



Electoral Integrity Assurance Taskforce – AFP Role and Response

Counter Foreign Interference and Special Investigations of the Counter Terrorism and Special Investigations Command

Date/Time	XXX
Location	XXX
Commissioner’s Role	XXX
Attendees	XXX

DESIRED OUTCOME

- In partnership with the Electoral Integrity Assurance Taskforce (EIAT), the AFP will assist the Commonwealth to identify, deter and where appropriate, prosecute entities who attempt to interfere with the integrity of the Federal Election.

AFP POSITION

- The AFP’s role on the EIAT has an investigative focus, particularly on cyber-enabled electoral interference and/or foreign interference and is able to respond to any reports of a crime, criminal threats or activity that have the potential to adversely impact the integrity of the Federal Election.

TALKING POINTS

Electoral Integrity Assurance Taskforce

- The AFP, as a member of the EIAT, supports the integrity of Federal Elections by monitoring and responding to reported activity that has the potential to adversely impact the process or outcome of the Federal Election.
- The EIAT is an operational level taskforce, comprising experts from key Federal agencies and Departments, well placed to prepare and respond to any issues threatening the integrity of the election.
- The EIAT works to provide information and advice to the AEC Electoral Commissioner on matters that may compromise the real or perceived integrity of the Federal Election process. This includes matters that threaten our democracy through: malicious cyber activity, physical means, electoral fraud, foreign interference or dis/misinformation campaigns.

s 37(2)(b)

- The AFP’s resourcing commitment will take a phased approach in the lead up to the Federal Election, with progressively increasing resourcing commitment up to the election. Additional resources may be required should significant criminal threats be identified.



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Counter Foreign Interference and Special Investigations of the Counter Terrorism and Special Investigations Command

Electoral Integrity Assurance Taskforce – AFP Role and Response | Counter Terrorism and Special Investigations Command

[Redacted]

s 47E(d)

- The AFP is a standing member on the Electoral Integrity Intelligence Forum, which supports the EIAT.

AFP Response

- It is important that the AFP is able to respond to any reports of a crime, criminal threats or activity that have the potential to adversely impact the integrity of the Federal Election.
- The AFP’s response must be efficient, flexible and scalable to meet the expectations of Government and the community.

[Redacted]

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s 37(2)(b)



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Counter Foreign Interference and Special Investigations of the Counter Terrorism and Special Investigations Command

Electoral Integrity Assurance Taskforce – AFP Role and Response | Counter Terrorism and Special Investigations Command

s 37(2)(b)

- Traditionally, Australian Federal elections have occurred with minimal public disruption. In recent years, there has been a global increase in incidence of cyber-enabled misinformation, disinformation and interference in electoral processes.
- The EIAT was first formed for the federal by-elections held in 2018, the full federal election on 18 May 2019, and the 2020 by-elections in the Divisions of Eden-Monaro and Groom.
- The EIAT comprises the following agencies:
 - Australian Electoral Commission (Chair)
 - Department of Finance
 - Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet
 - Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications
 - Attorney-General’s Department
 - Department of Home Affairs
 - Australian Federal Police
 - Australian Cyber Security Centre
- The Taskforce is supported by members of the National Intelligence Community as required.
- Supt. CFISI is the AFP’s standing representative on the EIAT with secondary support from Cybercrime Operations.
- The EIAT is overseen by the EIAT Board, co-chaired by the Australian Electoral Commission and the Department of Finance.
- Domestically, the AFP has investigated previous attempts to interfere with the 2020 NSW Eden-Monaro Division by-election and the 2019 Wentworth by-election (Operations Balah and s 47E(d)
 - As a result of Op Balah, an offender was charged with 35 offences (one x Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918 (CEA) and 34 x Commonwealth Criminal Code Act 1995 (CCA)) and recently pled guilty. The offender’s exact motivations in both these matters remains unknown.



Electoral Integrity Assurance Taskforce – AFP Role and Response

Counter Foreign Interference and Special Investigations of the Counter Terrorism and Special Investigations Command

Contact: [Redacted]

Phone: [Redacted] s 47E(c)

Content approved by: Assistant Commissioner Scott Lee APM

Clearing Officer: Assistant Commissioner Scott Lee APM

Position: Assistant Commissioner, Counter Terrorism and Special Investigations Command

Consultation: Nil

Date: 17 January 2022

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Electoral Integrity Assurance Taskforce – AFP Role and Response | Counter Terrorism and Special Investigations Command



Electoral Integrity Assurance Taskforce – AFP Role and Response

Counter Foreign Interference and Special Investigations of the Counter Terrorism and Special Investigations Command

Date/Time	February 2022
Location	s 47E(d)
Commissioner’s Role	DCI – Board Member
Attendees	s 47E(c)

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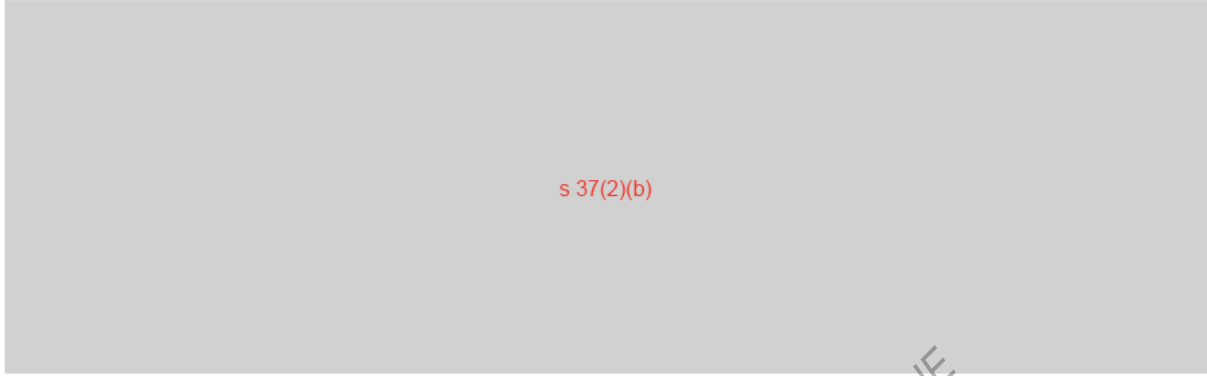
s 37(2)(b)

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Counter Foreign Interference and Special Investigations of the Counter Terrorism and Special Investigations Command

Contact: [Redacted] s 47E(c)

Phone:

Content approved by: Assistant Commissioner Scott Lee APM

Clearing Officer: Assistant Commissioner Scott Lee APM

Position: Assistant Commissioner, Counter Terrorism and Special Investigations Command

Consultation: Nil

Date: 17 January 2022

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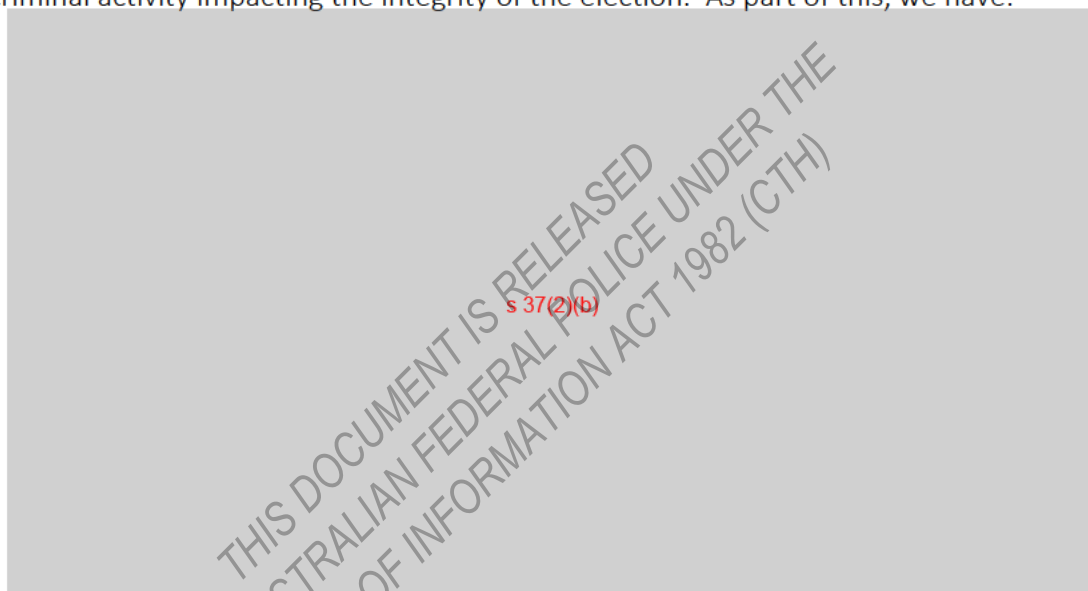
From: [REDACTED] s 47E(c)
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED] s 47E(d) [REDACTED] s 47E(c)
Subject: Update for briefing to EIAT Meeting - 18 Feb 2022 [SEC=PROTECTED]
Date: Friday, 11 February 2022 2:04:22 PM
Attachments: [image001.gif](#)
[image002.gif](#)

PROTECTED

Hi [REDACTED] s 47E(c)

At the EIAT meeting next Friday, can you please brief in the following:

- Thanks to [REDACTED] s 47E(c) for meeting with Cmdr Nutt and [REDACTED] s 47E(c) last week.
- As discussed between [REDACTED] s 47E(c) and Cmdr Nutt, the AFP is in the process of standing up some internal processes for how we will manage and respond to allegation of criminal activity impacting the integrity of the election. As part of this, we have:



Thanks again for attending on my behalf.

Kind regards

[REDACTED] s 47E(c)

[REDACTED] s 47E(c)
COUNTER FOREIGN INTERFERENCE & SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS - CANBERRA
[REDACTED] s 47E(c)

Australian Federal Police





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EIAT Service Plan for Co-location

Period	What AEC Wants	What AFP can commit to	
1 From date election called until one week prior to polling day ¹	<div style="background-color: #cccccc; width: 100%; height: 100%;"></div>	<div style="background-color: #cccccc; width: 100%; height: 100%;"></div>	
2 From one week prior to polling day up to and including polling day			Silver
3 From polling day until the Wed following polling day			Gold

ETU = AFP Electoral Triage Uni

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¹ Period 1 can last from 33 to 58 days.

² ETU = AFP Electoral Triage Uni

From: s 47E(c)
To: [redacted]
Cc: s 47E(d)
Subject: RE: For Action : EIAT Board Papers 7 March [SEC=PROTECTED]
Date: Wednesday, 2 March 2022 4:49:37 PM
Attachments: [EIAT - Draft FI Fact Sheet - AvH.docx](#)
[image001.gif](#)
[image002.gif](#)

PROTECTED

H s 47E(c)

I've made some suggested changes in the attached s 37(2)(b)

s 37(2)(b)

Kind regards

s 47E(c)

s 47E(c)
SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS - CANBERRA
COUNTER TERRORISM AND SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS COMMAND
Tel: s 47E(c)
www.afp.gov.au

[Australian Federal Police](#)



From: s 47E(c)
Sent: Tuesday, 1 March 2022 9:26 PM
To: s 47E(c) <afp.gov.au>
Subject: RE: For Action : EIAT Board Papers 7 March [SEC=PROTECTED]

PROTECTED

Hi s 47E(c)

At this point, draft – as an FYI, as we hadn't had time to put it round to the EIAT.

The content was prepared/cleared by the s 47E(d) If you have anything to add in at this point, happy to take comments etc.

Cheers

s 47E(c)

From: s 47E(c) @afp.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 1 March 2022 5:34 PM
To: s 47E(c)
Subject: FW: For Action : EIAT Board Papers 7 March [SEC=PROTECTED]

PROTECTED

Hi s 47E(c)

Regarding the website factsheet on foreign interference, is this being circulated to the Board as a draft for comment, or being presented to them as final/for endorsement?

Kind regards

s 47E(c)

s 47E(c)
SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS - CANBERRA
COUNTER TERRORISM AND SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS COMMAND
Tel: s 47E(c)
www.afp.gov.au

Australian Federal Police



s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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s.22(1)(a)(ii)

OFFICIAL

EIAT website factsheets

Foreign Interference

What is foreign interference?

Foreign interference is formally described as activities carried out by, or on behalf of, a foreign actor, and is coercive, corrupting, deceptive or clandestine, and contrary to Australia's sovereignty, values and national interests.

Putting it more simply, foreign interference is about foreign powers seeking to secretly and improperly interfere in Australia's society to advance their strategic, political, military, social or economic goals, at the expense of Australia's own. It can reach right across Australian society, targeting the people, information and infrastructure of governments, industry, academia, the media, and culturally and linguistically diverse communities.

It is important to distinguish foreign interference from foreign influence. All governments, including the Australian Government, seek to influence deliberations on issues of importance to them. Australia is not concerned with foreign influence activity that is open and transparent, and that respects our people, society and systems.

Electoral interference

Australia's enduring democratic values are grounded in the principles of freedom, equality, the rule of law and respect. Our commitment to these values, and the institutions which uphold them, gives us confidence in the strength of our government and democratic processes.

Australia's elections form an integral part of Australia's democratic system. Any interference in that process by a foreign power could have a damaging impact on public confidence in the credibility and integrity of election outcomes.

Foreign interference in our electoral system could take many forms. One form is disinformation that is created or amplified by a foreign actor (or their proxy). This disinformation can spread quickly across the community.

on protecting yourself against disinformation can be found on our disinformation factsheet (insert link to disinformation factsheet).

The multi-agency Electoral Integrity Assurance Taskforce (insert link to EIAT factsheet) has been established to protect the integrity of Australia's elections.

Countering foreign interference requires a whole-of-society response. Contact the National Security Hotline if you believe you have information on possible foreign interference activity, or have seen or heard something suspicious that may need investigation by security agencies. If you believe you or anyone else is in physical danger, please contact your local police immediately.

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