

s 22



**From:** Tinning, Chris

**Sent:** Friday, 18 July 2025 2:29 PM

**To:** Kearnan, Sheridan DR s 22 @defence.gov.au>; Townshend, Ashley MR s 22 @defence.gov.au>

**Cc:** Sloan, Isobel s 22 @TREASURY.GOV.AU>; s 22 @TREASURY.GOV.AU>; Ford, Gabrielle s 22 @TREASURY.GOV.AU>

**Subject:** For your advice: Australian article on the purchases of commercial property near Port Kembla and Port of Newcastle [~~SEC - OFFICIAL:Sensitive~~]

Hi Sheridan/Ash

You may have seen reporting in the Australian Newspaper today raising concerns regarding the purchase of commercial property near Port Kembla and the Port of Newcastle.

The purchases in question have not subject to assessment under the Foreign Acquisitions and Takeovers Act. Our preliminary assessment based on available information is that the value of the properties fall below screening thresholds for commercial property,

We would be grateful for your advice on whether these matters raise concerns from a Defence Perspective that may trigger a Reviewable National Security Action (RNSA) under the FATA. An RNSA has 2 limbs. The first relates to the type of action (acquisition of shares or land, or entering an agreement) which puts the foreign person in a position to influence, control or participate in the central management of a business or company (which Treasury we would investigate); the 2nd is whether the action may pose national security concerns. The latter is largely not defined - relies on security advice from depts/agencies.

We would also be grateful for advice on whether Defence has the exact addresses of the property that the article says was acquired to help with our investigations.

The Treasurer is interested in this issue, so any preliminary advice you can provide by COB today would be greatly appreciated.

Many thanks in advance for your help. Please feel free to call me if you would like to discuss.

Kind regards

Chris

**Chris Tinning — First Assistant Secretary**

Foreign Investment Division

P +61 2 6263 1689 S 22

[treasury.gov.au](http://treasury.gov.au)

Langton Crescent, Parkes ACT 2600

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s 22

**From:** Tinning, Chris  
**Sent:** Friday, 18 July 2025 3:27 PM  
**To:** Kearnan, Sheridan DR S 22 @defence.gov.au>; Townshend, Ashley MR S 22 @defence.gov.au>  
**Cc:** Sloan, Isobel S 22 @TREASURY.GOV.AU>; S 22 @TREASURY.GOV.AU>; Ford, Gabrielle S 22 @TREASURY.GOV.AU>  
**Subject:** RE: For your advice: Australian article on the purchases of commercial property near Port Kembla and Port of Newcastle [~~SEC=OFFICIAL~~ Sensitive]

Thank you Sheridan, very much appreciated. Completely understand the limitations of what you will be able to get to us given the Friday afternoon request.

Kind regards

Chris

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**From:** Kearnan, Sheridan DR S 22 @defence.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Friday, 18 July 2025 3:25 PM  
**To:** Tinning, Chris S 22 @TREASURY.GOV.AU>; Townshend, Ashley MR S 22 @defence.gov.au>  
**Cc:** Sloan, Isobel S 22 @TREASURY.GOV.AU>; S 22 @TREASURY.GOV.AU>; Ford, Gabrielle S 22 @TREASURY.GOV.AU>  
**Subject:** RE: For your advice: Australian article on the purchases of commercial property near Port Kembla and Port of Newcastle [~~SEC=OFFICIAL~~ Sensitive]

~~OFFICIAL: Sensitive~~

~~OFFICIAL: Sensitive~~

Chris

Noting Friday afternoon, I've reached out to ASA, Navy and our security area. Advice might have to come back on High. Ash and I will see what we get back.

Sheridan

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~~OFFICIAL: Sensitive~~

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**From:** Tinning, Chris S 22 [redacted] <[redacted]@TREASURY.GOV.AU>  
**Sent:** Friday, 18 July 2025 2:29 PM  
**To:** Kearnan, Sheridan DR S 22 [redacted] <[redacted]@defence.gov.au>; Townshend, Ashley MR S 22 [redacted] <[redacted]@defence.gov.au>  
**Cc:** Sloan, Isobel S 22 [redacted] <[redacted]@TREASURY.GOV.AU>; S 22 [redacted] <[redacted]@TREASURY.GOV.AU>; Ford, Gabrielle S 22 [redacted] <[redacted]@TREASURY.GOV.AU>  
**Subject:** For your advice: Australian article on the purchases of commercial property near Port Kembla and Port of Newcastle [~~SEC-OFFICIAL: Sensitive~~]

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Kind regards

Chris

**Chris Tinning — First Assistant Secretary**

Foreign Investment Division

P +61 2 6263 1689 S 22 [redacted]

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s 22

**From:** Tinning, Chris S 22 [REDACTED]@TREASURY.GOV.AU>  
**Sent:** Friday, 18 July 2025 5:45 PM  
**To:** Kearnan, Sheridan DR S 22 [REDACTED]@defence.gov.au>  
**Subject:** Re: For your advice: Australian article on the purchases of commercial property near Port Kembla and Port of Newcastle [~~SEC- OFFICIAL: Sensitive~~]

Thank you Sheridan. Very much appreciated.

Kind regards

Chris

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**From:** Kearnan, Sheridan DR S 22 [REDACTED]@defence.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Friday, July 18, 2025 5:25:04 PM  
**To:** Tinning, Chris S 22 [REDACTED]@TREASURY.GOV.AU>  
**Subject:** FW: For your advice: Australian article on the purchases of commercial property near Port Kembla and Port of Newcastle [~~SEC- OFFICIAL: Sensitive~~]

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**From:** West, Peter MR S 22 [redacted]@defence.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Friday, 18 July 2025 3:47 PM  
**To:** Kearnan, Sheridan DR S 22 [redacted]@defence.gov.au>; Hughes, Stephen RADM 2 S 22 [redacted]@defence.gov.au>; Buckley, Matthew RADM S 22 [redacted]@defence.gov.au>; Buchanan, Ryan MR S 22 [redacted]@defence.gov.au>  
**Cc:** Arthur, Kim MS S 22 [redacted]@defence.gov.au>; Townshend, Ashley MR S 22 [redacted]@defence.gov.au>; McNamara, Belinda MS S 22 [redacted]@defence.gov.au>; S 22 [redacted]@defence.gov.au>  
**Subject:** RE: For your advice: Australian article on the purchases of commercial property near Port Kembla and Port of Newcastle [SEC-~~OFFICIAL~~.Sensitive]

~~OFFICIAL: Sensitive~~

Sheridan,

Nothing specific, but I offer the following general TP:

All Defence bases and facilities are required to meet Defence layered security standards in accordance with the Defence Security Principles Framework (DSPF). The DSPF is a risk based framework, and implementation of specific security controls and mitigations for any location will be based on a risk assessment of local threats and conditions.

**Peter West**

First Assistant Secretary Defence Security  
Security and Estate Group  
Department of Defence

S 22 [redacted]  
Ph S 22 [redacted] | e: S 22 [redacted]@defence.gov.au  
M: S 22 [redacted]

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**From:** Kearnan, Sheridan DR S 22 [redacted]@defence.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Friday, 18 July 2025 3:23 PM  
**To:** Hughes, Stephen RADM S 22 [redacted]@defence.gov.au>; Buckley, Matthew RADM S 22 [redacted]@defence.gov.au>; Buchanan, Ryan MR S 22 [redacted]@defence.gov.au>; West, Peter MR 2 S 22 [redacted]@defence.gov.au>  
**Cc:** Arthur, Kim MS S 22 [redacted]@defence.gov.au>; Townshend, Ashley MR S 22 [redacted]@defence.gov.au>; McNamara, Belinda MS S 22 [redacted]@defence.gov.au>  
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Stephen, Matt, Ryan and Peter

So you are tracking – I have this urgent question below with ASA.

Any input you would like to pass to us quickly, we will gratefully receive on high.

Sheridan

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**From:** Kearnan, Sheridan DR  
**Sent:** Friday, 18 July 2025 3:15 PM  
**To:** James, Mikaela MS S 22 [redacted]@defence.gov.au>; McNamara, Belinda MS S 22 [redacted]@defence.gov.au>; Arthur, Kim MS S 22 [redacted]@defence.gov.au>  
**Cc:** 'Kelton, Alexandra MS S 22 [redacted]@defence.gov.au)' S 22 [redacted]@defence.gov.au>; Townshend, Ashley MR S 22 [redacted]@defence.gov.au>  
**Subject:** FW: For your advice: Australian article on the purchases of commercial property near Port Kembla and Port of Newcastle [~~SEC OFFICIAL Sensitive~~]

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Miki/Belinda/Kim

Grateful if you can provide confirmation of ASA intent on submarines in Kembla and Newcastle. Confirmation on the high.

Sheridan

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**Sent:** Friday, 18 July 2025 2:29 PM  
**To:** Kearnan, Sheridan DR S 22 [redacted]@defence.gov.au>; Townshend, Ashley MR S 22 [redacted]@defence.gov.au>  
**Cc:** Sloan, Isobel S 22 [redacted]@TREASURY.GOV.AU>; S 22 [redacted]@TREASURY.GOV.AU>; Ford, Gabrielle S 22 [redacted]@TREASURY.GOV.AU>  
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Many thanks in advance for your help. Please feel free to call me if you would like to discuss.

Kind regards

Chris

**Chris Tinning — First Assistant Secretary**

Foreign Investment Division

P +61 2 6263 1689 S 22

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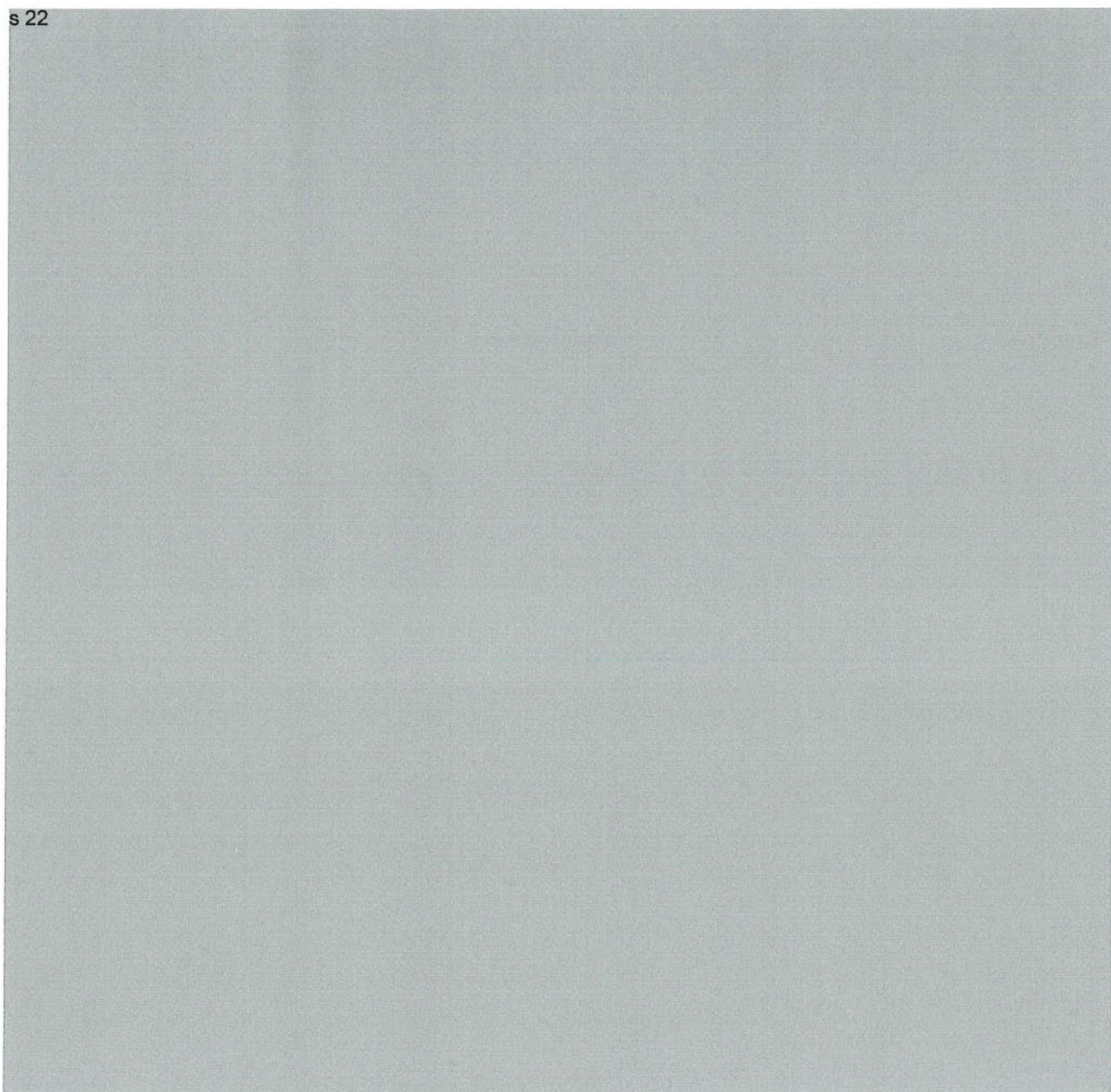
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s 22



**From:** Kearnan, Sheridan s 22 - Defence email

**Sent:** Friday, 18 July 2025 5:24 PM

**To:** Tinning, Chris R s 22 - Treasury email

**Cc:** Sloan, Isobel M s 22 - Treasury email ; Ford, Gabrielle C s 22 - Treasury email ;  
Townshend, Ashley MR s 22 - Defence email ; s 22 s 22 - Defence email

**Subject:** RE: Port Kembla and Newcastle Classification not apply to release

Classification not apply to release

Chris

Just received s 33(a)

s 33(a)



I'll call about the last sentence there.

Sheridan

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**From:** Kearnan, Sheridan Dr  
**Sent:** Friday, 18 July 2025 5:20 PM  
**To:** Tinning, Chris Mr s 22 - Treasury email  
**Cc:** Sloan, Isobel s 22 - Treasury email; Ford, Gabrielle s 22  
s 22 - Treasury email; Townshend, Ashley MR s 22 - Defence email; s 22  
s 22 - Defence email  
**Subject:** FW: Port Kembla and Newcastle Classification not apply to release

Classification not apply to release

Chris

I haven't received s 33(a) But see below s 33(a) I'll  
call and give context.

s 33(a)

I'll try and call and give some context.

Will send anything we receive s 33(a) Monday.

Sheridan

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**From:** Buckley, Matthew s 22 - Defence email  
**Sent:** Friday, 18 July 2025 4:23 PM  
**To:** Kearnan, Sheridan Dr s 22 - Defence email  
**Cc:** Hughes, Stephen s 22 - Defence email; West, Peter Mr  
s 22 - Defence email; Phillips, Thomas s 22 - Defence email  
**Subject:** Port Kembla and Newcastle Classification not apply to release

Classification not apply to release

Sheridan,

s 33(a)

s 33(a)



Trust this assists

Matt

**Rear Admiral Matt Buckley, AM CSC, RAN**  
Deputy Chief of Navy (DCN)

**Royal Australian Navy**

 s 22  s 22 |  s 22 - Defence email

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