

REPORTING FORMS
PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 10, PARAGRAPH 2 (b) OF THE PROTOCOL AND THE
DECISION OF THE FIRST CONFERENCE OF THE HIGH CONTRACTING
PARTIES TO PROTOCOL V

(As adopted by the First Conference at its second plenary meeting on 5 November 2007)

HIGH CONTRACTING PARTY: Australia

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This information can be available to other interested parties and relevant organizations

YES

NO

Partially, only the following forms:

A B C D E F G H I

FORM A: Steps taken to implement Article 3 of the Protocol: Clearance, removal or destruction of explosive remnants of war.

High Contracting Party: Australia

Reporting for time period from: 01/01/2023 **to** 31/12/2023

Steps taken to implement the provisions of Article 3:

Joint Directive 02/2006 issued by the Chief of the Defence Force and the Secretary of Defence stipulates the requirements to ensure full compliance with Protocol V to the CCW convention.

In addition to guidance contained within overarching military doctrine, Australian Defence Force (ADF) Operational Orders for major operations – which are expected to involve explosive ordnance – have an Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) annex detailing the requirements for dealing with ERW.

While recognising that measuring the actual level of ERW created in an operational environment is difficult, the ADF has a very low rate of malfunctioned ordnance during operations (due to advanced ammunition manufacture, quality control mechanisms, detailed logistic planning, storage requirements, and ordnance surveillance programs).

Current ADF operational guidance with regards to Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) and ERW is to pro-actively deal with ERW in theatres of operations even before active hostilities have formally ceased. The intent of this policy is to mitigate the threat posed by UXO, by destroying items as they are found, subject to the tactical situation, rather than dealing with them after the close of active hostilities (as required by Article 3).

Where practicable, having regard to the security environment prevailing in the relevant location, UXO items found by the ADF on operations are identified, documented, collected, removed, and/or, where possible, destroyed. This applies as standard practice for the ADF and gives effect to Article 3 risk assessments of the threat posed by the ERW are an integral part of the decision making and disposal process.

Any other relevant information:

Please also refer to Australia's CCW Amended Protocol II report.

FORM B: Steps taken to implement Article 4 of the Protocol: Recording, retaining and transmission of information.

High Contracting Party: Australia

Reporting for time period from: 01/01/2023 to 31/12/2023

Steps taken to implement the provisions of Article 4 and the Technical Annex:

The Australian Defence Force (ADF) made arrangements for the tracking and recording of every use of explosive ordnance in those areas where the ADF operates. This operational procedure governs all ADF activities, during armed conflict, where a territory is under Australian control, consistent with the provisions of Protocol V. In all other circumstances, as a matter of policy, the procedure would be complied with where it is practical to do so.

Operational Orders were issued to ensure that detailed electronic reports, including Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) databases, were maintained by all relevant commands. Australian military forces in the field were required to populate the database with information that was submitted to ADF command headquarters in the theatre of operations, and then delivered back to Australia.

The ADF operational level headquarters in Australia has a standing requirement to maintain a comprehensive register that includes reporting of Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) incidents. This register includes where possible: the nature, type, quantity and condition of the Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) or Abandoned Explosive Ordnance (AXO); any actions taken to mark, clear, remove and/or destroy these items; their location; and an assessment of the threat posed.

The register also aims to provide detailed information about: reporting steps taken; any future action required to deal with the items; and any warnings issued or risk education provided to military forces or the local community.

Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) registers at every ADF command level are intended to inform the requirements for protective equipment, risk education, and information on ERW to be provided when visitors enter ADF areas of operations.

Any other relevant information:

Nil.

FORM C: Steps taken to implement Article 5 of the Protocol: Other precautions for the protection of the civilian population, individual civilians and civilian objects from the risks and effects of explosive remnants of war.

High Contracting Party: Australia

Reporting for time period from: 01/01/2023 **to** 31/12/2023

Steps taken to implement the provisions of Article 5 and the Technical Annex:

All feasible precautions are taken to protect the civilian population, individual civilians and civilian objects from the risks and effects of Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) in those areas where the Australian Defence Force (ADF) operates. This operational procedure governs all ADF activities, during armed conflict, where a territory is under Australian control, consistent with the provisions of Protocol V. In all other circumstances, as a matter of policy, the procedure would be complied with where it is practical to do so.

Warnings, cordoning, evacuation and other safeguards as required were implemented prior to any recovery or destruction of ERW.

Risk education is, and will continue to be, conducted by the ADF to warn local civilians of the dangers of ERW, where relevant. Advice on the reporting processes will enable civilians to report ERW when they are found.

Any other relevant information:

Nil.

FORM D: Steps taken to implement Article 6 of the Protocol: Provisions for the protection of humanitarian missions and organizations from the effects of explosive remnants of war.

High Contracting Party: Australia

Reporting for time period from: 01/01/2023 **to** 31/12/2023

Steps taken to implement the provisions of Article 6:

In those areas where the Australian Defence Force (ADF) operated in 2023, information on the location of Explosive Remnants of War was provided to humanitarian missions and organisations. This occurs as standard ADF operational procedure. This operational procedure governs all ADF activities, during armed conflict, where a territory is under Australian control, consistent with the provisions of Protocol V. In all other circumstances, as a matter of policy, the procedure would be complied with where it is practical to do so.

Any other relevant information:

Nil.

FORM E: Steps taken to implement Article 7 and Article 8 of the Protocol:
Assistance with respect to existing explosive remnants of war and cooperation and assistance.

High Contracting Party: Australia

Reporting for time period from: 01/01/2023 to 31/12/2023

Steps taken to implement the provisions of Article 7 and Article 8:

The Australian Defence Force (ADF) exchanges information on a regular basis with the Defence establishments of Canada, New Zealand, the United Kingdom and the United States as part of a Technical Cooperation Program. In relation to the removal of Explosive Remnants of War (ERW), this information concerns the equipment capabilities, procedures employed, and results of tests, trials, exercises, and operations. This information allows the participating nations to increase their knowledge of the problems involved related to the removal of ERW and helps improve relevant skills and techniques. The ADF also provides a range of technical assistance and training to regional countries affected by ERW, including through cooperative ERW clearance, removal, and destruction activities, as listed below.

Australia (Defence) participates in the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting-Plus (ADMM-Plus) Experts' Working Group (EWG) on Humanitarian Mine Action (HMA), which promotes practical cooperation and builds regional humanitarian mine action capacity. Australia (Defence) participated in all EWG activities in the 2021-2024 cycle, including the Field Training Exercise in September 2023.

Doctrine updates.

LP 3.3.13 Mines, Threat Devices and Explosive Hazard Reduction Land Warfare Procedures –was published in 2023. This document provides doctrine for the planning and conduct of mine warfare and explosive hazard reduction operations including protection of personnel and property from mines, threat devices, improvised explosive devices and other non-explosive hazards. The publication is suitable for all ranks exposed to mines, threat devices or other explosive hazards who are involved in the tactical planning and conduct of explosive hazard reduction operations. It is consistent with the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention and CCW Protocols I through to V, the Convention on Cluster Munitions 2008, and the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation Agreement (STANAG) 2036 Edition 6.

In the 2023 reporting period, the Australian Department of Defence provided international training and assistance relevant to this Convention:

Under the Defence Cooperation Program with Solomon Islands, Australia supports the Royal Solomon Islands Police Force (RSIPF) Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) personnel, including through an embedded ADF EOD advisor and the provision of operational funding. In August 2021 Australia and Solomon Islands agreed to enhance our EOD cooperation through a package of infrastructure, equipment and training. Between June and October 2023 Australia delivered an armoured excavator and several tranches of equipment upgrades including bomb suits, and disposal and safety equipment. In 2023 Defence delivered training courses with the RSIPF EOD team to accredited United Nations International Mine Actions Standards (IMAS) Level 3 and Level 3+. To

build regional capability, Defence will also support the RSIPF to deliver an IMAS Level 1 accreditation course to PNG and Nauru. Australia leads the EOD roundtable in the Solomon Islands with the US and Japan to de-conflict and coordinate our EOD cooperation, in addition to working with new likeminded partners such as Germany, Republic of Korea, and France.

Defence successfully supported the Government of Nauru with Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) disposal under Operation RENDER SAFE in 2023. In July 2023, following the unexpected discovery of an unexploded WWII bomb, the ADF responded to an urgent request from the Government of Nauru. The ADF worked with the Nauru Police Force to assess and ultimately safely dispose of the 500lb bomb. The French Armed Forces in New Caledonia (FANC) participated in an observer capacity for the first time. The ADF-led contingent ran education seminars about the hazards of ERW for Nauru government members along with the local police force, fire and emergency services and high school. The FANC participated in these activities. In August-September 2023, the ADF deployed a specialist multinational contingent to Nauru to conduct survey and reconnaissance tasks to confirm the location and type of reported explosive remnants of war. This reconnaissance mission will inform planning for the safe disposal of the explosive remnants of war, currently planned for 2024.

Defence continues to engage with the Government of Vanuatu to identify the next opportunity to scope and conduct an Operation RENDER SAFE disposal activity in Port Vila Harbour, which had been scheduled to occur in 2020 but was postponed due to COVID-19.

Defence engaged with the Government of Tuvalu to conduct an Operation RENDER SAFE reconnaissance in Funafuti Lagoon and Nanumea in September 2022. Planned disposal of located EO was planned for Oct 23, but logistic issues with providing support for operations in vicinity of Nanumea Lagoon prevented this task being completed. Disposal has been re-scheduled and is now planned for Oct/Nov 2024.

Under the Malaysia-Australia Joint Defence Program, Australia supports the establishment of a Malaysian Armed Forces Explosive Detection Dog capability. This is achieved through a combination of individual training courses, collective training, and immersion opportunities.

On Mar 23, the Australian Navy, together with US Coast Guard and French Navy, successfully conducted EX CROIX DU SUD, a joint ERW survey conducted in New Caledonia.

In the 2023 reporting period, Defence also provided international students with the following training relevant to this Protocol including:

International training

- a. The Military Engineering Regiment Officer Basic Course, at the School of Military Engineering, provided training to four members of the New Zealand Defence Force, two members of the Papua New Guinea Defence Force, one member of the Indonesian Defence Force, one member of the Timor Leste Defence Force, and one member of the Republic of Fiji Military Forces.
- b. Defence is also building the capability of the Republic of Fiji Military Forces through a Seconded Officer position the School of Military Engineering. Under the Defence Cooperation Program with Fiji, Australia has supported Republic of Fiji Military Forces in 2023 to deliver small team training and develop standard operating procedures for Fiji's EO disposal activities. This training was delivered to IMAS level one and level two qualified soldiers and is likely to be repeated into 2024.
- c. Cambodia funded an Australian instructor to attend the Training Course on Technical Demining and Minefield Management.

National resources allocated through the Australian aid program

Australia’s mine action work seeks to reduce and eliminate the socio-economic impact of landmines, cluster munitions and other explosive remnants of war (ERW). Through effective leadership and advocacy on mine action, Australia seeks to improve the quality of life for victims; reduce the number of deaths and injuries; and enhance capacity of countries to manage their mine action programs.

In 2023, Australia contributed over AUD8 million to mine action. This is an increase of nearly 80% on the previous calendar year. The increase is substantially due to support for GICHD under a new multi-year arrangement. Australia has committed to support GICHD with AUD 6million over four financial years from Dec 2022 for mine action activities globally with a focus on our region. Australia also increased its contributed to programs in Cambodia through the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

Australia continued its support for mine action in Sri Lanka. Under the bilateral development program we extended financial support of AUD1,000,000 to the Mines Advisory Group (MAG) for carrying out mine clearance activities. We also entered into a new, multi-year agreement with the MAG until from 30 June 2023 to December 2027 based on the 'Sri Lanka National Mine Action Completion Strategy - 2023-2027' to ensure Australia’s commitment to mine-free Sri Lanka.

In the Philippines, Australia supported the Association FSD France’s mine action work in Mindanao. Australia continues to support ongoing programs in Iraq through the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS), although payments were not made in the 2023 calendar year. Australia supported Milsearch Pty Ltd to conduct UXO remediation work at two sites in Kiribati.

During the reporting period, Australia provided funding to international organisations involved in mine action including and the International Campaign to Ban Landmines – Cluster Munition Coalition (ICBL-CMC).

Australia participated in meetings of the Mine Action Support Group, which seeks to coordinate international responses to ERW contamination. Australia also participated in the 11th Meeting of States Parties of the Convention on Cluster Munitions in September.

<i>Destination</i>	<i>Sector (stockpile destruction, clearance, risk education, victim assistance, advocacy)</i>	<i>Amount (AUD unless otherwise specified)</i>	<i>Type of cooperation or assistance (financial, material or in kind)</i>	<i>Details (including date allocated, intermediary destinations such as trust funds, project details, timeframes)</i>
Cambodia	Clearance	3,500,000	Financial	UNDP – <i>Clearing for Results</i>
Iraq	Clearance and risk education	No payments made during this reporting period.	Financial	UNMAS
Sri Lanka	Clearance	1,000,000	Financial	MAG
Philippines	Risk education, survey, clearance	397,928	Financial	Association FSD France
Kiribati	UXO remediation	125,554	Financial	Milsearch Pty Ltd – UXO remediation work on the proposed open integrated

<i>Destination</i>	<i>Sector (stockpile destruction, clearance, risk education, victim assistance, advocacy)</i>	<i>Amount (AUD unless otherwise specified)</i>	<i>Type of cooperation or assistance (financial, material or in kind)</i>	<i>Details (including date allocated, intermediary destinations such as trust funds, project details, timeframes)</i>
				market site in Betio in South Tarawa.
Kiribati	UXO remediation	No payments made during this reporting period	Financial	Milsearch Pty Ltd – UXO remediation work on the proposed site for a Pacific Humanitarian Warehousing Program in South Tarawa.
Global	Advocacy, risk education	3,000,000	Financial	GICHD – multi-year arrangement Dec 2022-June 2026 for a total of \$6million towards mine action with a focus on our region.
Global	Advocacy	100,000	Financial	ICBL-CMC – final payment in April of \$100,000 under 3 year arrangement.
TOTAL		8,123,482	Financial	

Please note the clearance activities supported through the Australian aid program may support the clearance of landmines, cluster munitions and other explosive remnants of war.

Any other relevant information:

Please also refer to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons Amended Protocol II Report.

FORM E(a): Steps taken by States which have ERW victims to implement the relevant provisions of Article 8(2): Victim Assistance

High Contracting Party: Australia

Reporting for time period from: 01/01/2023 **To** 31/12/2023

Steps taken to implement the relevant provisions of Article 8(2):

Not applicable.

Other relevant information, guided by the Plan of Action on Victim Assistance:

Not applicable.

FORM F: Steps taken to implement Article 9 of the Protocol: Generic preventive measures

High Contracting Party: Australia

Reporting for time period from: 01/01/2023 **To** 31/12/2023

Steps taken to implement the provisions of Article 9 and the Technical Annex:

The Australian Defence Force (ADF) maintains Standard Operating Procedures for dealing with Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) – such as marking, reporting, transporting, and storing ordnance. These procedures comply with Article 9.

The ADF has developed and implemented procedures to minimise the occurrence of ERW, and will continue to improve these procedures into the future. Current ADF procedures include, but are not limited to: training for all personnel in the Law of Armed Conflict, training of specific personnel in Explosive Ordnance Disposal, and standard operating procedures that reduce risk to personnel (military and civilian) and the environment.

The Defence Explosive Ordnance Preparedness Committee (DEOPC) continues as the senior advisory committee supporting Chief Joint Capabilities (CJC). CJC is the single point of accountability for the Defence-wide management of Explosive Ordnance (EO).

The ADF, through the Guided Weapons and Explosive Ordnance Group, (GWEOG) undertakes and commissions research as well as employing procedures in order to obtain the highest possible reliability and safety of EO. This is achieved by ongoing engagement with industry and research organisations, as well as by the work undertaken by EO specialists within GWEO and other parts of the ADF.

Any other relevant information:

The ADF mandates, and ensures compliance to, munitions manufacturing management and munitions management through the policy documents listed below. Australian policy is consistent with the United Nations and NATO Dangerous Goods and Explosives Model Regulations, Standards and Guidance, contextualised by Australian legislation.

Regulatory documents:

- a. DEFLOGMAN Pt2 Volume 9 Defence Explosive Ordnance 2021
- b. DEFLOGMAN Pt2 Volume 8 Chapter 8 Appropriation and import of non-Australian defence-related materiel during Australian Defence Force operations 2017
- c. Defence Training Area Management Manual (DTAMM) 2015
- d. Defence Unexploded Ordnance Management Policy 2020
- e. Commonwealth Policy on the Management of Land in Australia Affected by Unexploded Ordnance 2018
- f. United Nations (UN) Publications ST/SG/AC.10/1/Rev.21 Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods: Model Regulations 2019

- g. NATO AASTP-1 Manual of NATO Safety Guidelines for the Storage of Military Ammunition and Explosives
- h. NATO AASTP-2 Manual of NATO Safety Principles for the Transport of Military Ammunition and Explosives
- i. NATO AASTP-3 Manual of NATO Safety Principles for the Hazard Classification of Military Ammunition and Explosives
- j. Allied Ordnance Publications (AOP) 15 Guidance on the Assessment of the Safety and Suitability for Service of Non-Nuclear Munitions for NATO Armed Forces
- k. DEOP 101 Department of Defence Explosive Regulations.

FORM G: Steps taken to implement Article 11 of the Protocol: Compliance

High Contracting Party: Australia

Reporting for time period from: 01/01/2023 **To** 31/12/2023

Steps taken to implement the provisions of Article 11:

The Australian Defence Force (ADF) has issued instructions to operational commands, which comply with the Protocol, namely:

- a. that the Explosive Ordnance (EO) management process follows current ADF orders and instructions with respect to security, licensed storage and operational life;
- b. all ammunition technical staff to be conversant with ADF policy, orders and instructions as well as all current domestic EO management regulations for the storage, distribution, handling and maintenance of EO;
- c. the Senior Ammunition Technical Representative to ensure that EO was stored, transported, managed and disposed of safely by Task Groups in accordance with current ADF legal and policy requirements;
- d. EO incidents, particularly malfunctions, were to be reported on occurrence; and
- e. a requirement for all areas of the ADF that use, store or handle EO to implement self-assessment systems. Self-assessment systems will provide assurance to Commanders that EO management and accounting practices are compliant with all relevant EO legislation, regulations, policies and procedures.

Furthermore, specific Protocol V requirements and procedures for dealing with explosive remnants of war are covered in pre-deployment and ongoing training. These instructions and procedures are reviewed regularly to ensure their continuing relevance and applicability to current Government direction, including compliance with Protocol V.

Any other relevant information:

Please also refer to Australia's CCW Amended Protocol II report.

FORM H: Other relevant matters

High Contracting Party: Australia

Reporting for time period from: 01/01/2023 **to** 31/12/2023

Any other relevant information:

Nil.
