will always be prepared to look at the strategic environment and make the appropriate decisions. And what Richard Marles, the Deputy Prime Minister and Defence Minister, has outlined is an increase of over \$50 billion this decade for our defence budget. Obviously, we committed to a process of a defence strategic review and out of that a national defence strategy and we've funded that through the iip. And we'll continue to. These are not my questions. And we'll continue.

Speaker A: I think it's satisfactory for the environment.

Speaker H: We are in now and we'll continue to make investments that are required to fulfil our responsibilities to the Australian people, to keep them safe through an agile and capable Australian defence force. If I can just go to the submarine question quickly. I wrote an 8,000 word paper on the strategic rationale for AUKUS and why it was so important. If anyone's interested, have a read. The Lowy Institute's read it out now, Luke, perhaps the Lowy Institute's got it online, but what the Prime Minister says is exactly right. It's the endurance, it's the range, and we happen to be an island continent in the middle of the Indo Pacific and we need that increased range and increased capability for the future. Just here in Darwin Harbour last week, we had a Virginia class submarine, the same one that we'll acquire through our deal with the US. And there's going to be 18 Royal Australian Navy submariners training on that vessel. We are doing everything that's required to be prepared to take carriage of that capability, which will ensure into the future that we have the capability we need to defend Australia. And to do our part.

Speaker A: Do you want higher defence spending?

Speaker B: Just here. Sorry, sorry, I have a few. Well, just. You've had a fair crack. He said nothing. I'm promised. You're key national security. I'm an equal opportunity guy. Ok. Particularly for. Where are you from? The Australian. Exactly. Why are you laughing?

Speaker D: Prime Minister, your key national security team, Penny Wong Richard Miles.

Speaker B: Can you guarantee they'll serve next term in full in their current roles? Yes, Prime Minister.

Speaker E: More than 60 aged care patients are currently taking up hospital beds right now here in Darwin. More than 60 aged care patients are currently taking up hospital beds in the nt. And then we also know that we've got a very large homeless elderly community on our streets. Do you really think 120 beds is enough?

Speaker B: I really think that we've had to address over just three years what was a crisis in aged care, an absolute crisis. It was summarised with one word neglect. We had to force the former government into a Royal Commission on Aged Care. One of the first vision statements that I did was on aged care. I did it on ageing of the population. I did it in Brisbane from memory, when I did a series of considered policy outlines, which is what you do when you're preparing as an alternative government. We did the hard work in opposition, something that quite clearly the other side have not done over the last three years. They've just sought to promote grievance and talk Australia down over three years. That's why they're unprepared. We have put in place the aged care workforce issues, which is a precondition for doing everything else. No good opening new beds if you don't have a workforce. We're building a workforce, including 99% of time, the hours, 4 million extra minutes, 4.3 million extra minutes of care being given to our older Australians every single day. Now, is there more work to do? Absolutely. And that's why I'm asking for a second term on the 3rd of May, because we have built foundations. We have put in place now the legislation, the most significant legislation this century on aged care reform. Just one of the measures that we've done as a really important part of our agenda. Thanks very much. Thank you.