

OFFICIAL**OFFICIAL**

HOLDING LINES

Subject	Incident in Porepunkah, Victoria	
Date	26 August 2025	Version: 1
Type	Whole of Government	
Media Officer:	s. 22(1)(a)(ii)	Media Ph: 02 6264 2244

ISSUE

Incident involving a shooting at a rural property in Porepunkah, Victoria where one officer is reported as injured, with a search underway for two other officers.

Holding Lines

- Victoria Police is responding to an incident involving a shooting at a rural property in Porepunkah, Victoria.
- The incident is ongoing and Victoria police have asked the public to avoid the area.
- Our first concern is for the safety of the police officers involved and I urge everyone in the area to listen to the advice of authorities.

CLEARANCE

Lead business area		
The Media team will contact the area(s) should further clarification be required.		
CTCC		
Drafting officer		
s. 22(1)(a)(ii)	Public Affairs Officer, National Security and Crisis Communications	26 August 2025
International Division clearance		
		Yes ☐ N/A ☒

Other Government agency consultation/clearance		Yes ☒ N/A ☐
AFP		26/08/2025
ASIO		26/08/2025
VicPol		26/08/2025

Final SES clearance (minimum SES Band 1) and approval for release		
SES of lead business area must verify that all appropriate consultation and clearances have been undertaken.		
Gemma Smyth	FAS, Counter Terrorism and Violent Extremism	26/08/2025

Media and Communication Branch		
 s. 22(1)(a)(ii)	Director, National Security and Crisis Comms	26/08/2025

From: [Gemma SMYTH](#)
To: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
Cc: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
Subject: Re: FOR CLEARANCE: Talking Points Incident in Porepunkah, Victoria v3[SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date: Thursday, 28 August 2025 6:16:32 PM

OFFICIAL

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

Cleared by me

Thanks

Gemma

Sent by Email+

OFFICIAL

From: "s. 22(1)(a)(ii)" <s. 22(1)(a)(ii)@homeaffairs.gov.au>
Date: Thursday, 28 August 2025 at 6:05:22 pm
To: "Gemma SMYTH" <s. 22(1)(a)(ii)@homeaffairs.gov.au>
Cc: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) <s. 22(1)(a)(ii)@homeaffairs.gov.au>
Subject: FOR CLEARANCE: Talking Points Incident in Porepunkah, Victoria v3[SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hi Gemma,

Please find below and attached for clearance some minor updates to version 3 of these TPs. These are cleared by AFP and ASIO and draw on content from VicPol's presser this afternoon.

Talking Points

- Our thoughts are with the families and friends of Detective Leading Senior Constable Neal Thompsen and Senior Constable Vadim De Waart, the two Victorian police officers who were shot and killed during an incident at Porepunkah on Tuesday 26 August 2025.
- Our thoughts are also with their seriously injured colleague.
- A significant search is actively underway to locate the alleged offender.

Our first concern is for the safety of the responding police officers and the local community and I urge everyone in the area to listen to the advice of authorities.

- Victoria police have asked the public **in Porepunkah and the surrounding area to be vigilant.**
 - Members of the public should not engage or confront the alleged offender, and if sighted should immediately contact Victoria Police on 000.
- Victoria Police Chief Commissioner Mike Bush identified the alleged offender as Desmond Filby, who is also known as Dezi Freeman.
- The exact circumstances surrounding the incident are still being determined and it remains an active and ongoing situation.
- **The AFP is providing assistance to the ongoing police operation at the request of Victoria Police.**
- Victoria Police have initiated a Temporary Restricted Airspace (no-fly zone) within a 4 nautical mile radius in the Porepunkah area, which will remain in place until at least 11.30pm on Friday 29 August.
 - The order includes all aircraft, including drones.
- Anyone with information is urged to contact Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 or submit a confidential report online at www.crimestoppersvic.com.au.

If asked: Media is reporting that Desmond Filby claims to be a sovereign citizen.

What is the government doing to counter that movement, considering Freeman's very violent actions?

- This remains an active and ongoing situation and it is too early to speculate on the circumstances or the motivation.
- It is important that we let police do their job.

Desmond Filby is reported to be heavily armed. Is he a registered firearm holder and how if so, why was he allowed to hold a firearm licence?

- It is too early to speculate on the circumstances around this incident.
- The Australian Government remains committed to strong firearms regulations and the National Firearms Agreement (NFA).
- Australia's approach to firearms regulation is governed by the NFA, made in response to the Port Arthur massacre in 1996.
- The NFA affirms that firearms possession and use is a privilege that is conditional on the overriding need to ensure public safety.
- Firearm ownership requires a genuine reason and a fit and proper person test.
- Responsibility for firearm matters is shared between the Commonwealth and state and territory governments.
 - The Commonwealth is responsible for matters relating to the import and export of firearms.
 - State and territory governments have responsibility for matters relating to

licensing, possession, storage and use of firearms.

- However, all governments have the collective responsibility to ensure the NFA is effective.

If asked: Will the Government speed up the implementation of the National Firearms Register following this incident?

- The Commonwealth and state and territory governments remain committed to a fully operational National Firearms Register by 1 July 2028, as agreed by National Cabinet.
- It is important that we know where firearms are, who owns them and what other risks to police and the community exist.
 - We also need this information in near-real time to inform our front-line police and close opportunities to divert firearms into the illicit market.
- We are acutely aware the risks exposed by Wieambilla remain until all jurisdictions and systems are connected through the National Firearms Register.
- The Government has committed over \$160 million to implement the NFR.
 - This includes over \$100 million to support states and territories improve their firearms registries and data to make the National Firearms Register work.
- The National Firearms Register will be the largest improvement to Australia's firearms management systems in almost 30 years.
 - It will provide frontline police officers with access to near real-time information on firearms, firearms owners and licences.
 - The Register will also better link firearms information with police and government information systems, including the National Criminal Intelligence System.
 - This will better enable law enforcement to assess and respond to risks to the community and frontline police officers.

The National Firearms Register does not replace, but assists, ongoing police and intelligence activities to counter illicit firearms and criminal activity.

Regards,

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

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

Director, National Security and Crisis Communication

Media and Communication Branch

Executive Coordination Division | Executive Group

Department of Home Affairs

P: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) | **M:** s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

E: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) [@homeaffairs.gov.au](mailto:s.22(1)(a)(ii)@homeaffairs.gov.au)

From: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
To: AFP Media; s. 22(1)(a)(ii); s. 22(1)(a)(ii); Alexander GOLDIE; s. 7(2A); Brian HICKEY; s. 22(1)(a)(ii); Colette HULL; s. 22(1)(a)(ii); s. 22(1)(a)(ii); pmc.gov.au; @pmc.gov.au; Gemma SMYTH; Hamish Hanford; Heike PHILLIPS; Home Affairs Media; s. 22(1)(a)(ii); s. 22(1)(a)(ii); s. 22(1)(a)(ii); PMC; s. 22(1)(a)(ii); s. 22(1)(a)(ii); s. 22(1)(a)(ii); s. 22(1)(a)(ii); Pete BERLIS; s. 22(1)(a)(ii); PMC Media; s. 22(1)(a)(ii); s. 22(1)(a)(ii); Sophie Sharpe; Stephanie FOSTER; s. 22(1)(a)(ii); @pmc.gov.au; s. 22(1)(a)(ii); s. 22(1)(a)(ii); s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
Subject: Talking Points - Incident at Porepukah Victoria version 1 [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date: Tuesday, 26 August 2025 7:22:00 PM
Attachments: [Talking Points - Incident in Porepukah Victoria V1.docx](#)

OFFICIAL

Good evening,

Please find attached Talking Points - Incident at Porepukah Victoria version 1.

Three talking points will be updated when new information becomes available.

Agencies – please provide input to s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au

Regards,

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

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

Director, National Security and Crisis Communication

Media and Communication Branch

Executive Coordination Division | Executive Group

Department of Home Affairs

Media line: 02 62642244 | **Crisis Media on call:** s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

E: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au

OFFICIAL

TALKING POINTS

Subject	Incident in Porepunkah, Victoria	
Date	26 August 2025	Version: 1
Type	Whole of Government	
Media Officer:	s. 22(1)(a)(ii)	Media Ph: 02 6264 2244

ISSUE

Incident involving a shooting at a rural property in Porepunkah, Victoria where one officer is reported as injured, with a search underway for two other officers.

Talking Points

- Our thoughts are with the families and friends of the two Victorian police officers who were shot and killed during an incident at Porepunkah this morning.
- Our thoughts are also with their seriously injured colleague.
- A significant search is actively underway to locate the offender.
- The exact circumstances surrounding the incident are still being determined and it remains an active and ongoing situation.
- Victoria police have asked the public in the area to remain indoors until further notice.
- Our first concern is for the safety of the responding police officers and the local community and I urge everyone in the area to listen to the advice of authorities.
- Anyone with information is urged to contact Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 or submit a confidential report online at www.crimestoppersvic.com.au.

CLEARANCE

Lead business area The Media team will contact the area(s) should further clarification be required.
CTCC
Drafting officer

Released by Department of Home Affairs
under the Freedom of Information Act 1982

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)	Public Affairs Officer, National Security and Crisis Communications	26 August 2025
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International Division clearance	
	Yes ☐ N/A ☒

Other Government agency consultation/clearance		Yes ☒ N/A ☐
AFP		26/08/2025
ASIO		26/08/2025
VicPol		26/08/2025

Final SES clearance (minimum SES Band 1) and approval for release		
SES of lead business area must verify that all appropriate consultation and clearances have been undertaken.		
Gemma Smyth	FAS, Counter Terrorism and Violent Extremism	XX/08/2025

Media and Communication Branch		
s. 22(1)(a)(ii)	Director, National Security and Crisis Comms	XX/08/2025

From: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
To: "AFP Media"; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) ; Alex MCCONACHIE; Alexander GOLDIE; s. 7(2A) ; Brian HICKEY;
s. 22(1)(a)(ii) ; Colette HULL; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) ; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) ; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) ; @pmc.gov.au";
s. 22(1)(a)(ii) ; @pmc.gov.au"; Gemma SMYTH; Hamish HANSEFORD; Heike PHILLIPS; Home Affairs Media; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) ;
s. 22(1)(a)(ii) ; - PMC; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) ; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) ; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) ;
s. 22(1)(a)(ii) ; Pete BERLIS; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) ; "PMC Media"; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) ; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) ;
(AFP)"; Sophie SHARPE; Stephanie FOSTER; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) ; @pmc.gov.au"; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) ;
s. 22(1)(a)(ii) ; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) ; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) ; "Media@ahc.gov.au"
Subject: Talking Points - Incident at Porepunkah Victoria version 2 [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date: Wednesday, 27 August 2025 8:11:00 PM
Attachments: [Talking Points - Incident in Porepunkah Victoria V2.docx](#)

OFFICIAL

Good evening,

Please find attached Talking Points - Incident at Porepunkah Victoria version 2.

Three talking points will be updated when new information becomes available.

Agencies – please provide input to s. 22(1)(a)(ii) [@homeaffairs.gov.au](mailto:homeaffairs.gov.au)

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

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
Director, National Security and Crisis Communication
Media and Communication Branch
Executive Coordination Division | Executive Group
Department of Home Affairs
Media line: 02 62642244 | **Crisis Media on call:** s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
E: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) [@homeaffairs.gov.au](mailto:homeaffairs.gov.au)

OFFICIAL

OFFICIAL

TALKING POINTS

Subject	Incident in Porepunkah, Victoria	
Date	27 August 2025	Version: 2
Type	Whole of Government	
Media Officer:	s. 22(1)(a)(ii)	Media Ph: 02 6264 2244

ISSUE

Incident involving a shooting at a rural property in Porepunkah, Victoria where two officers were fatally shot and another was injured, with a search underway for the alleged offender.

Talking Points

- Our thoughts are with the families and friends of **Detective Leading Senior Constable Neal Thomspson and Senior Constable Vadim De Waart**, the two Victorian police officers who were shot and killed during an incident at Porepunkah **on Tuesday 26 August 2025**.
- Our thoughts are also with their seriously injured colleague.
- A significant search is actively underway to locate the alleged offender.
- Our first concern is for the safety of the responding police officers and the local community and I urge everyone in the area to listen to the advice of authorities.
- Victoria police have asked the public in the area to remain indoors **until further notice**.
 - o **Members of the public should not engage or confront the alleged offender, and if sighted should immediately contact Victoria Police on 000.**
- Victoria Police Chief Commissioner Mike Bush identified the alleged offender as **Desmond Filby, who is also known as Dezi Freeman**.
- The exact circumstances surrounding the incident are still being determined and it remains an active and ongoing situation.
- Victoria Police have initiated a Temporary Restricted Airspace (no-fly zone) within a **4 nautical mile radius in the Porepunkah area, which will remain in place until at least 11.30pm on Friday 29 August**.
 - o **The order includes all aircraft, including drones.**
- Anyone with information is urged to contact Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 or submit a confidential report online at www.crimestoppersvic.com.au.

If asked: Media is reporting that Desmond Filby claims to be a sovereign citizen. What is the government doing to counter that movement, considering Freeman's very violent actions?

- This remains an active and ongoing situation and it is too early to speculate on the circumstances or the motivation.
- It is important that we let police do their job.

Desmond Filby is reported to be heavily armed. Is he a registered firearm holder and how if so, why was he allowed to hold a firearm licence?

- It is too early to speculate on the circumstances around this incident.
- The Australian Government remains committed to strong firearms regulations and the National Firearms Agreement (NFA).
- Australia's approach to firearms regulation is governed by the NFA, made in response to the Port Arthur massacre in 1996.
- The NFA affirms that firearms possession and use is a privilege that is conditional on the overriding need to ensure public safety.
- Firearm ownership requires a genuine reason and a fit and proper person test.
- Responsibility for firearm matters is shared between the Commonwealth and state and territory governments.
 - o The Commonwealth is responsible for matters relating to the import and export of firearms.
 - o State and territory governments have responsibility for matters relating to licensing, possession, storage and use of firearms.
- However, all governments have the collective responsibility to ensure the NFA is effective.

If asked: Will the Government speed up the implementation of the National Firearms Register following this incident?

- The Commonwealth and state and territory governments remain committed to a fully operational National Firearms Register by 1 July 2028, as agreed by National Cabinet.
- It is important that we know where firearms are, who owns them and what other risks to police and the community exist.
 - o We also need this information in near-real time to inform our front-line police and close opportunities to divert firearms into the illicit market.
- We are acutely aware the risks exposed by Wieambilla remain until all jurisdictions and systems are connected through the National Firearms Register.

- The Government has committed over \$160 million to implement the NFR.
 - This includes over \$100 million to support states and territories improve their firearms registries and data to make the National Firearms Register work.
- The National Firearms Register will be the largest improvement to Australia's firearms management systems in almost 30 years.
 - It will provide frontline police officers with access to near real-time information on firearms, firearms owners and licences.
 - The Register will also better link firearms information with police and government information systems, including the National Criminal Intelligence System.
 - This will better enable law enforcement to assess and respond to risks to the community and frontline police officers.
- The National Firearms Register does not replace, but assists, ongoing police and intelligence activities to counter illicit firearms and criminal activity.

CLEARANCE

Lead business area		
The Media team will contact the area(s) should further clarification be required.		
CTCC		

Drafting officer		
s. 22(1)(a)(ii)	Public Affairs Officer, National Security and Crisis Communications	27 August 2025

International Division clearance	
	Yes ☐ N/A ☒

Other Government agency consultation/clearance	Yes ☒ N/A ☐
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AFP		27/08/2025
ASIO		27/08/2025

Final SES clearance (minimum SES Band 1) and approval for release SES of lead business area must verify that all appropriate consultation and clearances have been undertaken.		
Gemma Smyth	FAS, Counter Terrorism and Violent Extremism	27/08/2025

Media and Communication Branch		
s. 22(1)(a)(ii)	Director, National Security and Crisis Comms	27/08/2025

Released by Department of Home Affairs
under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982*

From: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
To: AFP Media; s. 47F(1) ; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) ; Alexander GOLDIE; s. 7(2A) ; Brian HICKEY; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) ; Colette HULL; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) ; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) ; @pmc.gov.au; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) ; @pmc.gov.au; Gemma SMYTH; Hamish HANSFORD; Heike PHILLIPS; Home Affairs Media; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) ; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) ; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) - PMC; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) ; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) ; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) ; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) ; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) ; Pete BERLIS; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) ; PMC Media; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) ; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) ; Sophie SHARPE; Stephanie FOSTER; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) ; @pmc.gov.au; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) ; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) ; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) ; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) ; Media@acic.gov.au
Subject: Talking Points - Incident at Porepunkah Victoria version 3 [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date: Thursday, 28 August 2025 6:22:00 PM
Attachments: [Talking Points - Incident in Porepunkah Victoria V3.docx](#)

OFFICIAL

Good evening,

Please find attached Talking Points - Incident at Porepunkah Victoria version 3.

Three talking points will be updated when new information becomes available.

Agencies – please provide input to s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au

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

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
Director, National Security and Crisis Communication
Media and Communication Branch
Executive Coordination Division | Executive Group
Department of Home Affairs
Media line: 02 62642244 | **Crisis Media on call:** s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
E: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au

OFFICIAL

OFFICIAL

OFFICIAL

TALKING POINTS

Subject	Incident in Porepunkah, Victoria	
Date	28 August 2025	Version: 3
Type	Whole of Government	
Media Officer:	s. 22(1)(a)(ii)	Media Ph: 02 6264 2244

ISSUE

Incident involving a shooting at a rural property in Porepunkah, Victoria where two officers were fatally shot and another was injured, with a search underway for the alleged offender.

Talking Points

- Our thoughts are with the families and friends of Detective Leading Senior Constable Neal Thompspon and Senior Constable Vadim De Waart, the two Victorian police officers who were shot and killed during an incident at Porepunkah on Tuesday 26 August 2025.
- Our thoughts are also with their seriously injured colleague.
- A significant search is actively underway to locate the alleged offender.
- Our first concern is for the safety of the responding police officers and the local community and I urge everyone in the area to listen to the advice of authorities.
- Victoria police have asked the public in Porepunkah and the surrounding area to be vigilant.
 - Members of the public should not engage or confront the alleged offender, and if sighted should immediately contact Victoria Police on 000.
- Victoria Police Chief Commissioner Mike Bush identified the alleged offender as Desmond Filby, who is also known as Dezi Freeman.
- The exact circumstances surrounding the incident are still being determined and it remains an active and ongoing situation.
- The AFP is providing assistance to the ongoing police operation at the request of Victoria Police.
- Victoria Police have initiated a Temporary Restricted Airspace (no-fly zone) within a 4 nautical mile radius in the Porepunkah area, which will remain in place until at least 11.30pm on Friday 29 August.
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If asked: Media is reporting that Desmond Filby claims to be a sovereign citizen. What is the government doing to counter that movement, considering Freeman's very violent actions?

- This remains an active and ongoing situation and it is too early to speculate on the circumstances or the motivation.
- It is important that we let police do their job.

Desmond Filby is reported to be heavily armed. Is he a registered firearm holder and how if so, why was he allowed to hold a firearm licence?

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- However, all governments have the collective responsibility to ensure the NFA is effective.

If asked: Will the Government speed up the implementation of the National Firearms Register following this incident?

- The Commonwealth and state and territory governments remain committed to a fully operational National Firearms Register by 1 July 2028, as agreed by National Cabinet.
- It is important that we know where firearms are, who owns them and what other risks to police and the community exist.
 - We also need this information in near-real time to inform our front-line police and close opportunities to divert firearms into the illicit market.

- We are acutely aware the risks exposed by Wieambilla remain until all jurisdictions and systems are connected through the National Firearms Register.
- The Government has committed over \$160 million to implement the NFR.
 - This includes over \$100 million to support states and territories improve their firearms registries and data to make the National Firearms Register work.
- The National Firearms Register will be the largest improvement to Australia's firearms management systems in almost 30 years.
 - It will provide frontline police officers with access to near real-time information on firearms, firearms owners and licences.
 - The Register will also better link firearms information with police and government information systems, including the National Criminal Intelligence System.
 - This will better enable law enforcement to assess and respond to risks to the community and frontline police officers.
- The National Firearms Register does not replace, but assists, ongoing police and intelligence activities to counter illicit firearms and criminal activity.

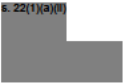
CLEARANCE

Lead business area		
The Media team will contact the area(s) should further clarification be required.		
CTCC		
Drafting officer		
s. 22(1)(a)(ii)	Public Affairs Officer, National Security and Crisis Communications	28 August 2025
International Division clearance		
		Yes ☐ N/A ☒

Released by Department of Home Affairs
under the Freedom of Information Act 1982

Other Government agency consultation/clearance		Yes ☒ N/A ☐
AFP		28/08/2025
ASIO		28/08/2025

Final SES clearance (minimum SES Band 1) and approval for release		
SES of lead business area must verify that all appropriate consultation and clearances have been undertaken.		
Gemma Smyth	FAS, Counter Terrorism and Violent Extremism	28/08/2025

Media and Communication Branch		
 s. 22(1)(a)(ii)	Director, National Security and Crisis Comms	28/08/2025

From: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
To: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
Subject: FW: Talking Points - Incident at Porepukah Victoria version 1 [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date: Wednesday, 27 August 2025 11:23:00 AM
Attachments: [Talking Points - Incident in Porepukah Victoria V1.docx](#)

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Here you go – I sent them to the Holding lines list because it is still not a broader issue. Can you have s. 22(1)(a) update the CT TPs list to ensure everyone on this list is on that list (and update to remove any of the bounce backs where the inbox no longer exists.

OFFICIAL

From: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
Sent: Tuesday, 26 August 2025 7:23 PM
To: AFP Media <media@afp.gov.au>; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @afp.gov.au; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au; Alexander GOLDIE s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au; s. 7(2A) gov.au; Brian HICKEY s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au; Colette HULL s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @HOMEAFFAIRS.GOV.AU; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au; s. 22(1)(a) @pmc.gov.au; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @pmc.gov.au; Gemma SMYTH s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au; Hamish Hansford <s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @HOMEAFFAIRS.GOV.AU>; Heike PHILLIPS s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au; Home Affairs Media <media@homeaffairs.gov.au>; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @HOMEAFFAIRS.GOV.AU; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @pmc.gov.au; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) <s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au>; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @HOMEAFFAIRS.GOV.AU; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au; Pete BERLIS <s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au>; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au; PMC Media <media@pmc.gov.au>; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @HOMEAFFAIRS.GOV.AU; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @afp.gov.au; Sophie Sharpe s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au; Stephanie FOSTER s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @pmc.gov.au; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) s. 47F(1) @nema.gov.au; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @HOMEAFFAIRS.GOV.AU>
Subject: Talking Points - Incident at Porepukah Victoria version 1 [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Good evening,

Please find attached Talking Points - Incident at Porepukah Victoria version 1.

Thee talking points will be updated when new information becomes available.

Agencies – please provide input to s. 22(1)(a)(ii) [@homeaffairs.gov.au](mailto:s.22(1)(a)(ii)@homeaffairs.gov.au)

Regards,

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

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

Director, National Security and Crisis Communication

Media and Communication Branch

Executive Coordination Division | Executive Group

Department of Home Affairs

Media line: 02 62642244 | **Crisis Media on call:** s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

E: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) [@homeaffairs.gov.au](mailto:s.22(1)(a)(ii)@homeaffairs.gov.au)

OFFICIAL

From: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
To: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
Cc: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
Subject: FOR CLEARANCE: Porepukah incident [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date: Tuesday, 26 August 2025 5:41:00 PM
Attachments: [Talking Points - Incident in Porepukah Victoria V1.docx](#)
[image001.jpg](#)

OFFICIAL

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

For review, please find attached TPs on the Porepukah incident.

Updated based on VicPol statement.

Kind regards,

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
Assistant Director, National Security and Crisis Communication
Media and Communication Branch
Executive Coordination Division | Executive Group
Department of Home Affairs
P: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) | **M:** s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
E: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) [@homeaffairs.gov.au](mailto:s.22(1)(a)(ii)@homeaffairs.gov.au)

Media Line: 02 6264 2244

acknowledgement.jpg



OFFICIAL

From: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) <s.22(1)(a)(ii)@police.vic.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 26 August 2025 4:30 PM
Cc: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) <s.22(1)(a)(ii)@police.vic.gov.au>
Subject: Victoria Police Media Unit - Media Release and UPDATE from CCP Mike Bush - Porepukah incident

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

Good afternoon all – please find below video update from CCP Mike Bush, who addresses the unfolding incident in Porepunkah today.

CCP Porepunkah Message

Please note: The CCP is on his way to the area and will address media and take questions in Wangaratta at 6pm.

CCP Mike Bush will be accompanied by Wayne Gatt outside the police station, 1 Handley Street.

Our media release below which will appear on our website shortly: [Breaking news | Victoria Police](#)

TWO POLICE OFFICERS FATALLY SHOT – POREPUNKAH

Two on duty police officers have been shot and killed during an incident in Porepunkah this morning.

It's believed ten police attended the property on Rayner Track shortly after 10.30am on Tuesday, 26 August.

Two officers were fatally shot and a third was seriously injured after being shot in the lower body.

At this time no other officers have been physically injured, however they remain at the property.

The exact circumstances surrounding the incident are still being determined and it remains an active and ongoing situation.

It's believed the offender has since left the property and at this time his whereabouts are unknown.

A significant search is actively underway to locate the man.

We urge the public in and around the township of Porepunkah to remain indoors until further notice.

We also ask people not to travel into the area.

Detectives from the Homicide Squad will investigate the incident and will attend the scene along with detectives from the Armed Crime Squad and Fugitive Squad.

Police from the Special Operations Group and Critical Incident Response Team also remain on scene.

Further information about the incident will be provided once it comes to hand and is operationally appropriate to do so.

Anyone with information is urged to contact Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 or submit

a confidential report online at www.crimestoppersvic.com.au

Kind Regards

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

s. 22(1)(a)(ii) | Acting Senior Sergeant

Media Unit | Media Advisor

Media, Communications and Engagement Department | Victoria Police

Victoria Police Centre, Level 29, 311 Spencer Street, Docklands, Victoria 3008

Position Based Email – monitored 24/7 s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @police.vic.gov.au

t: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) | dx: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) e: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @police.vic.gov.au

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

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TALKING POINTS

Subject	Incident in Porepunkah, Victoria	
Date	26 August 2025	Version: 1
Type	Whole of Government	
Media Officer:	s. 22(1)(a)(ii)	Media Ph: 02 6264 2244

ISSUE

Incident involving a shooting at a rural property in Porepunkah, Victoria where one officer is reported as injured, with a search underway for two other officers.

Talking Points

- Victoria Police is continuing to respond to an incident following a shooting at a rural property in Porepunkah, Victoria.
- Our thoughts are with the families of two officers who have tragically been shot and killed during the incident, and a third officer who has been seriously injured.
 - At this time no other officers have been physically injured, however they remain at the property.
- The exact circumstances surrounding the incident are still being determined and it remains an active and ongoing situation.
- Victoria police have asked the public in the area to remain indoors until further notice.
- Our first concern is for the safety of the police officers involved and I urge everyone in the area to listen to the advice of authorities.
- Anyone with information is urged to contact Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 or submit a confidential report online at www.crimestoppersvic.com.au.

CLEARANCE

Lead business area
The Media team will contact the area(s) should further clarification be required.
CTCC

Drafting officer		
s. 22(1)(a)(ii)	Public Affairs Officer, National Security and Crisis Communications	26 August 2025

International Division clearance	
	Yes ☐ N/A ☒

Other Government agency consultation/clearance		Yes ☒ N/A ☐
AFP		26/08/2025
ASIO		26/08/2025
VicPol		26/08/2025

Final SES clearance (minimum SES Band 1) and approval for release		
SES of lead business area must verify that all appropriate consultation and clearances have been undertaken.		
Gemma Smyth	FAS, Counter Terrorism and Violent Extremism	XX/08/2025

Media and Communication Branch		
s. 22(1)(a)(ii)	Director, National Security and Crisis Comms	XX/08/2025

From: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
To: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
Subject: FW: Talking Points - Incident at Porepukah Victoria version 1 [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date: Wednesday, 27 August 2025 11:28:06 AM
Attachments: [Talking Points - Incident in Porepukah Victoria V1.docx](#)

OFFICIAL

s. 22(1)(a)(ii) can you please cross-check the list below with the distro list, and check and remove bounce backs (undeliverable).

Thanks

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

Assistant Director, National Security and Crisis Communication

Media and Communication Branch

Executive Coordination Division | Executive Group

Department of Home Affairs

P: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) | **M:** s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

E: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) [@homeaffairs.gov.au](mailto:s.22(1)(a)(ii)@homeaffairs.gov.au)

Media Line: 02 6264 2244

OFFICIAL

From: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
Sent: Wednesday, 27 August 2025 11:23 AM
To: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @HOMEAFFAIRS.GOV.AU>
Subject: FW: Talking Points - Incident at Porepukah Victoria version 1 [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Here you go – I sent them to the Holding lines list because it is still not a broader issue. Can you have Will update the CT TPs list to ensure everyone on this list is on that list (and update to remove any of the bounce backs where the inbox no longer exists).

OFFICIAL

From: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
Sent: Tuesday, 26 August 2025 7:23 PM

To: AFP Media <media@afp.gov.au>; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) <[REDACTED]@afp.gov.au>; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) <[REDACTED]@homeaffairs.gov.au>; Alexander GOLDIE <s. 22(1)(a)(ii)@homeaffairs.gov.au>; s. 7(2A) <[REDACTED].gov.au>; Brian HICKEY <s. 22(1)(a)(ii)@homeaffairs.gov.au>; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) <[REDACTED]@homeaffairs.gov.au>; Colette HULL <s. 22(1)(a)(ii)@HOMEAFFAIRS.GOV.AU>; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) <[REDACTED]@homeaffairs.gov.au>; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) <[REDACTED]@homeaffairs.gov.au>; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) <[REDACTED]@pmc.gov.au>; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) <[REDACTED]@pmc.gov.au>; Gemma SMYTH <s. 22(1)(a)(ii)@homeaffairs.gov.au>; Hamish Hansford <s. 22(1)(a)(ii)@HOMEAFFAIRS.GOV.AU>; Heike PHILLIPS <s. 22(1)(a)(ii)@homeaffairs.gov.au>; Home Affairs Media <media@homeaffairs.gov.au>; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) <[REDACTED]@homeaffairs.gov.au>; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) <[REDACTED]@HOMEAFFAIRS.GOV.AU>; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) <[REDACTED]@pmc.gov.au>; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) <[REDACTED]@homeaffairs.gov.au>; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) <[REDACTED]@HOMEAFFAIRS.GOV.AU>; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) <[REDACTED]@homeaffairs.gov.au>; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) <[REDACTED]@homeaffairs.gov.au>; Pete BERLIS <s. 22(1)(a)(ii)@homeaffairs.gov.au>; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) <[REDACTED]@homeaffairs.gov.au>; PMC Media <media@pmc.gov.au>; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) <[REDACTED]@HOMEAFFAIRS.GOV.AU>; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) <[REDACTED]@afp.gov.au>; Sophie Sharpe <s. 22(1)(a)(ii)@homeaffairs.gov.au>; Stephanie FOSTER <s. 22(1)(a)(ii)@homeaffairs.gov.au>; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) <[REDACTED]@pmc.gov.au>; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) <[REDACTED]@homeaffairs.gov.au>; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) <[REDACTED]@nema.gov.au>; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) <[REDACTED]@HOMEAFFAIRS.GOV.AU>

Subject: Talking Points - Incident at Porepunkah Victoria version 1 [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Good evening,

Please find attached Talking Points - Incident at Porepunkah Victoria version 1.

Thee talking points will be updated when new information becomes available.

Agencies – please provide input to s. 22(1)(a)(ii) <[REDACTED]@homeaffairs.gov.au>

Regards,

s. 22(1)(a)(ii) <[REDACTED]>

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

Director, National Security and Crisis Communication

Media and Communication Branch

Executive Coordination Division | Executive Group

Department of Home Affairs

Media line: 02 62642244 | **Crisis Media on call:** s. 22(1)(a)(ii) <[REDACTED]>

E: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) <[REDACTED]@homeaffairs.gov.au>

From: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
To: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
Cc: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
Subject: FOR CLEARANCE: Talking Points Incident in Porepunkah, Victoria [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date: Wednesday, 27 August 2025 1:13:36 PM
Attachments: [Talking Points - Incident in Porepunkah Victoria V2.docx](#)

OFFICIAL

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

Attaching V2 of the Incident in Porepunkah, Victoria talking points for clearance.

Regards

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

Assistant Director, National Security and Crisis Communication

Media and Communication Branch

Executive Coordination Division | Executive Group

Department of Home Affairs

P: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) | **M:** s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

E: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) [@homeaffairs.gov.au](mailto:s.22(1)(a)(ii)@homeaffairs.gov.au)

Media Line: 02 6264 2244

OFFICIAL

TALKING POINTS

Subject	Incident in Porepunkah, Victoria	
Date	27 August 2025	Version: 2
Type	Whole of Government	
Media Officer:	s. 22(1)(a)(ii)	Media Ph: 02 6264 2244

ISSUE

Incident involving a shooting at a rural property in Porepunkah, Victoria where two officers were fatally shot and another was injured, with a search underway for the alleged offender.

Talking Points

- Our thoughts are with the families and friends of the two Victorian police officers who were shot and killed during an incident at Porepunkah on Tuesday 26 August 2025.
- Our thoughts are also with their seriously injured colleague.
- A significant search is actively underway to locate the alleged offender.
- Victoria Police Chief Commissioner Mike Bush identified the alleged offender as Dezi Freeman.
- Commissioner Bush stated that Freeman is heavily armed and understands bushcraft well.
- The exact circumstances surrounding the incident are still being determined and it remains an active and ongoing situation.
- Victoria police have asked the public in the area to remain indoors until further notice.
- Victoria Police have initiated a Temporary Restricted Airspace (no-fly zone) within a 4 nautical mile radius in the Porepunkah area, which will remain in place until at least 11.30pm on Friday 29 August.
- The order includes all aircraft, including drones.
- Our first concern is for the safety of the responding police officers and the local community and I urge everyone in the area to listen to the advice of authorities.
- Anyone with information is urged to contact Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 or submit a confidential report online at www.crimestoppersvic.com.au.

IF ASKED:

- ***Media is reporting that Dezi Freeman claims to be a sovereign citizen. What is the government doing to counter that movement, considering Freeman's very violent actions?***
 - o The Director-General of ASIO, Mike Burgess, has said that both in Australia and overseas, there have been spikes in political polarisation and intolerance, uncivil debate and unpeaceful protests. Anti-authority beliefs are growing. Trust in institutions is eroding. Provocative, inflammatory behaviours are being normalised. Individuals are embracing anti-authority ideologies, conspiracy theories and diverse grievances.
 - o We protect Australians through multi-layered, effective and well-coordinated security arrangements and these will continue.
 - o Violent extremists seek to create wedges between us. The glue that holds us together is mutual respect – a deep recognition that each of us is entitled to the same respect, dignity, and opportunities.
 - o Australia's law enforcement and security agencies are among the best in the world and continue to do everything within their powers to keep our community safe in the changed environment
 - o Members of the public can report suspicious activities to the National Security Hotline on 1800 123 400.
- ***Dezi Freeman is reported to be heavily armed. Is he a registered firearm holder and how if so, what was he allowed to hold a firearm licence?***
 - o The Australian Government remains committed to strong firearms regulations and the National Firearms Agreement (NFA).
 - o Australia's approach to firearms regulation is governed by the NFA, made in response to the Port Arthur massacre in 1996.
 - o The NFA affirms that firearms possession and use is a privilege that is conditional on the overriding need to ensure public safety.
 - o Firearm ownership requires a genuine reason and a fit and proper person test.
 - Personal protection is not a genuine reason.

- Certain firearms, such as semi-automatics and handguns continue to be prohibited or highly restricted.
- In Australia, responsibility for firearm matters is shared between the Commonwealth and state and territory governments.
- The Commonwealth Government is responsible for matters relating to the import and export of firearms, while state and territory governments have responsibility for all matters relating to licensing, possession, storage and use of firearms.
- Criminal law enforcement is primarily a matter for the states and territories, with each managing their own criminal justice system and related programs including policing, administration of the courts and prison systems.

CLEARANCE

Lead business area
The Media team will contact the area(s) should further clarification be required.
CTCC

Drafting officer		
s. 22(1)(a)(ii)	Public Affairs Officer, National Security and Crisis Communications	27 August 2025

International Division clearance	
	Yes ☐ N/A ☒

Other Government agency consultation/clearance		Yes ☒ N/A ☐
AFP		26/08/2025
ASIO		26/08/2025
VicPol		26/08/2025

Released by Department of Home Affairs
under the Freedom of Information Act 1982

Final SES clearance (minimum SES Band 1) and approval for release		
SES of lead business area must verify that all appropriate consultation and clearances have been undertaken.		
Gemma Smyth	FAS, Counter Terrorism and Violent Extremism	XX/08/2025

Media and Communication Branch		
S. 22(1)(a)(ii)	Director, National Security and Crisis Comms	XX/08/2025

From: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
To: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
Cc: s. 22(1)(a)(ii); s. 47F(1); s. 47F(1)
Subject: RE: FOR URGETN REVIEW: DRAFT holding lines: Shooting at a rural property in Porepunkah, Victoria [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date: Tuesday, 26 August 2025 12:55:47 PM
Attachments: [image001.jpg](#)

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

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

Can you please remove the second dot point – we have not confirmed any information about the members publicly. Once that happens I will ensure the information is passed on to you.

Below is our current statement:

“In relation to the active and ongoing incident in Porepunkah our statement remains as below –

Police are currently at a property in Porepunkah. This is still an active incident and we will provide more information when it's operationally safe to do so. We ask people avoid the area.

This is all the information we are able to confirm at this time. When we are able to provide an update we will do so as soon as possible. We ask media to consider the ramifications of unverified reporting while the incident remains active.

We are directing all media to Wangaratta Police Station. This is an active and ongoing incident which may present significant risk to members of the public. We are asking that you do not attend the scene at this time.”

Thanks

s. 22(1)(a)(ii) | Media Manager – Crime, Counter Terrorism, and Intelligence & Covert Support Commands
 Media Unit | Media, Communications and Engagement Department | Victoria Police

email: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)r@police.vic.gov.au

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

address: Level 29, 311 Spencer Street, Docklands VIC 3000 DX s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

From: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au>

Sent: Tuesday, 26 August 2025 12:50 PM

To: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @police.vic.gov.au>

Cc: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au>

Subject: FW: FOR URGETN REVIEW: DRAFT holding lines: Shooting at a rural property in Porepunkah, Victoria [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Importance: High

OFFICIAL

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

See below For urgent review, please see below holding lines on the incident underway at a rural property in Porepunkah, Victoria.

#

HOLDING LINES

- Victoria Police is responding to an incident involving a shooting at a rural property in Porepunkah, Victoria.
- One police officer is reported as injured, while a search is underway for two other officers.
- The incident is ongoing and Victoria police have asked the public to avoid the area.
- Our first concern is for the safety of the police officers involved and I urge everyone in the area to listen to the advice of authorities.

#

Kind regards,

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

Assistant Director, National Security and Crisis Communication
Media and Communication Branch
Executive Coordination Division | Executive Group
Department of Home Affairs

P: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) | **M:** s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

E: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au

Media Line: 02 6264 2244

acknowledgement.jpg



From: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
To: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
Cc: s. 22(1)(a)(ii); s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
Subject: DRAFT holding lines: Shooting at a rural property in Porepunkah, Victoria [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date: Tuesday, 26 August 2025 12:31:58 PM
Attachments: [image001.jpg](#)

OFFICIAL

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

Holding lines below for review:

- Victoria Police are responding to an incident involving a shooting at a rural property in Porepunkah, Victoria. One police officer is reported as injured, while a search is underway for two other officers.
- At this stage the incident response is ongoing.
- Our first concern is for the safety of those officers involved.
- **Police are asking the public to avoid the area. TBC**
- **Further information will be made available as it comes to hand.**

In the background, putting this in a template.

Kind regards,

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

Assistant Director, National Security and Crisis Communication
 Media and Communication Branch
 Executive Coordination Division | Executive Group
 Department of Home Affairs

P: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) | **M:** s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

E: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) [@homeaffairs.gov.au](mailto:s.22(1)(a)(ii)@homeaffairs.gov.au)

Media Line: 02 6264 2244

acknowledgement.jpg



OFFICIAL

From: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
To: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
Cc: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
Subject: RE: DRAFT holding lines: Shooting at a rural property in Porepunkah, Victoria [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date: Tuesday, 26 August 2025 12:40:25 PM
Attachments: [image001.jpg](#)

OFFICIAL

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

Go with these – consult AFP, ASIO and s. 22(1)(a)(ii) – give them 15. I will call them all.

- Victoria Police is responding to an incident involving a shooting at a rural property in Porepunkah, Victoria.
- One police officer is reported as injured, while a search is underway for two other officers.
- The incident is ongoing and Victoria police have asked the public to avoid the area.
- Our first concern is for the safety of the police officers involved and I urge everyone in the area to listen to the advice of authorities.

Regards,

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

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

Director, National Security and Crisis Communication

Media and Communication Branch

Executive Coordination Division | Executive Group

Department of Home Affairs

P: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) | **M:** s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

E: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) [@homeaffairs.gov.au](mailto:s.22(1)(a)(ii)@homeaffairs.gov.au)

From: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) [@homeaffairs.gov.au](mailto:s.22(1)(a)(ii)@homeaffairs.gov.au)

Sent: Tuesday, 26 August 2025 12:32 PM

To: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) [@homeaffairs.gov.au](mailto:s.22(1)(a)(ii)@homeaffairs.gov.au)

Cc: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) [@homeaffairs.gov.au](mailto:s.22(1)(a)(ii)@homeaffairs.gov.au); s. 22(1)(a)(ii) [@HOMEAFFAIRS.GOV.AU](mailto:s.22(1)(a)(ii)@HOMEAFFAIRS.GOV.AU)

Subject: DRAFT holding lines: Shooting at a rural property in Porepunkah, Victoria [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

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

Holding lines below for review:

- Victoria Police are responding to an incident involving a shooting at a rural property in

Porepunkah, Victoria. One police officer is reported as injured, while a search is underway for two other officers.

- At this stage the incident response is ongoing.
- Our first concern is for the safety of those officers involved.
- Police are asking the public to avoid the area. **TBC**
- Further information will be made available as it comes to hand.

In the background, putting this in a template.

Kind regards,

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

Assistant Director, National Security and Crisis Communication
Media and Communication Branch
Executive Coordination Division | Executive Group
Department of Home Affairs

P: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) | M: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

E: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) [@homeaffairs.gov.au](mailto:s.22(1)(a)(ii)@homeaffairs.gov.au)

Media Line: 02 6264 2244

acknowledgement.jpg



OFFICIAL

OFFICIAL

Released by Department of Home Affairs
under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982*

From: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
To: s. 7(2A) "AFP Media"
Cc: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) s. 22(1)(a)(ii) - AFP; s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
Subject: FOR URGETN REVIEW: DRAFT holding lines: Shooting at a rural property in Porepunkah, Victoria
 [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date: Tuesday, 26 August 2025 12:42:47 PM
Attachments: [image001.jpg](#)
Importance: High

OFFICIAL

Hi AFP and ASIO,

For urgent review, please see below holding lines on the incident underway at a rural property in Porepunkah, Victoria.

If we could have these back by 12:55pm that would be much appreciated.

###

HOLDING LINES

- Victoria Police is responding to an incident involving a shooting at a rural property in Porepunkah, Victoria.
- One police officer is reported as injured, while a search is underway for two other officers.
- The incident is ongoing and Victoria police have asked the public to avoid the area.
- Our first concern is for the safety of the police officers involved and I urge everyone in the area to listen to the advice of authorities.

###

Kind regards,

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
 Assistant Director, National Security and Crisis Communication
 Media and Communication Branch
 Executive Coordination Division | Executive Group
 Department of Home Affairs
P: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) | **M:** s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
E: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) [@homeaffairs.gov.au](mailto:s.22(1)(a)(ii)@homeaffairs.gov.au)

Media Line: 02 6264 2244

acknowledgement.jpg



OFFICIAL

From: [Media](#)
To: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) ; [Media](#); "[AFP Media](#)"
Cc: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) ; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) - [AFP](#)
Subject: RE: FOR URGETN REVIEW: DRAFT holding lines: Shooting at a rural property in Porepunkah, Victoria
[SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date: Tuesday, 26 August 2025 12:47:06 PM
Attachments: [image001.jpg](#)

OFFICIAL

Hi All,

No issues from us.

Thank you

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

OFFICIAL

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

Released by Department of Home Affairs
under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982*

From: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
To: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
Cc: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
Subject: FW: FOR URGETN REVIEW: DRAFT holding lines: Shooting at a rural property in Porepukah, Victoria
 [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date: Tuesday, 26 August 2025 12:50:01 PM
Attachments: [image001.jpg](#)
Importance: High

OFFICIAL

Hi s. 22(1)(a),

See below For urgent review, please see below holding lines on the incident underway at a rural property in Porepukah, Victoria.

###

HOLDING LINES

- Victoria Police is responding to an incident involving a shooting at a rural property in Porepukah, Victoria.
- One police officer is reported as injured, while a search is underway for two other officers.
- The incident is ongoing and Victoria police have asked the public to avoid the area.
- Our first concern is for the safety of the police officers involved and I urge everyone in the area to listen to the advice of authorities.

###

Kind regards,

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
 Assistant Director, National Security and Crisis Communication
 Media and Communication Branch
 Executive Coordination Division | Executive Group
 Department of Home Affairs
P: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) | **M:** s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
E: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) [@homeaffairs.gov.au](mailto:s.22(1)(a)(ii)@homeaffairs.gov.au)

Media Line: 02 6264 2244

acknowledgement.jpg



OFFICIAL

From: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
To: [Media](#); s. 22(1)(a)(ii); [Media](#)
Cc: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
Subject: RE: FOR URGETN REVIEW: DRAFT holding lines: Shooting at a rural property in Porepunkah, Victoria [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date: Tuesday, 26 August 2025 12:53:06 PM
Attachments: [image003.jpg](#)
[image001.gif](#)

OFFICIAL

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

No issues from AFP either.

If required, you can add:

- The AFP stands ready to offer any assistance required to Victoria Police.

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
 COORDINATOR
 AFP NATIONAL MEDIA
 CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER
 AFP NATIONAL HQ
 Tel: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) Ext: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) Mob: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

Australian Federal Police



The Australian Federal Police acknowledges the Traditional Owners and Custodians of Country throughout Australia, and their continuing connection to land, sea and community. We pay our respects to First Nations people, culture and Elders past, present and emerging.

From: s. 7(2A)@homeaffairs.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 26 August 2025 12:47 PM
To: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)@homeaffairs.gov.au>; s. 7(2A)@homeaffairs.gov.au>; Media <Media@afp.gov.au>
Cc: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)@homeaffairs.gov.au>; s. 22(1)(a)(ii)@afp.gov.au>
Subject: RE: FOR URGETN REVIEW: DRAFT holding lines: Shooting at a rural property in Porepunkah, Victoria [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hi All,

No issues from us.

Thank you

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

From: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
To: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
Cc: s. 22(1)(a)(ii); s. 22(1)(a)(ii); s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
Subject: RE: FOR URGETN REVIEW: DRAFT holding lines: Shooting at a rural property in Porepunkah, Victoria [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date: Tuesday, 26 August 2025 12:55:47 PM
Attachments: [image001.jpg](#)

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

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

Can you please remove the second dot point – we have not confirmed any information about the members publicly. Once that happens I will ensure the information is passed on to you.

Below is our current statement:

“In relation to the active and ongoing incident in Porepunkah our statement remains as below –

Police are currently at a property in Porepunkah. This is still an active incident and we will provide more information when it's operationally safe to do so. We ask people avoid the area.

This is all the information we are able to confirm at this time. When we are able to provide an update we will do so as soon as possible. We ask media to consider the ramifications of unverified reporting while the incident remains active.

We are directing all media to Wangaratta Police Station. This is an active and ongoing incident which may present significant risk to members of the public. We are asking that you do not attend the scene at this time.”

Thanks

s. 22(1)(a)(ii) | Media Manager – Crime, Counter Terrorism, and Intelligence & Covert
 Support Commands
 Media Unit | Media, Communications and Engagement Department | Victoria Police

email: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)@police.vic.gov.au

phone: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) or s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

address: Level 29, 311 Spencer Street, Docklands VIC 3000 DX s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

From: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au>

Sent: Tuesday, 26 August 2025 12:50 PM

To: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @police.vic.gov.au>

Cc: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au>

Subject: FW: FOR URGETN REVIEW: DRAFT holding lines: Shooting at a rural property in Porepunkah, Victoria [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Importance: High

OFFICIAL

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

See below For urgent review, please see below holding lines on the incident underway at a rural property in Porepunkah, Victoria.

###

HOLDING LINES

- Victoria Police is responding to an incident involving a shooting at a rural property in Porepunkah, Victoria.
- One police officer is reported as injured, while a search is underway for two other officers.
- The incident is ongoing and Victoria police have asked the public to avoid the area.
- Our first concern is for the safety of the police officers involved and I urge everyone in the area to listen to the advice of authorities.

###

Kind regards,

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

Assistant Director, National Security and Crisis Communication
Media and Communication Branch
Executive Coordination Division | Executive Group
Department of Home Affairs

P: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) | **M:** s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

E: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au

Media Line: 02 6264 2244

acknowledgement.jpg



From: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
To: [Gemma SMYTH](#)
Cc: s. 22(1)(a)(ii); s. 22(1)(a)(ii) [Colette HULL](#); s. 22(1)(a)(ii) s. 22(1)(a)(ii) s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
Subject: FOR URGENT REVIEW: DRAFT holding lines: Shooting at a rural property in Porepunkah, Victoria [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date: Tuesday, 26 August 2025 1:00:50 PM
Attachments: [RE FOR URGENT REVIEW DRAFT holding lines Shooting at a rural property in Porepunkah Victoria SEC=OFFICIAL.msg](#)
[image001.jpg](#)
Importance: High

OFFICIAL

Hi Gemma,

For urgent review, please see below holding lines on the incident underway at a rural property in Porepunkah, Victoria.

Reviewed/cleared by VicPol, ASIO and AFP.

Also for vis, attached includes a copy of VicPol's current statement. To note, VicPol have not confirmed any information about the police members publicly.

###

HOLDING LINES

- Victoria Police is responding to an incident involving a shooting at a rural property in Porepunkah, Victoria.
- The incident is ongoing and Victoria police have asked the public to avoid the area.
- Our first concern is for the safety of the police officers involved and I urge everyone in the area to listen to the advice of authorities.

###

Kind regards,

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
 Assistant Director, National Security and Crisis Communication
 Media and Communication Branch
 Executive Coordination Division | Executive Group
 Department of Home Affairs
P: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) | **M:** s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
E: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) [@homeaffairs.gov.au](mailto:s.22(1)(a)(ii)@homeaffairs.gov.au)

Media Line: 02 6264 2244

From: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
To: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
Subject: RE: Holding Lines: Shooting at a rural property in Porepunkah, Victoria [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date: Tuesday, 26 August 2025 1:23:10 PM
Attachments: [image001.jpg](#)

OFFICIAL

Thank you!

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
Director, Strategic Planning & Onshore Campaigns
Media and Communication Branch
Executive Coordination Division | Executive Group
[Department of Home Affairs](#)
P: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) | M: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
E: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) [@homeaffairs.gov.au](mailto:s. 22(1)(a)(ii)@homeaffairs.gov.au)

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OFFICIAL

From: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) [@homeaffairs.gov.au](mailto:s. 22(1)(a)(ii)@homeaffairs.gov.au)>
Sent: Tuesday, 26 August 2025 1:22 PM
To: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) [@HOMEAFFAIRS.GOV.AU](mailto:s. 22(1)(a)(ii)@HOMEAFFAIRS.GOV.AU)>
Subject: FW: Holding Lines: Shooting at a rural property in Porepunkah, Victoria [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

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

Following the attached holding lines while you are in the hot seat.

Will ensure you're on the list while a/g for Heike.

Kind regards,

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
Assistant Director, National Security and Crisis Communication
Media and Communication Branch
Executive Coordination Division | Executive Group
Department of Home Affairs
P: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) | M: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
E: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) [@homeaffairs.gov.au](mailto:s. 22(1)(a)(ii)@homeaffairs.gov.au)

Media Line: 02 6264 2244

acknowledgement.jpg



OFFICIAL

From: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) [@homeaffairs.gov.au](mailto:s. 22(1)(a)(ii)@homeaffairs.gov.au)>

Released by Department of Home Affairs
under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982*

Sent: Tuesday, 26 August 2025 1:20 PM

To: AFP Media <media@afp.gov.au>; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) <[s.22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)@afp.gov.au](mailto:s.22(1)(a)(ii)@afp.gov.au)>; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) <[s.22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)@homeaffairs.gov.au](mailto:s.22(1)(a)(ii)@homeaffairs.gov.au)>; Alexander GOLDIE <[s.22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)@homeaffairs.gov.au](mailto:s.22(1)(a)(ii)@homeaffairs.gov.au)>; s. 7(2A) <[s.7\(2A\)@homeaffairs.gov.au](mailto:s.7(2A)@homeaffairs.gov.au)>; Brian HICKEY <[s.22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)@homeaffairs.gov.au](mailto:s.22(1)(a)(ii)@homeaffairs.gov.au)>; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) <[s.22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)@homeaffairs.gov.au](mailto:s.22(1)(a)(ii)@homeaffairs.gov.au)>; Colette HULL <[s.22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)@HOMEAFFAIRS.GOV.AU](mailto:s.22(1)(a)(ii)@HOMEAFFAIRS.GOV.AU)>; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) <[s.22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)@homeaffairs.gov.au](mailto:s.22(1)(a)(ii)@homeaffairs.gov.au)>; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) <[s.22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)@homeaffairs.gov.au](mailto:s.22(1)(a)(ii)@homeaffairs.gov.au)>; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) <[s.22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)@pmc.gov.au](mailto:s.22(1)(a)(ii)@pmc.gov.au)>; Gemma SMYTH <[s.22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)@homeaffairs.gov.au](mailto:s.22(1)(a)(ii)@homeaffairs.gov.au)>; Hamish HANSFORD <[s.22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)@homeaffairs.gov.au](mailto:s.22(1)(a)(ii)@homeaffairs.gov.au)>; Heike PHILLIPS <[s.22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)@homeaffairs.gov.au](mailto:s.22(1)(a)(ii)@homeaffairs.gov.au)>; Home Affairs Media <media@homeaffairs.gov.au>; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) <[s.22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)@homeaffairs.gov.au](mailto:s.22(1)(a)(ii)@homeaffairs.gov.au)>; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) <[s.22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)@HOMEAFFAIRS.GOV.AU](mailto:s.22(1)(a)(ii)@HOMEAFFAIRS.GOV.AU)>; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) - PMC <[s.22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)@pmc.gov.au](mailto:s.22(1)(a)(ii)@pmc.gov.au)>; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) <[s.22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)@homeaffairs.gov.au](mailto:s.22(1)(a)(ii)@homeaffairs.gov.au)>; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) <[s.22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)@HOMEAFFAIRS.GOV.AU](mailto:s.22(1)(a)(ii)@HOMEAFFAIRS.GOV.AU)>; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) <[s.22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)@homeaffairs.gov.au](mailto:s.22(1)(a)(ii)@homeaffairs.gov.au)>; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) <[s.22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)@homeaffairs.gov.au](mailto:s.22(1)(a)(ii)@homeaffairs.gov.au)>; Pete BERLIS <[s.22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)@homeaffairs.gov.au](mailto:s.22(1)(a)(ii)@homeaffairs.gov.au)>; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) <[s.22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)@HOMEAFFAIRS.GOV.AU](mailto:s.22(1)(a)(ii)@HOMEAFFAIRS.GOV.AU)>; PMC Media <media@pmc.gov.au>; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) <[s.22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)@HOMEAFFAIRS.GOV.AU](mailto:s.22(1)(a)(ii)@HOMEAFFAIRS.GOV.AU)>; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) <[s.22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)@afp.gov.au](mailto:s.22(1)(a)(ii)@afp.gov.au)>; Sophie SHARPE <[s.22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)@homeaffairs.gov.au](mailto:s.22(1)(a)(ii)@homeaffairs.gov.au)>; Stephanie FOSTER <[s.22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)@homeaffairs.gov.au](mailto:s.22(1)(a)(ii)@homeaffairs.gov.au)>; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) <[s.22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)@pmc.gov.au](mailto:s.22(1)(a)(ii)@pmc.gov.au)>; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) <[s.22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)@homeaffairs.gov.au](mailto:s.22(1)(a)(ii)@homeaffairs.gov.au)>; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) <[s.22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)@nema.gov.au](mailto:s.22(1)(a)(ii)@nema.gov.au)>

Cc: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) <[s.22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)@homeaffairs.gov.au](mailto:s.22(1)(a)(ii)@homeaffairs.gov.au)>

Subject: Holding Lines: Shooting at a rural property in Porepunkah, Victoria [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Good afternoon,

Please see below and attached holding lines on the incident underway at a rural property in Porepunkah, Victoria.

Holding Lines

- Victoria Police is responding to an incident involving a shooting at a rural property in Porepunkah, Victoria.
- The incident is ongoing and Victoria police have asked the public to avoid the area.
- Our first concern is for the safety of the police officers involved and I urge everyone in the area to listen to the advice of authorities.

Kind regards,

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
Assistant Director, National Security and Crisis Communication
Media and Communication Branch
Executive Coordination Division | Executive Group
Department of Home Affairs
P: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) | M: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
E: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) <t@homeaffairs.gov.au>

Media Line: 02 6264 2244

acknowledgement.jpg



OFFICIAL

From: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
To: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
Cc: s. 22(1)(a)(ii); s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
Subject: RE: Holding Lines: Shooting at a rural property in Porepunkah, Victoria [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date: Tuesday, 26 August 2025 2:07:06 PM
Attachments: [image006.jpg](#)
[image007.png](#)
[image008.jpg](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)

OFFICIAL

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

Can you please add the following contact into the distribution list for this incident:

- PM&CDutyOfficer s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @pmc.gov.au>

Kind regards,

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

Crisis Planning and Response | Resilience Response and Recovery Branch
 Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

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

I work on Ngunnawal Country.

One National Circuit Barton ACT 2600 | PO Box 6500 CANBERRA ACT 2600

e s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @pmc.gov.au w. pmc.gov.au



The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (PM&C) would like to acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of Country throughout Australia and their continuing spiritual, social and cultural relationship with the land, waters, skies and community. We pay our respects to their Elders past and present, and to their community leaders, and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.



The Department acknowledges and pays respect to the past, present and emerging Elders and Traditional Custodians of Country, and the continuation of cultural, spiritual and educational practices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

From: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au>

Sent: Tuesday, 26 August 2025 1:20 PM

To: AFP Media <media@afp.gov.au>; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @afp.gov.au>; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au>; Alexander GOLDIE <s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au>; s. 7(2A) gov.au>; Brian HICKEY <s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au>; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au>; Colette HULL <s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @HOMEAFFAIRS.GOV.AU>; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au>; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au>; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @pm.gov.au>; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @pmc.gov.au>; Gemma SMYTH <s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au>; Hamish Hansford <s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au>; Heike PHILLIPS s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au>; Home Affairs Media <media@homeaffairs.gov.au>; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au>; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @HOMEAFFAIRS.GOV.AU>; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @pmc.gov.au>; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au>; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @HOMEAFFAIRS.GOV.AU>; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au>; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au>; Pete BERLIS <s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au>; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @HOMEAFFAIRS.GOV.AU>; PMC Media <Media@pmc.gov.au>; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @HOMEAFFAIRS.GOV.AU>; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @afp.gov.au>; Sophie SHARPE s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au>; Stephanie FOSTER <s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au>; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) y@pmc.gov.au>; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au>; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @nema.gov.au>
Cc: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au>
Subject: Holding Lines: Shooting at a rural property in Porepunkah, Victoria [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Good afternoon,

Please see below and attached holding lines on the incident underway at a rural property in Porepunkah, Victoria.

Holding Lines

- Victoria Police is responding to an incident involving a shooting at a rural property in Porepunkah, Victoria.

- The incident is ongoing and Victoria police have asked the public to avoid the area.
- Our first concern is for the safety of the police officers involved and I urge everyone in the area to listen to the advice of authorities.

Kind regards,

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

Assistant Director, National Security and Crisis Communication
Media and Communication Branch
Executive Coordination Division | Executive Group
Department of Home Affairs

P: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) | M: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
E: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) t@homeaffairs.gov.au

Media Line: 02 6264 2244

acknowledgement.jpg



OFFICIAL

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From: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
To: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
Cc: s. 22(1)(a)(ii); s. 22(1)(a)(ii); s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
Subject: RE: Holding Lines: Shooting at a rural property in Porepunkah, Victoria [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date: Tuesday, 26 August 2025 3:58:55 PM
Attachments: [image006.png](#)
[image001.jpg](#)
[image010.jpg](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)

OFFICIAL

Thanks s. 22(1)(a)

Can do.

Are you able to confirm the following addresses are still active for PMC – we received bounce backs that delivery has failed.

- s. 22(1)(a)(ii) e@pmc.gov.au
- s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @pmc.gov.au
- s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @pmc.gov.au

Kind regards,

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
 Assistant Director, National Security and Crisis Communication
 Media and Communication Branch
 Executive Coordination Division | Executive Group
 Department of Home Affairs
P: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) | **M:** s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
E: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au

Media Line: 02 6264 2244

acknowledgement.jpg



OFFICIAL

From: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @pmc.gov.au
Sent: Tuesday, 26 August 2025 2:06 PM
To: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au
Cc: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @pmc.gov.au; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @pmc.gov.au
Subject: RE: Holding Lines: Shooting at a rural property in Porepunkah, Victoria [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

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

Can you please add the following contact into the distribution list for this incident:

- PM&CDutyOfficer s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @pmc.gov.au

Kind regards,

s. 22(1)(a)(ii) | Adviser
 Crisis Planning and Response | Resilience Response and Recovery Branch
 Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

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

I work on Ngannawal Country.

One National Circuit Barton ACT 2600 | PO Box 6500 CANBERRA ACT 2600

e. s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @pmc.gov.au w. pmc.gov.au



The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (PM&C) would like to acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of Country throughout Australia and their continuing spiritual, social and cultural relationship with the land, waters, skies and community. We pay our respects to their Elders past and present, and to their community leaders, and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.



The Department acknowledges and pays respect to the past, present and emerging Elders and Traditional Custodians of Country, and the continuation of cultural, spiritual and educational practices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

From: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au>

Sent: Tuesday, 26 August 2025 1:20 PM

To: AFP Media <media@afp.gov.au>; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @afp.gov.au>; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) s. 22(1)(a)(ii) e@homeaffairs.gov.au>; Alexander GOLDIE s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au>; s. 7(2A) s. 7(2A) gov.au>; Brian HICKEY s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au>; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au>; Colette HULL s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @HOMEAFFAIRS.GOV.AU>; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au>; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au>; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au>; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) <dlo@pm.gov.au>; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @pmc.gov.au>; Gemma SMYTH <s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au>; Hamish Hansford s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au>; Heike PHILLIPS <s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au>; Home Affairs Media <media@homeaffairs.gov.au>; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au>; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @HOMEAFFAIRS.GOV.AU>; s. 47F(1) @pmc.gov.au>; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) <s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au>; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @HOMEAFFAIRS.GOV.AU>; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au>; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au>; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @HOMEAFFAIRS.GOV.AU>; PMC Media <Media@pmc.gov.au>; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @HOMEAFFAIRS.GOV.AU>; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @afp.gov.au>; Sophie SHARPE s. 22(1)(a)(ii) e@homeaffairs.gov.au>; Stephanie FOSTER s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au>; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @pmc.gov.au>; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au>; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @nema.gov.au>

Cc: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au>

Subject: Holding Lines: Shooting at a rural property in Porepunkah, Victoria [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Good afternoon,

Please see below and attached holding lines on the incident underway at a rural property in Porepunkah, Victoria.

Holding Lines

- Victoria Police is responding to an incident involving a shooting at a rural property in Porepunkah, Victoria.
- The incident is ongoing and Victoria police have asked the public to avoid the area.
- Our first concern is for the safety of the police officers involved and I urge everyone in the area to listen to the advice of authorities.

Kind regards,

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

Assistant Director, National Security and Crisis Communication
Media and Communication Branch
Executive Coordination Division | Executive Group
Department of Home Affairs

P: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) | M: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

E: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au

Media Line: 02 6264 2244

From: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
To: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
Cc: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
Subject: FOR REVIEW: Media Monitoring | Victoria Police Shooting [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date: Tuesday, 26 August 2025 4:10:28 PM
Importance: High

OFFICIAL

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

As discussed, I have included a brief summary and list of articles relating to the ongoing operation in Porepunkah involving Victoria Police for your review.

Summary

ABC, The Age, The Australian and The Guardian report that two police officers are dead and another wounded after a shooting at a rural property in Porepunkah, about 300 kilometres north-east of Melbourne. Police were at the property to execute a warrant for historical sex abuse allegations when the two officers were shot dead in an ambush and another wounded, with a call for urgent assistance at the property made at 10.55am. The alleged offender was living on a bus on the property and is believed to be a self-proclaimed "sovereign citizen". Victoria Police confirmed they are continuing to respond to the Porepunkah shooting. "This is still an active incident and we will provide more information when it's operationally safe to do so," it said in a post on X about 2.25pm.

-

Links

- **ABC** – Two police officers killed after shooting in Porepunkah, north-east of Melbourne: [Two police officers killed after shooting in Porepunkah, north-east of Melbourne - ABC News](#)
- **The Age** – Porepunkah shooting: Two officers dead and another wounded after shooting at High Country property: [Porepunkah shooting: Two officers are dead and another wounded after a shooting at a rural property near Bright](#)
- **The Australian** – Two police officers dead in Victoria shooting: [Porepunkah shooting: Two police officers killed serving warrant in Victoria | The Australian](#)
- **The Guardian** – Porepunkah shooting: two Victoria police officers dead, one injured in attack at rural property: [Porepunkah shooting: two Victoria police officers dead, one injured in attack at rural property | Victoria | The Guardian](#)

Let me know if you would like the above sent to the SLT or any other relevant stakeholders.

Thanks,

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

s. 22(1)(a)(ii) (They/Them)

A/g Senior Communications Officer | National Security and Crisis Communication

From: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
To: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
Cc: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
Subject: FOR CLEARANCE: Porepukah incident [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date: Tuesday, 26 August 2025 5:41:32 PM
Attachments: [Talking Points - Incident in Porepukah Victoria V1.docx](#)
[image001.jpg](#)

OFFICIAL

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

For review, please find attached TPs on the Porepukah incident.

Updated based on VicPol statement.

Kind regards,

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
Assistant Director, National Security and Crisis Communication
Media and Communication Branch
Executive Coordination Division | Executive Group
Department of Home Affairs
P: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) | **M:** s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
E: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) [@homeaffairs.gov.au](mailto:s.22(1)(a)(ii)@homeaffairs.gov.au)

Media Line: 02 6264 2244

acknowledgement.jpg



OFFICIAL

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

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

From: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
Subject: Police Media Porepukah suspect's family accounted for
Date: Tuesday, 26 August 2025 11:26:36 PM

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

Good evening,

We are aware of media reporting today over the whereabouts of the Porepukah suspect's family.

Please be advised that we have since accounted for these people as per the below statement.

STATEMENT:

Police have accounted for the whereabouts of the suspects family with his partner and children attending a police station this evening.

There is nothing to suggest they were ever in the company of the suspect following today's incident.

We have also updated our media release to reflect this update - [Two police officers fatally shot Porepukah](#)

s. 22(1)(a)(ii) | Media Advisor
Reactive Media Unit | Victoria Police

email: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)@police.vic.gov.au
phone: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
address: Victoria Police Centre, 311 Spencer Street, Docklands VIC, 3008
DX: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
www.police.vic.gov.au | www.vicpolicenews.com.au
[Facebook](#) | [Instagram](#) | [Twitter](#) | [YouTube](#)

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

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From: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) on behalf of [MEDIA UNIT](#)
To: [MEDIA UNIT](#)
Subject: Victoria Police Media Unit - Vicpol names fallen police officers media release and photographs
Date: Wednesday, 27 August 2025 3:42:57 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.jpg](#)
[image003.jpg](#)

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

Good afternoon,

Please see below a media release we have just published. Images can be downloaded from here: [Porepunkah members](#).

Media release - 27 August 2025

VICTORIA POLICE NAMES FALLEN POLICE OFFICERS

It is with incredible sadness that Victoria Police names the two officers who were tragically killed in the line of duty in Porepunkah yesterday: Detective Leading Senior Constable Neal Thompson and Senior Constable Vadim De Waart.

Detective Leading Senior Constable Neal Thompson (VP26182)

Neal joined Victoria Police in September 1987 and, after completing his training, spent seven years in general duties at Collingwood Police Station.

For the next decade, Neal worked as a detective at the Major Fraud Squad and the State Crime Squad, before taking up his most recent post at Wangaratta CIU in July 2007.

Neal was an adventurer and enjoyed all things outdoors. He loved getting out in nature, and his friends and colleagues regularly joined him on these trips.

Neal had spent the past six years alongside his partner, Lisa, the love of his life. Since the pair met, Neal had found new purpose and was planning in earnest for his imminent retirement. Together with Lisa, Neal had built a new home and had a long list of tasks planned after he knocked off work for the last time.

Senior Constable Vadim De Waart (VP44954)

Vadim started his policing career at the Victoria Police Academy in December 2018. Following his training, Vadim joined St Kilda Police Station where he worked for three years, before joining PORT as a senior constable in April 2023. At the time of his passing, Vadim was on temporary assignment in Wangaratta.

An eternal optimist and avid traveller, Vadim was fluent in French, Spanish, Flemish and English. He had also completed scuba dives all around the world and motorcycling trips more locally with his friends and colleagues.

He was a keen gin collector and always picked up a local bottle on his overseas adventures for his large collection at home. While travelling was his passion, Vadim was extremely proud to have purchased his first home in Melbourne in recent years.

Vadim is survived by his beloved parents Carolina and Alain, who live in his native Belgium, and his younger brother Sacha who lives in Switzerland. Closer to home in Melbourne, he leaves behind his aunty s. 47F(1), uncle s. 47F(1), uncle s. 47F(1), aunty s. 47F(1) and his cousins s. 47F(1) and s. 47F(1).

Quotes attributable to Chief Commissioner Mike Bush

“This devastating loss of Neal and Vadim has struck at the heart of Victoria Police, the broader policing family and the community of Porepunkah.

“In the coming days, weeks and months, we will all grieve this loss and deeply miss our colleagues and friends who have paid the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty.

“It is not lost on me that our members take a risk every time they go to work to protect the Victorian community. While we all live with the knowledge that the worst could happen on a shift, we don’t expect it to.

“In these difficult times it is so important that our people stand together and support each other, and I have full confidence that we will all do this with dignity and respect.

Victoria Police Media Unit
141091

Kind regards,

Acting Sergeant s. 22(1)(a)(ii) | Media Officer – Media Unit
Media, Communications & Engagement Department | Victoria Police

email: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)@police.vic.gov.au

position based email (monitored 24/7): s. 22(1)(a)(ii)@police.vic.gov.au

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

From: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
Subject: RE: Victoria Police Media Unit - Vicpol names fallen police officers media release and photographs
Date: Wednesday, 27 August 2025 4:57:50 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.jpg](#)
[image004.jpg](#)
[Vadim De Waart pronunciation - audio.mp4](#)

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

Good afternoon,

Further to the below email we would like to clarify the pronunciation of Senior Constable Vadim De Waart's name for reporting purposes.

An audio example is attached.

- Pronunciation – Va-Dim -- De-Vart

Thank you,

s. 22(1)(a)(ii) | Media Advisor
 Reactive Media Unit | Victoria Police

email: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)@police.vic.gov.au
 phone: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
 address: Victoria Police Centre, 311 Spencer Street, Docklands VIC, 3008
 DX: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
www.police.vic.gov.au | www.vicpolicenews.com.au
[Facebook](#) | [Instagram](#) | [Twitter](#) | [YouTube](#)

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

From: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) On Behalf Of MEDIA UNIT
Sent: Wednesday, 27 August 2025 3:41 PM
To: MEDIA UNIT s. 22(1)(a)(ii)@police.vic.gov.au>
Subject: Victoria Police Media Unit - Vicpol names fallen police officers media release and photographs

Good afternoon,

Please see below a media release we have just published. Images can be downloaded from here: [Porepunkah members](#).

Media release - 27 August 2025

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s. 47F(1) and his cousins s. 47F(1) and s. 47F(1)

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Victoria Police Media Unit
141091

Kind regards,

Acting Sergeant s. 22(1)(a)(ii) | Media Officer – Media Unit
Media, Communications & Engagement Department | Victoria Police

email: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)@police.vic.gov.au

position based email (monitored 24/7): s. 22(1)(a)(ii)@police.vic.gov.au

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

address: Victoria Police Centre, 311 Spencer Street, Docklands VIC, 3008

www.police.vic.gov.au

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From: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
To: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
Cc: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
Subject: RE: FOR CLEARANCE: Talking Points Incident in Porepunkah, Victoria [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date: Wednesday, 27 August 2025 5:00:30 PM
Attachments: [image001.jpg](#)
[Talking Points - Incident in Porepunkah Victoria V2.docx](#)

OFFICIAL

Regards,

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

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

Director, National Security and Crisis Communication

Media and Communication Branch

Executive Coordination Division | Executive Group

Department of Home Affairs

P: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) | **M:** s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

E: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) [@homeaffairs.gov.au](mailto:s.22(1)(a)(ii)@homeaffairs.gov.au)

Acknowledgement of Country Signature Block Graphic 2022



OFFICIAL

From: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
Sent: Wednesday, 27 August 2025 4:58 PM
To: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @HOMEAFFAIRS.GOV.AU>
Cc: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au>
Subject: RE: FOR CLEARANCE: Talking Points Incident in Porepunkah, Victoria [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Sorry it has taken me so long to get to this – can you update with my comments/changes and clear through Alex Engel/ copy Andrew Warnes – noting we are asking them to clear the content on Firearms, and ASIO and AFP – ask them to come back to us this evening. Can you copy Gemma when you send out.

Regards,

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

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

Director, National Security and Crisis Communication

Media and Communication Branch

Executive Coordination Division | Executive Group

Department of Home Affairs

P: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) | **M:** s. 22(1)(a)(ii)**E:** s. 22(1)(a)(ii) [@homeaffairs.gov.au](mailto:s.22(1)(a)(ii)@homeaffairs.gov.au)

Acknowledgement of Country Signature Block Graphic 2022

**OFFICIAL****From:** s. 22(1)(a)(ii) [@HOMEAFFAIRS.GOV.AU](mailto:s.22(1)(a)(ii)@HOMEAFFAIRS.GOV.AU)>**Sent:** Wednesday, 27 August 2025 1:14 PM**To:** s. 22(1)(a)(ii) [@homeaffairs.gov.au](mailto:s.22(1)(a)(ii)@homeaffairs.gov.au)>**Cc:** s. 22(1)(a)(ii) [@homeaffairs.gov.au](mailto:s.22(1)(a)(ii)@homeaffairs.gov.au)>**Subject:** FOR CLEARANCE: Talking Points Incident in Porepunkah, Victoria [SEC=OFFICIAL]**OFFICIAL**

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

Attaching V2 of the Incident in Porepunkah, Victoria talking points for clearance.

Regards

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

Assistant Director, National Security and Crisis Communication

Media and Communication Branch

Executive Coordination Division | Executive Group

Department of Home Affairs

P: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) | **M:** s. 22(1)(a)(ii)**E:** s. 22(1)(a)(ii) [i@homeaffairs.gov.au](mailto:s.22(1)(a)(ii)i@homeaffairs.gov.au)**Media Line:** 02 6264 2244

From: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
To: [Alexander ENGEL](#)
Cc: [Andrew WARNES](#); [Parker REEVE](#); [Gemma SMYTH](#); s. 22(1)(a)(ii); s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
Subject: FOR CLEARANCE: Talking Points Incident in Porepunkah, Victoria [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date: Wednesday, 27 August 2025 5:43:41 PM
Attachments: [Talking Points - Incident in Porepunkah Victoria V2.docx](#)

OFFICIAL

Good afternoon, Alex,

Alex, grateful for your clearance on the Firearms content in the attached talking points.

We're also clearing this simultaneously through ASIO and AFP media. Please pardon the tight turnaround but would appreciate it if you can clear this evening.

Regards

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

Assistant Director, National Security and Crisis Communication

Media and Communication Branch

Executive Coordination Division | Executive Group

Department of Home Affairs

P: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) | **M:** s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

E: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) [@homeaffairs.gov.au](mailto:s.22(1)(a)(ii)@homeaffairs.gov.au)

Media Line: 02 6264 2244

OFFICIAL

TALKING POINTS

Subject	Incident in Porepunkah, Victoria	
Date	27 August 2025	Version: 2
Type	Whole of Government	
Media Officer:	s. 22(1)(a)(ii)	Media Ph: 02 6264 2244

ISSUE

Incident involving a shooting at a rural property in Porepunkah, Victoria where two officers were fatally shot and another was injured, with a search underway for the alleged offender.

Talking Points

- Our thoughts are with the families and friends of the two Victorian police officers who were shot and killed during an incident at Porepunkah on Tuesday 26 August 2025.
- They have been identified as Detective Leading Senior Constable Neal Thomson and Senior Constable Vadim De Waart.
- Our thoughts are also with their seriously injured colleague.
- A significant search is actively underway to locate the alleged offender.
- Victoria Police Chief Commissioner Mike Bush identified the alleged offender as Desmond Filby, who is also known as Dezi Freeman.
- The exact circumstances surrounding the incident are still being determined and it remains an active and ongoing situation.
- Victoria police have asked the public in the area to remain indoors until further notice.
- Victoria Police have initiated a Temporary Restricted Airspace (no-fly zone) within a 4 nautical mile radius in the Porepunkah area, which will remain in place until at least 11.30pm on Friday 29 August.
 - o The order includes all aircraft, including drones.
- Our first concern is for the safety of the responding police officers and the local community and I urge everyone in the area to listen to the advice of authorities.
- Anyone with information is urged to contact Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 or submit a confidential report online at www.crimestoppersvic.com.au.

If asked: Media is reporting that Desmond Filby claims to be a sovereign citizen. What is the government doing to counter that movement, considering Freeman's very violent actions?

While it is too early to speculate on the circumstances around this incident, the Director-General of Security, Mike Burgess, has been clear that both in Australia and overseas, there have been spikes in political polarisation and intolerance, uncivil debate and unpeaceful protests.

- Anti-authority beliefs are growing. Trust in institutions is eroding. Provocative, inflammatory behaviours are being normalised.
- Individuals are embracing anti-authority ideologies, conspiracy theories and diverse grievances.
- We protect Australians through multi-layered, effective and well-coordinated security arrangements and these will continue.
- Our arrangements are designed to deal with the full spectrum of violent ideologies.
- Violent extremists seek to create wedges between us. The glue that holds us together is mutual respect – a deep recognition that each of us is entitled to the same respect, dignity, and opportunities.
- Australia's law enforcement and security agencies are among the best in the world and continue to do everything within their powers to keep our community safe in the changed environment
- Members of the public can report suspicious activities to the National Security Hotline on 1800 123 400.

Desmond Filby is reported to be heavily armed. Is he a registered firearm holder and how if so, why was he allowed to hold a firearm licence?

- The Australian Government remains committed to strong firearms regulations and the National Firearms Agreement (NFA).
- Australia's approach to firearms regulation is governed by the NFA, made in response to the Port Arthur massacre in 1996.
- The NFA affirms that firearms possession and use is a privilege that is conditional on the overriding need to ensure public safety.
- Firearm ownership requires a genuine reason and a fit and proper person test.
 - Personal protection is not a genuine reason.
- Certain firearms, such as semi-automatics and handguns continue to be prohibited or highly restricted.
- In Australia, responsibility for firearm matters is shared between the Commonwealth and state and territory governments.

Released by Department of Home Affairs
under the Freedom of Information Act 1982

- The Commonwealth Government is responsible for matters relating to the import and export of firearms, while state and territory governments have responsibility for all matters relating to licensing, possession, storage and use of firearms.
- Criminal law enforcement is primarily a matter for the states and territories, with each managing their own criminal justice system and related programs including policing, administration of the courts and prison systems.

If asked: Will the Government speed up the implementation of the National Firearms Register following this incident?

The Commonwealth and state and territory governments remain committed to a fully operational NFR by 1 July 2028.

- Commonwealth disbursements to states and territories have been formalised through Federation Funding Agreement (FFA) schedules. The Commonwealth works closely with states and territories to ensure that milestones are met, and progress is being made.
- The NFR will be the largest improvement to Australia's firearms management systems in almost 30 years.
 - o It will provide frontline police officers with access to near real-time information on firearms, firearms owners and licences.
 - o The NFR will also better link firearms information with police and government information systems.
 - o This will better enable law enforcement to assess and respond to risks to the community and frontline police officers – including on firearms related harms and violence.
- The NFR will provide a lifecycle view of registered firearms across Australia to improve national capability to detect and respond to illicit diversion of firearms and firearm-related articles.
- The NFR does not replace ongoing police and intelligence activities to address and counter illicit firearms and criminal activity.

CLEARANCE

Lead business area
The Media team will contact the area(s) should further clarification be required.
CTCC

Drafting officer		
s. 22(1)(a)(ii)	Public Affairs Officer, National Security and Crisis Communications	27 August 2025

International Division clearance	
	Yes ☐ N/A ☒

Other Government agency consultation/clearance		Yes ☒ N/A ☐
AFP		26/08/2025
ASIO		26/08/2025
VicPol		26/08/2025

Final SES clearance (minimum SES Band 1) and approval for release		
SES of lead business area must verify that all appropriate consultation and clearances have been undertaken.		
Gemma Smyth	FAS, Counter Terrorism and Violent Extremism	XX/08/2025

Media and Communication Branch		
s. 22(1)(a)(ii)	Director, National Security and Crisis Comms	XX/08/2025

From: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
To: "AFP Media"; s. 7(2A) .gov.au
Cc: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) ; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) ; s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
Subject: FOR CLEARANCE: Talking Points Incident in Porepunkah, Victoria [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date: Wednesday, 27 August 2025 5:46:58 PM
Attachments: [Talking Points - Incident in Porepunkah Victoria V2.docx](#)

OFFICIAL

Good afternoon, teams,

Grateful if you can clear the attached TPs this evening, and please pardon the tight turnaround.

Regards

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

Assistant Director, National Security and Crisis Communication

Media and Communication Branch

Executive Coordination Division | Executive Group

Department of Home Affairs

P: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) | **M:** s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

E: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) [@homeaffairs.gov.au](mailto:s.22(1)(a)(ii)@homeaffairs.gov.au)

Media Line: 02 6264 2244

OFFICIAL

From: [Alexander ENGEL](#)
To: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
Cc: [Andrew WARNES](#); [Parker REEVE](#); [Gemma SMYTH](#); s. 22(1)(a)(ii); s. 22(1)(a)(ii); s. 22(1)(a)(ii); [Ciara SPENCER](#); s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
Subject: RE: FOR CLEARANCE: Talking Points Incident in Porepunkah, Victoria [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date: Wednesday, 27 August 2025 6:36:02 PM
Attachments: [Talking Points - Incident in Porepunkah Victoria V2.docx](#)

OFFICIAL

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

Amendments in track to the Firearms points.

Suggest ACIC media be looped in. We share the implementation of the NFR with them. However, happy to discuss any ACIC content, as it can be project management focussed in content and style.

Happy to discuss

Alex

Alexander Engel
 Assistant Secretary
 Transnational Crime
 P: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) | M: +s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

OFFICIAL

From: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @HOMEAFFAIRS.GOV.AU>
Sent: Wednesday, 27 August 2025 5:44 PM
To: Alexander ENGEL s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @HOMEAFFAIRS.GOV.AU>
Cc: Andrew WARNES s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @HOMEAFFAIRS.GOV.AU>; Parker REEVE s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @HOMEAFFAIRS.GOV.AU>; Gemma SMYTH s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au>; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au>; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au>
Subject: FOR CLEARANCE: Talking Points Incident in Porepunkah, Victoria [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

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Alex, grateful for your clearance on the Firearms content in the attached talking points.

We're also clearing this simultaneously through ASIO and AFP media.
Please pardon the tight turnaround but would appreciate it if you can clear this evening.

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

Assistant Director, National Security and Crisis Communication

Media and Communication Branch

Executive Coordination Division | Executive Group

Department of Home Affairs

P: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) | **M:** s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

E: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) [@homeaffairs.gov.au](mailto:s.22(1)(a)(ii)@homeaffairs.gov.au)

Media Line: 02 6264 2244

OFFICIAL

From: [Media](#)
To: s. 22(1)(a)(ii); "[AFP Media](#)"
Cc: s. 22(1)(a)(ii); s. 22(1)(a)(ii); s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
Subject: Re: FOR CLEARANCE: Talking Points Incident in Porepunkah, Victoria [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date: Wednesday, 27 August 2025 7:05:59 PM

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

As discussed with s. 22(1)(a)(ii), grateful if the lines using DG assessment are removed and replaced with something along these lines:

If asked: Media reporting that DF violent actions are a result of his claims to be a sovereign citizen?

Aware of media reporting however too early to speculate on motivation, need to let the police do their job.

Thank you, s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

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From: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @HOMEAFFAIRS.GOV.AU>
Sent: Wednesday, August 27, 2025 5:46:58 PM
To: 'AFP Media' <media@afp.gov.au>; s. 7(2A) .gov.au>
Cc: Blackstone, s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @afp.gov.au>; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au>; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au>
Subject: FOR CLEARANCE: Talking Points Incident in Porepunkah, Victoria [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

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Regards

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

Assistant Director, National Security and Crisis Communication

Media and Communication Branch

Executive Coordination Division | Executive Group

Department of Home Affairs

P: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) | **M:** s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

E: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) [@homeaffairs.gov.au](mailto:s. 22(1)(a)(ii)@homeaffairs.gov.au)

From: [Media](#)
To: s. 22(1)(a)(ii); s. 7(2A) .gov.au
Cc: s. 22(1)(a)(ii); s. 22(1)(a)(ii); s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
Subject: AFP FEEDBACK: Talking Points Incident in Porepunkah, Victoria [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date: Wednesday, 27 August 2025 7:06:59 PM
Attachments: [image001.gif](#)
[image002.gif](#)
[image003.gif](#)
[image004.gif](#)
[image005.gif](#)
[image006.gif](#)

OFFICIAL

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

Thanks for providing these to us.

- The AFP executive suggests adding this line in the TPs:
 - Members of the public should not engage or confront the alleged offender, and if sighted should immediately contact Victoria Police on 000.
 - They also suggest referring to VicPol early.

In regards to the first If Asked question, the recommendation is the answer should be: “We should not speculate or comment on motivations at this time”. Then not say any more.

They recommend the rest of those comments should also be scaled back.

If pressed, about sovereign citizens, the wording should be ‘some individuals’, as they feel the current wording of ‘individuals are embracing’ suggests the issue is broader than it is.

Regards

s. 22(1)(a)

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

TEAM LEADER

AFP NATIONAL MEDIA

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER

Tel: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) Ext: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

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

AFP Media 24/7 hotline: (02) 5126 9297

[Australian Federal Police](#)



The Australian Federal Police acknowledges the Traditional Owners and Custodians of Country throughout Australia, and their continuing connection to land, sea and community. We pay our respects to First Nations people, culture and Elders past, present and emerging.



From: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @HOMEAFFAIRS.GOV.AU>

Sent: Wednesday, 27 August 2025 3:47 PM

To: Media <Media@afp.gov.au>; s. 7(2A) .gov.au

Cc: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @afp.gov.au; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au
Subject: FOR CLEARANCE: Talking Points Incident in Porepunkah, Victoria [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Good afternoon, teams,

Grateful if you can clear the attached TPs this evening, and please pardon the tight turnaround.

Regards

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

Assistant Director, National Security and Crisis Communication

Media and Communication Branch

Executive Coordination Division | Executive Group

Department of Home Affairs

P: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) | **M:** s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

E: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au

Media Line: 02 6264 2244

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From: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
To: [Gemma SMYTH](#)
Cc: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
Subject: FOR CLEARANCE - TPs Porepunkah incident [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date: Wednesday, 27 August 2025 7:46:20 PM
Attachments: [image001.jpg](#)
[Talking Points - Incident in Porepunkah Victoria V2.docx](#)

OFFICIAL

Hi Gemma,

Please find below and attached for clearance updated TPs on Porepunkah to reflect developments and address questions we are starting to receive. The Firearms content has been approved by Alex Engel AS Transnational Crime.

The TPs have been approved by AFP and ASIO and utilise/ are aligned with VicPol messaging. (VicPol are forwarding their messaging to us regularly)

Talking Points

- Our thoughts are with the families and friends of **Detective Leading Senior Constable Neal Thompspon and Senior Constable Vadim De Waart**, the two Victorian police officers who were shot and killed during an incident at Porepunkah **on Tuesday 26 August 2025**.
- Our thoughts are also with their seriously injured colleague.
- A significant search is actively underway to locate the alleged offender.
- Our first concern is for the safety of the responding police officers and the local community and I urge everyone in the area to listen to the advice of authorities.
- Victoria police have asked the public in the area to remain indoors **until further notice**.
 - **Members of the public should not engage or confront the alleged offender, and if sighted should immediately contact Victoria Police on 000.**
- **Victoria Police Chief Commissioner Mike Bush identified the alleged offender as Desmond Filby, who is also known as Dezi Freeman.**
- The exact circumstances surrounding the incident are still being determined and it remains an active and ongoing situation.
- **Victoria Police have initiated a Temporary Restricted Airspace (no-fly zone) within a 4 nautical mile radius in the Porepunkah area, which will remain in place until at least 11.30pm on Friday 29 August.**
 - **The order includes all aircraft, including drones.**
- Anyone with information is urged to contact Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 or submit a confidential report online at www.crimestoppersvic.com.au.

If asked: Media is reporting that Desmond Filby claims to be a sovereign citizen. What is the government doing to counter that movement, considering Freeman's

very violent actions?

- This remains an active and ongoing situation and it is too early to speculate on the circumstances or the motivation.
- It is important that we let police do their job.

Desmond Filby is reported to be heavily armed. Is he a registered firearm holder and how if so, why was he allowed to hold a firearm licence?

- It is too early to speculate on the circumstances around this incident.
- The Australian Government remains committed to strong firearms regulations and the National Firearms Agreement (NFA).
- Australia's approach to firearms regulation is governed by the NFA, made in response to the Port Arthur massacre in 1996.
- The NFA affirms that firearms possession and use is a privilege that is conditional on the overriding need to ensure public safety.
- Firearm ownership requires a genuine reason and a fit and proper person test.
- Responsibility for firearm matters is shared between the Commonwealth and state and territory governments.
 - The Commonwealth is responsible for matters relating to the import and export of firearms.
 - State and territory governments have responsibility for matters relating to licensing, possession, storage and use of firearms.
- However, all governments have the collective responsibility to ensure the NFA is effective.

If asked: Will the Government speed up the implementation of the National Firearms Register following this incident?

- The Commonwealth and state and territory governments remain committed to a fully operational National Firearms Register by 1 July 2028, as agreed by National Cabinet.
- It is important that we know where firearms are, who owns them and what other risks to police and the community exist.
 - We also need this information in near-real time to inform our front-line police and close opportunities to divert firearms into the illicit market.
- We are acutely aware the risks exposed by Wieambilla remain until all jurisdictions and systems are connected through the National Firearms Register.
- The Government has committed over \$160 million to implement the NFR.
 - This includes over \$100 million to support states and territories improve their firearms registries and data to make the National Firearms Register work.
- The National Firearms Register will be the largest improvement to Australia's firearms management systems in almost 30 years.
 - It will provide frontline police officers with access to near real-time

information on firearms, firearms owners and licences.

- The Register will also better link firearms information with police and government information systems, including the National Criminal Intelligence System.
- This will better enable law enforcement to assess and respond to risks to the community and frontline police officers.
- The National Firearms Register does not replace, but assists, ongoing police and intelligence activities to counter illicit firearms and criminal activity.

Regards,

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

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

Director, National Security and Crisis Communication

Media and Communication Branch

Executive Coordination Division | Executive Group

Department of Home Affairs

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

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

E: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) [@homeaffairs.gov.au](mailto:s.22(1)(a)(ii)@homeaffairs.gov.au)

Acknowledgement of Country Signature Block Graphic 2022



OFFICIAL

Released by Department of Home Affairs
under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982*

From: [Gemma SMYTH](#)
To: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
Cc: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
Subject: Re: FOR CLEAANCE - TPs Porepunkah incident[SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date: Wednesday, 27 August 2025 8:00:57 PM
Attachments: [image001.jpg](#)

OFFICIAL

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

Cleared by me

Gemma

Sent by Email+

OFFICIAL

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

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under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982*

From: [ACIC Media](#)
To: [s. 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)](#)
Cc: [ACIC Media](#); [s. 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)](#)
Subject: RE: Talking Points - Incident at Porepunkah Victoria version 2 [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date: Thursday, 28 August 2025 10:52:10 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)
[image006.jpg](#)
[250828 - Media talking point - Firearms services.DOCX](#)

OFFICIAL

Hi [s. 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)](#)

Thank you for sharing, and appreciate the vision of any further media enquiries related to NFR.

We have pulled together the attached talking points which are an overview of the ACIC's firearms services/systems. This includes the NFR and the integration of the Australian Firearms Information Network into the National Criminal Intelligence System.

Please let us know if you have any questions.

[s. 22\(1\)\(a\)](#)



Media

Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission | Ngunnawal Country

media@acic.gov.au [s. 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)](#) | [s. 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)](#)



First Nation artwork



I acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the lands and waters where we live and work, and pay my respects to Elders past, present and future.

From: [s. 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)](#) <[s. 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)@homeaffairs.gov.au](mailto:s.22(1)(a)(ii)@homeaffairs.gov.au)>
Sent: Wednesday, 27 August 2025 8:12 PM
To: 'AFP Media' <media@afp.gov.au>; [s. 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)](#) <[s. 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)@afp.gov.au](mailto:s.22(1)(a)(ii)@afp.gov.au)>; [s. 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)](#) <[s. 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)@homeaffairs.gov.au](mailto:s.22(1)(a)(ii)@homeaffairs.gov.au)>; Alexander GOLDIE <[s. 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)@homeaffairs.gov.au](mailto:s.22(1)(a)(ii)@homeaffairs.gov.au)>; [s. 7\(2A\)](#) <[s. 7\(2A\)@homeaffairs.gov.au](mailto:s.7(2A)@homeaffairs.gov.au)>; Brian HICKEY <[s. 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)@homeaffairs.gov.au](mailto:s.22(1)(a)(ii)@homeaffairs.gov.au)>; [s. 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)](#) <[s. 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)@homeaffairs.gov.au](mailto:s.22(1)(a)(ii)@homeaffairs.gov.au)>; Colette HULL <[s. 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)@HOMEAFFAIRS.GOV.AU](mailto:s.22(1)(a)(ii)@HOMEAFFAIRS.GOV.AU)>; [s. 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)](#) <[s. 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)@homeaffairs.gov.au](mailto:s.22(1)(a)(ii)@homeaffairs.gov.au)>; [s. 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)](#) <[s. 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)@homeaffairs.gov.au](mailto:s.22(1)(a)(ii)@homeaffairs.gov.au)>; [s. 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)](#) <[s. 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)@pmc.gov.au](mailto:s.22(1)(a)(ii)@pmc.gov.au)>; [s. 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)](#) <[s. 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)@pmc.gov.au](mailto:s.22(1)(a)(ii)@pmc.gov.au)>; [s. 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)](#) <[s. 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)@pmc.gov.au](mailto:s.22(1)(a)(ii)@pmc.gov.au)>; Gemma SMYTH <[s. 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)@homeaffairs.gov.au](mailto:s.22(1)(a)(ii)@homeaffairs.gov.au)>; Hamish HANSFORD <[s. 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)@homeaffairs.gov.au](mailto:s.22(1)(a)(ii)@homeaffairs.gov.au)>; Heike Phillips <[s. 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)@homeaffairs.gov.au](mailto:s.22(1)(a)(ii)@homeaffairs.gov.au)>; Media - Home Affairs <media@homeaffairs.gov.au>; [s. 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)](#) <[s. 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)@homeaffairs.gov.au](mailto:s.22(1)(a)(ii)@homeaffairs.gov.au)>; [s. 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)](#) <[s. 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)@HOMEAFFAIRS.GOV.AU](mailto:s.22(1)(a)(ii)@HOMEAFFAIRS.GOV.AU)>; [s. 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)](#) <[s. 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)@pmc.gov.au](mailto:s.22(1)(a)(ii)@pmc.gov.au)>; [s. 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)](#) <[s. 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)@pmc.gov.au](mailto:s.22(1)(a)(ii)@pmc.gov.au)>; [s. 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)](#) <[s. 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)@HOMEAFFAIRS.GOV.AU](mailto:s.22(1)(a)(ii)@HOMEAFFAIRS.GOV.AU)>; [s. 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)](#) <[s. 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)@homeaffairs.gov.au](mailto:s.22(1)(a)(ii)@homeaffairs.gov.au)>; [s. 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)](#) <[s. 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)@homeaffairs.gov.au](mailto:s.22(1)(a)(ii)@homeaffairs.gov.au)>; Pete BERLIS <[s. 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)@homeaffairs.gov.au](mailto:s.22(1)(a)(ii)@homeaffairs.gov.au)>; [s. 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)](#) <[s. 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)@HOMEAFFAIRS.GOV.AU](mailto:s.22(1)(a)(ii)@HOMEAFFAIRS.GOV.AU)>; 'PMC Media' <media@pmc.gov.au>; [s. 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)](#) <[s. 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)@HOMEAFFAIRS.GOV.AU](mailto:s.22(1)(a)(ii)@HOMEAFFAIRS.GOV.AU)>; [s. 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)](#) <[s. 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)@afp.gov.au](mailto:s.22(1)(a)(ii)@afp.gov.au)>; Sophie SHARPE <[s. 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)@homeaffairs.gov.au](mailto:s.22(1)(a)(ii)@homeaffairs.gov.au)>; Stephanie FOSTER <[s. 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)@homeaffairs.gov.au](mailto:s.22(1)(a)(ii)@homeaffairs.gov.au)>; [s. 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)](#) <[s. 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)@pmc.gov.au](mailto:s.22(1)(a)(ii)@pmc.gov.au)>; [s. 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)](#) <[s. 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)@pmc.gov.au](mailto:s.22(1)(a)(ii)@pmc.gov.au)>; [s. 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)](#) <[s. 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)@homeaffairs.gov.au](mailto:s.22(1)(a)(ii)@homeaffairs.gov.au)>; [s. 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)](#) <[s. 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)@nema.gov.au](mailto:s.22(1)(a)(ii)@nema.gov.au)>; [s. 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)](#) <[s. 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)@HOMEAFFAIRS.GOV.AU](mailto:s.22(1)(a)(ii)@HOMEAFFAIRS.GOV.AU)>; [s. 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)](#) <[s. 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)@police.vic.gov.au](mailto:s.22(1)(a)(ii)@police.vic.gov.au)>; ACIC Media <Media@acic.gov.au>

Subject: Talking Points - Incident at Porepunkah Victoria version 2 [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Good evening,

Please find attached Talking Points - Incident at Porepunkah Victoria version 2.

Three talking points will be updated when new information becomes available.

Agencies – please provide input to s. 22(1)(a)(ii) [@homeaffairs.gov.au](mailto:s.22(1)(a)(ii)@homeaffairs.gov.au)

Regards,

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

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

Director, National Security and Crisis Communication

Media and Communication Branch

Executive Coordination Division | Executive Group

Department of Home Affairs

Media line: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) | **Crisis Media on call:** s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

E: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) [@homeaffairs.gov.au](mailto:s.22(1)(a)(ii)@homeaffairs.gov.au)

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MEDIA TALKING POINTS

TUESDAY 26 AUGUST 2025

Firearms services

Not for public release: *These talking points provide key messages related to key ACIC firearms, and firearms-related, systems. They are compiled from previously cleared media statements and talking points.*

Questions related to firearm policy should be directed to the Department of Home Affairs.

NATIONAL FIREARMS REGISTER

- The NFR will be fully operational by 1 July 2028, and will provide a comprehensive, near real-time view of registered firearms, suppressors, and licence holders across the country.
- The NFR will enhance law enforcement's ability to assess firearms risks, trace weapons across borders, and share critical information between police agencies. It will also support dealer licence verification, issue alerts for high-risk events, and offers national reporting and analysis capabilities.
- The ACIC is leading the implementation of the NFR, leveraging existing systems to incrementally support the register's implementation.
- While enforcement remains the responsibility of states and territories, the Commonwealth oversees import and export controls.
- The NFR will incrementally enhance existing ACIC systems like the AFIN and NFID, and enable faster access to more accurate data from state, territory and Commonwealth firearm registries and portals. Strict safeguards will ensure the enhanced AFIN system is secure and accessible only to law enforcement and select agencies.
- This initiative marks the most significant enhancement of Australia's firearms management systems in nearly 3 decades. With all governments and jurisdictions dedicated to completing this landmark program within 4 years, it promises to significantly improve the safety of both the community and the police.

NATIONAL FIREARMS IDENTIFICATION DATABASE

- The Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission's (ACIC) National Firearms Identification Database (NFID) is a reference tool that helps Australian police identify and record firearms in a consistent way nationally. NFID is used to identify and characterise a firearm, using details such as make, model, chambering and capacity.
- NFID is a reference tool that helps Australian police to consistently identify and record firearms during:
 - registration
 - importation
 - transfer of ownership
 - movement across state and territory borders.
- The NFID public website assists firearm dealers, manufacturers, importers and owners with accurate and consistent identification of firearms. The website has been in operation since August 2021.
- Each recorded firearm has a unique NFID number which can then be entered into the Australian Firearms Information Network (AFIN) to ensure that the details of the firearm are accurate.

AUSTRALIAN FIREARMS INFORMATION NETWORK

- The Australian Firearms Information Network (AFIN) provides a national life-cycle view of registered firearms in Australia, from legal importation through to legal exportation or destruction, to support law enforcement agencies and the police officers who protect our communities.
- All Australian police jurisdictions, including the Australian Federal Police, integrated with AFIN by 2020–21.
- AFIN provides firearm information through system-to-system integration, this allows national access to detailed, historical and cross jurisdictional firearms information to improve safety.
- The information in AFIN is provided by firearm registries and also Commonwealth agencies who deal with imports/exports and permits. States and territories are responsible for issues relating to possession, licensing, manufacture and use of firearms.
- AFIN allows state and territory firearms registries to maintain visibility of firearms and firearm holder's information – such as name and date of birth – and where they are registered when they move between state and territory registries.

- Although AFIN improves information-sharing between states and territories in relation to individual firearms, its purpose is not to manage and regulate ownership and use. AFIN is available for each state and territory to search national information on firearms.
- The ACIC works closely with all Australian policing partners to support sharing of information to counter criminal threats and mitigate risk, including through the National Firearms Identification Database and AFIN.

NATIONAL CRIMINAL INTELLIGENCE SYSTEM INTEGRATION

- Strong national collaboration has been key in the development and delivery of the ACIC's National Criminal Intelligence System (NCIS), which provides Australian law enforcement and intelligence agencies with secure access to a national view of criminal intelligence and information.
- AFIN data was integrated into NCIS in November 2023 to provide information about known firearms, firearm licences and permits in Australia alongside comprehensive operational policing data already in NCIS.
- This is updated daily ensuring that operational officers have access to the most recent data.
- Integration of AFIN data with NCIS has been a key interim step to enhance frontline officer access to national firearms information, and to bridge the gap between today and the completion of the National Firearms Register (NFR).
- Integration of the AFIN data with the comprehensive operational policing data already in NCIS strengthens frontline officer safety and other critical outcomes, including responses to family and domestic violence incidents. This is crucial for the safety of the officers, as well as those involved in the incidents.

CLEARANCE

Please ensure endorsement/clearance is noted in CM.

DRAFTED BY

NAME	POSITION, TEAM
s. 22(1)(a)(ii)	Assistant Director External Communication

NAME	POSITION	DATE
s. 22(1)(a)(ii)	NFR Program Manager	26/08/25 (noting edits in track)
s. 22(1)(a)(ii)	Director Communication and Media	26/08/2025
s. 22(1)(a)(ii)	A/g National Manager National Policing Information	
s. 22(1)(a)(ii)	A/g Executive Director Policing Information and Checking Services	26/08/2025
s. 22(1)(a)(ii)	A/g Chief Operating Officer	27/08/2025

From: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
To: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
Cc: s. 22(1)(a)(ii); s. 22(1)(a)(ii); s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
Subject: RE: Holding Lines: Shooting at a rural property in Porepunkah, Victoria [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date: Thursday, 28 August 2025 3:19:34 PM
Attachments: [image001.jpg](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.jpg](#)
[image005.png](#)

OFFICIAL

Hi s. 22(1)(a)

Just following up on below, grateful if you can confirm the status of those addresses.

Kind regards,

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
 Communication Support Officer, National Security and Crisis Communication
 Media and Communication Branch
 Executive Coordination Division | Executive Group
 Department of Home Affairs
P: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
E: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)@homeaffairs.gov.au

Media Line: 02 6264 2244

acknowledgement.jpg



OFFICIAL

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

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From: [Media](#)
To: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
Cc: [Media](#); s. 22(1)(a)(ii) ; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) ; s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
Subject: AFP assistance at Porepunkah as part of ongoing Victoria Police operation [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date: Thursday, 28 August 2025 3:20:51 PM
Attachments: [image001.gif](#)
[2231699845 \(cd1bafc90f7a100ef71db7317de2111ae479fe97\).jpg](#)

OFFICIAL

Good afternoon,

For your visibility and potential inclusion in the broader Government response.

Please see the below lines we will shortly be providing to s. 47F(1) from The Guardian in response to his inquiry about whether the AFP is assisting Victoria Police at Porepunkah.

Kind regards,

s. 22(1)(a)

INQUIRY:

Hi team,

I'm part of our coverage of the incident in Porepunkah. We're just hoping to confirm that this attached image shows that members of the AFP TRT are on the scene and assisting with the manhunt?

Thanks

RESPONSE:

- The AFP can confirm it is providing assistance to the ongoing police operation in Porepunkah, Victoria, at the request of Victoria Police.
- Any further inquiries should be directed to Victoria Police.

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

Writing to you from Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Country
 AFP NATIONAL MEDIA – SOUTHERN COMMAND
 OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER
 Tel: +s. 22(1)(a)(ii) Ext: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
AFP Media 24/7 hotline: (02) 5126 9297

Australian Federal Police



The Australian Federal Police acknowledges the Traditional Owners and Custodians of Country throughout Australia, and their continuing connection to land, sea and community. We pay our respects to First Nations people, culture and Elders past, present and emerging.

From: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
To: [Media](#); s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
Cc: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
Subject: RE: AFP assistance at Porepunkah as part of ongoing Victoria Police operation [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date: Thursday, 28 August 2025 3:38:32 PM
Attachments: [image001.gif](#)

OFFICIAL

Hi AFP media,

For the purposes of WofG TPs, are you comfortable with the below phrasing:

- The AFP is providing assistance to the ongoing police operation in Porepunkah, Victoria, at the request of Victoria Police.

Regards,

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

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

Director, National Security and Crisis Communication

Media and Communication Branch

Executive Coordination Division | Executive Group

Department of Home Affairs

P: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) | **M:** s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

E: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) [@homeaffairs.gov.au](mailto:s.22(1)(a)(ii)@homeaffairs.gov.au)

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

From: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
To: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) ; Media; s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
Cc: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
Subject: RE: AFP assistance at Porepunkah as part of ongoing Victoria Police operation [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date: Thursday, 28 August 2025 3:40:09 PM
Attachments: [image003.gif](#)
[image001.gif](#)

OFFICIAL

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

That's fine.

s. 22

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
 COORDINATOR
 AFP NATIONAL MEDIA
 CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER
 AFP NATIONAL HQ
 Tel: +s. 22(1)(a)(ii) Ext: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) Mob: +s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

Australian Federal Police



The Australian Federal Police acknowledges the Traditional Owners and Custodians of Country throughout Australia, and their continuing connection to land, sea and community. We pay our respects to First Nations people, culture and Elders past, present and emerging.

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

Released by Department of Home Affairs
under the Freedom of Information Act 1982

From: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
To: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
Cc: s. 22(1)(a)(ii); s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
Subject: FOR REVIEW: Talking Points - Incident in Porepunkah Victoria V3 [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date: Thursday, 28 August 2025 4:06:56 PM
Attachments: [Talking Points - Incident in Porepunkah Victoria V3 \(W edits\).docx](#)
[image001.jpg](#)

OFFICIAL

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

As discussed, updated advice for the public in the attached.

Thanks,

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
Communication Support Officer, National Security and Crisis Communication
Media and Communication Branch
Executive Coordination Division | Executive Group
Department of Home Affairs
P: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
E: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)@homeaffairs.gov.au

Media Line: 02 6264 2244

acknowledgement.jpg



OFFICIAL

TALKING POINTS

Subject	Incident in Porepunkah, Victoria	
Date	28 August 2025	Version: 3
Type	Whole of Government	
Media Officer:	s. 22(1)(a)(ii)	Media Ph: 02 6264 2244

ISSUE

Incident involving a shooting at a rural property in Porepunkah, Victoria where two officers were fatally shot and another was injured, with a search underway for the alleged offender.

Talking Points

- Our thoughts are with the families and friends of Detective Leading Senior Constable Neal Thomspson and Senior Constable Vadim De Waart, the two Victorian police officers who were shot and killed during an incident at Porepunkah on Tuesday 26 August 2025.
- Our thoughts are also with their seriously injured colleague.
- A significant search is actively underway to locate the alleged offender.
- Our first concern is for the safety of the responding police officers and the local community and I urge everyone in the area to listen to the advice of authorities.
- **Victoria police have asked the public in Porepunkah and the surrounding area to be vigilant.**
 - Members of the public should not engage or confront the alleged offender, and if sighted should immediately contact Victoria Police on 000.
- Victoria Police Chief Commissioner Mike Bush identified the alleged offender as Desmond Filby, who is also known as Dezi Freeman.
- The exact circumstances surrounding the incident are still being determined and it remains an active and ongoing situation.
- Victoria Police have initiated a Temporary Restricted Airspace (no-fly zone) within a 4 nautical mile radius in the Porepunkah area, which will remain in place until at least 11.30pm on Friday 29 August.
 - The order includes all aircraft, including drones.
- Anyone with information is urged to contact Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 or submit a confidential report online at www.crimestoppersvic.com.au.

If asked: Media is reporting that Desmond Filby claims to be a sovereign citizen. What is the government doing to counter that movement, considering Freeman's very violent actions?

- This remains an active and ongoing situation and it is too early to speculate on the circumstances or the motivation.
- It is important that we let police do their job.

Desmond Filby is reported to be heavily armed. Is he a registered firearm holder and how if so, why was he allowed to hold a firearm licence?

- It is too early to speculate on the circumstances around this incident.
- The Australian Government remains committed to strong firearms regulations and the National Firearms Agreement (NFA).
- Australia's approach to firearms regulation is governed by the NFA, made in response to the Port Arthur massacre in 1996.
- The NFA affirms that firearms possession and use is a privilege that is conditional on the overriding need to ensure public safety.
- Firearm ownership requires a genuine reason and a fit and proper person test.
- Responsibility for firearm matters is shared between the Commonwealth and state and territory governments.
 - The Commonwealth is responsible for matters relating to the import and export of firearms.
 - State and territory governments have responsibility for matters relating to licensing, possession, storage and use of firearms.
- However, all governments have the collective responsibility to ensure the NFA is effective

If asked: Will the Government speed up the implementation of the National Firearms Register following this incident?

- The Commonwealth and state and territory governments remain committed to a fully operational National Firearms Register by 1 July 2028, as agreed by National Cabinet.
- It is important that we know where firearms are, who owns them and what other risks to police and the community exist.
 - We also need this information in near-real time to inform our front-line police and close opportunities to divert firearms into the illicit market.
- We are acutely aware the risks exposed by Wieambilla remain until all jurisdictions and systems are connected through the National Firearms Register.

- The Government has committed over \$160 million to implement the NFR.
 - This includes over \$100 million to support states and territories improve their firearms registries and data to make the National Firearms Register work.
- The National Firearms Register will be the largest improvement to Australia's firearms management systems in almost 30 years.
 - It will provide frontline police officers with access to near real-time information on firearms, firearms owners and licences.
 - The Register will also better link firearms information with police and government information systems, including the National Criminal Intelligence System.
 - This will better enable law enforcement to assess and respond to risks to the community and frontline police officers.
- The National Firearms Register does not replace, but assists, ongoing police and intelligence activities to counter illicit firearms and criminal activity.

CLEARANCE

Lead business area		
The Media team will contact the area(s) should further clarification be required.		
CTCC		
Drafting officer		
s. 22(1)(a)(ii)	Public Affairs Officer, National Security and Crisis Communications	27 August 2025
International Division clearance		
		Yes ☐ N/A ☒
Other Government agency consultation/clearance		Yes ☒ N/A ☐

AFP		27/08/2025
ASIO		27/08/2025

Final SES clearance (minimum SES Band 1) and approval for release SES of lead business area must verify that all appropriate consultation and clearances have been undertaken.		
Gemma Smyth	FAS, Counter Terrorism and Violent Extremism	27/08/2025

Media and Communication Branch		
s. 22(1)(a)(ii)	Director, National Security and Crisis Comms	27/08/2025

From: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
To: s. 22(1)(a)(ii); "AFP Media"; s. 7(2A) .gov.au
Cc: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
Subject: FOR CLEARANCE: Talking Points Incident in Porepunkah, Victoria v3[SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date: Thursday, 28 August 2025 4:26:02 PM
Attachments: [Talking Points - Incident in Porepunkah Victoria V3 \(W edits\).docx](#)

OFFICIAL

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

Please find below and attached some minor updates to version 3 of these TPs.

Talking Points

- Our thoughts are with the families and friends of Detective Leading Senior Constable Neal Thompsen and Senior Constable Vadim De Waart, the two Victorian police officers who were shot and killed during an incident at Porepunkah on Tuesday 26 August 2025.
- Our thoughts are also with their seriously injured colleague.
- A significant search is actively underway to locate the alleged offender.
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- Victoria police have asked the public **in Porepunkah and the surrounding area to be vigilant.**
 - Members of the public should not engage or confront the alleged offender, and if sighted should immediately contact Victoria Police on 000.
- Victoria Police Chief Commissioner Mike Bush identified the alleged offender as Desmond Filby, who is also known as Dezi Freeman.
- The exact circumstances surrounding the incident are still being determined and it remains an active and ongoing situation.
- **The AFP is providing assistance to the ongoing police operation at the request of Victoria Police.**
- Victoria Police have initiated a Temporary Restricted Airspace (no-fly zone) within a 4 nautical mile radius in the Porepunkah area, which will remain in place until at least 11.30pm on Friday 29 August.
 - The order includes all aircraft, including drones.
- Anyone with information is urged to contact Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 or submit a confidential report online at www.crimestoppersvic.com.au.

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- This remains an active and ongoing situation and it is too early to speculate on

the circumstances or the motivation.

- It is important that we let police do their job.

Desmond Filby is reported to be heavily armed. Is he a registered firearm holder and how if so, why was he allowed to hold a firearm licence?

- It is too early to speculate on the circumstances around this incident.
- The Australian Government remains committed to strong firearms regulations and the National Firearms Agreement (NFA).
- Australia's approach to firearms regulation is governed by the NFA, made in response to the Port Arthur massacre in 1996.
- The NFA affirms that firearms possession and use is a privilege that is conditional on the overriding need to ensure public safety.
- Firearm ownership requires a genuine reason and a fit and proper person test.
- Responsibility for firearm matters is shared between the Commonwealth and state and territory governments.
 - The Commonwealth is responsible for matters relating to the import and export of firearms.
 - State and territory governments have responsibility for matters relating to licensing, possession, storage and use of firearms.
- However, all governments have the collective responsibility to ensure the NFA is effective.

If asked: Will the Government speed up the implementation of the National Firearms Register following this incident?

- The Commonwealth and state and territory governments remain committed to a fully operational National Firearms Register by 1 July 2028, as agreed by National Cabinet.
- It is important that we know where firearms are, who owns them and what other risks to police and the community exist.
 - We also need this information in near-real time to inform our front-line police and close opportunities to divert firearms into the illicit market.
- We are acutely aware the risks exposed by Wieambilla remain until all jurisdictions and systems are connected through the National Firearms Register.
- The Government has committed over \$160 million to implement the NFR.
 - This includes over \$100 million to support states and territories improve their firearms registries and data to make the National Firearms Register work.
- The National Firearms Register will be the largest improvement to Australia's firearms management systems in almost 30 years.
 - It will provide frontline police officers with access to near real-time

information on firearms, firearms owners and licences.

- The Register will also better link firearms information with police and government information systems, including the National Criminal Intelligence System.
- This will better enable law enforcement to assess and respond to risks to the community and frontline police officers.

The National Firearms Register does not replace, but assists, ongoing police and intelligence activities to counter illicit firearms and criminal activity.

Regards,

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

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

Director, National Security and Crisis Communication

Media and Communication Branch

Executive Coordination Division | Executive Group

Department of Home Affairs

P: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) | **M:** s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

E: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) [@homeaffairs.gov.au](mailto:s.22(1)(a)(ii)@homeaffairs.gov.au)

OFFICIAL

From: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @HOMEAFFAIRS.GOV.AU>

Sent: Wednesday, 27 August 2025 5:47 PM

To: 'AFP Media' <media@afp.gov.au>; s. 7(2A) gov.au

Cc: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @afp.gov.au>; s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au>; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au>

Subject: FOR CLEARANCE: Talking Points Incident in Porepunkah, Victoria [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Good afternoon, teams,

Grateful if you can clear the attached TPs this evening, and please pardon the tight turnaround.

Regards

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

Assistant Director, National Security and Crisis Communication

Media and Communication Branch

Executive Coordination Division | Executive Group

From: [Media](#)
To: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) ; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) ; ["AFP Media"](#); [Media](#)
Cc: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) ; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: FOR CLEARANCE: Talking Points Incident in Porepunkah, Victoria v3[SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date: Thursday, 28 August 2025 4:47:26 PM

OFFICIAL

Thanks s. 22(1)(a)(ii) nil concerns from ASIO.

Regards

s. 22(1)(a) [REDACTED]

OFFICIAL

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

From: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
To: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) ; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) ; Media; s. 7(2A) .gov.au
Cc: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
Subject: RE: FOR CLEARANCE: Talking Points Incident in Porepunkah, Victoria v3 [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date: Thursday, 28 August 2025 5:02:09 PM
Attachments: [image001.gif](#)

OFFICIAL

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

No issues from an AFP perspective.

s. 22

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
COORDINATOR
AFP NATIONAL MEDIA
CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER
AFP NATIONAL HQ
Tel: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) Ext: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) Mob: +s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

[Australian Federal Police](#)



The Australian Federal Police acknowledges the Traditional Owners and Custodians of Country throughout Australia, and their continuing connection to land, sea and community. We pay our respects to First Nations people, culture and Elders past, present and emerging.

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

From: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
To: [Gemma SMYTH](#)
Cc: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
Subject: FOR CLEARANCE: Talking Points Incident in Porepunkah, Victoria v3[SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date: Thursday, 28 August 2025 6:05:21 PM
Attachments: [Talking Points - Incident in Porepunkah Victoria V3 \(W edits\).docx](#)

OFFICIAL

Hi Gemma,

Please find below and attached for clearance some minor updates to version 3 of these TPs. These are cleared by AFP and ASIO and draw on content from VicPol's presser this afternoon.

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

If asked: Media is reporting that s. 47F(1) claims to be a sovereign citizen.