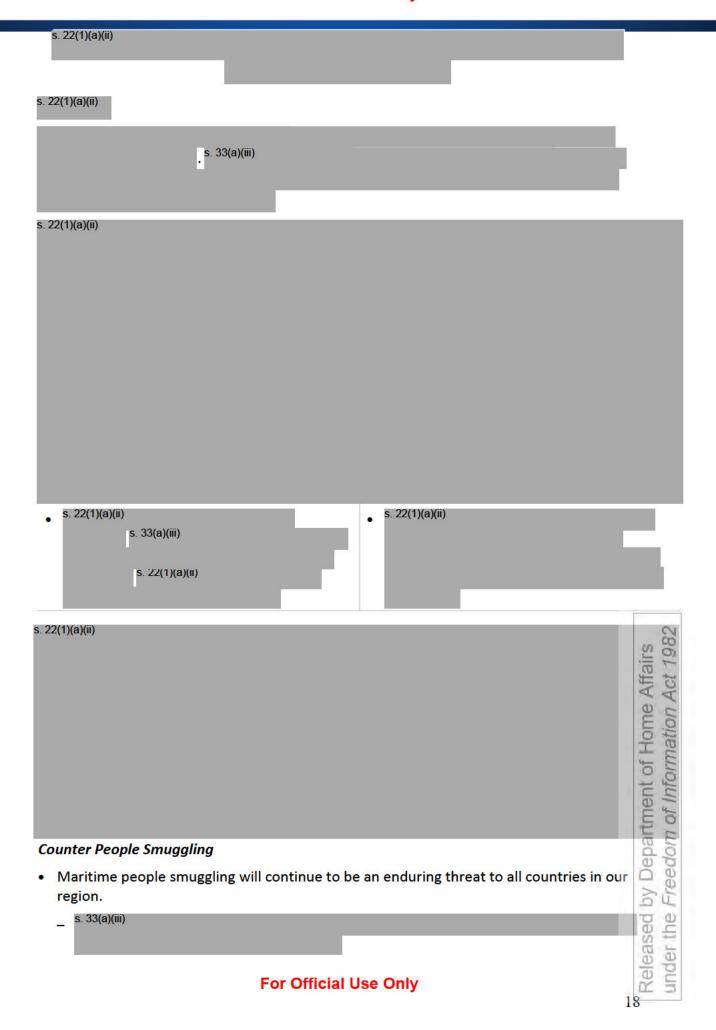
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Thematic brief 5: People Smuggling including Operation Sovereign Borders

Key points

- Maritime people smuggling continues to be an enduring threat to all countries in the region.
- Australia's strong border protection policies deter people from attempting to travel illegally by boat to Australia.
 - o These policies have successfully stemmed the flow of illegal maritime ventures to Australia, disrupted people smuggling activities in the region and prevented loss of life at sea.

s. 33(a)(iii)

- It is important to recognise that Australia's policies respond to our unique regional and geographic circumstances. Individual governments and regions need to determine the most appropriate responses to their particular circumstances.
- Australia remains committed to cooperating with our regional partners to resolve the shared challenge of people smuggling and irregular migration, including by:
 - o supporting regional processing arrangements in Papua New Guinea (PNG) and Nauru, including identifying durable migration outcomes for refugees and failed asylum seekers;
 - o supporting the Government of Indonesian to manage its population of irregular migrants, through the Regional Cooperation Arrangement (administered by the International Organization for Migration); and
 - o working with various countries to return persons found not to be in need of protection.
- Australia and Indonesia co-chair the Bali Process on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime – a multilateral forum for dialogue, capacity building and information sharing on irregular migration issues.
 - o Priority activities include addressing the root causes of irregular migration, business and

Priority activities include addressing the root causes of irregular migration, business and private sector engagement, safe and legal migration pathways, returns and reintegration irregular migrants and persons not found to be in need of international protection, and countering criminal syndicates engaged in people smuggling and human trafficking. Act s. 33(a)(iii) Freedom of the Re

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Operation Sovereign Borders

Australia's border protection policies aim to deter people from engaging people smugglers and attempting dangerous and illegal journeys to Australia by boat. The policies include turning back people smuggling boats where it is safe to do so; and removing Australia as a settlement option for anyone who attempts to travel to Australia illegally by boat. These policies have succeeded in stemming the flow of boats, disrupting the people smuggling business model and preventing loss of life at sea.

Australia's policies were implemented in response to a dramatic increase in the number of people attempting illegal migration to Australia by boat between 2008 and 2013. During this period, more than 50,000 people travelled to Australia on dangerous and unauthorised boat ventures.

- more than 1200 men, women and children are known to have drowned attempting this journey on people smuggling boats ill-suited for long journeys on the open ocean
- there have been no known deaths at sea associated with people smuggling ventures to Australia since December 2013.

The Joint Agency Task Force (JATF) was created in September 2013, bringing together 16 agencies and entities covering operational, law enforcement, intelligence and policy functions. JATF comprises two operational task groups:

- the Disruption and Deterrence Task Group is headed by the Australian Federal Police; and
- the Detection, Interception and Transfer Task Group is led by the Maritime Border Command.

s. 33(a)(iii)

Our policies respond to Australia's unique regional and geographic circumstances. It is a matter for other governments and regions to determine the most appropriate responses to their particular circumstances.

The Australian Government is committed to its international obligations, including our protection and non-refoulement obligations. People are not forcibly returned to situations where they are likely to face harm.

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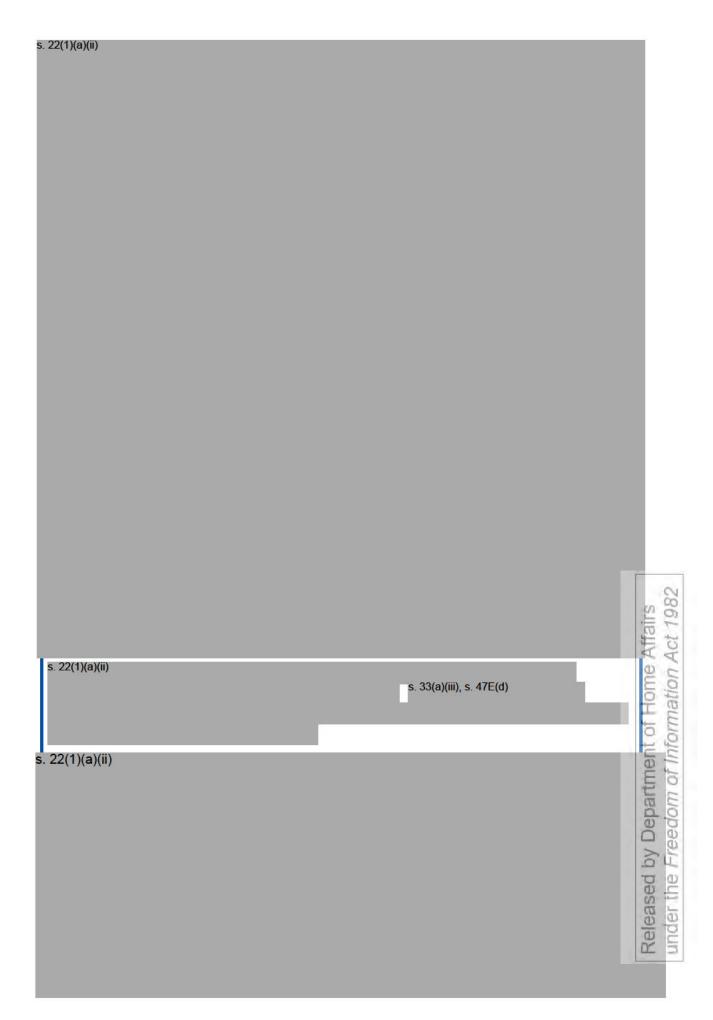
 People smugglers will use this approach to market new ventures; we must ensure any potential resettlement arrangement does not undermine efforts to combat people smuggling and does not create a pull factor.

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Counter people smuggling (if raised)

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