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[IP 045](#) - The Initial Environmental Evaluation for the construction of a new Garage for the Inland Traverse Vehicles in Zhongshan Station, Larsemann Hills, East Antarctica (China)

No

- Noted
- There is no requirement for a Party to provide an IEE via a meeting paper (it is sufficient to use the Secretariat's information exchange arrangements to make a copy available).

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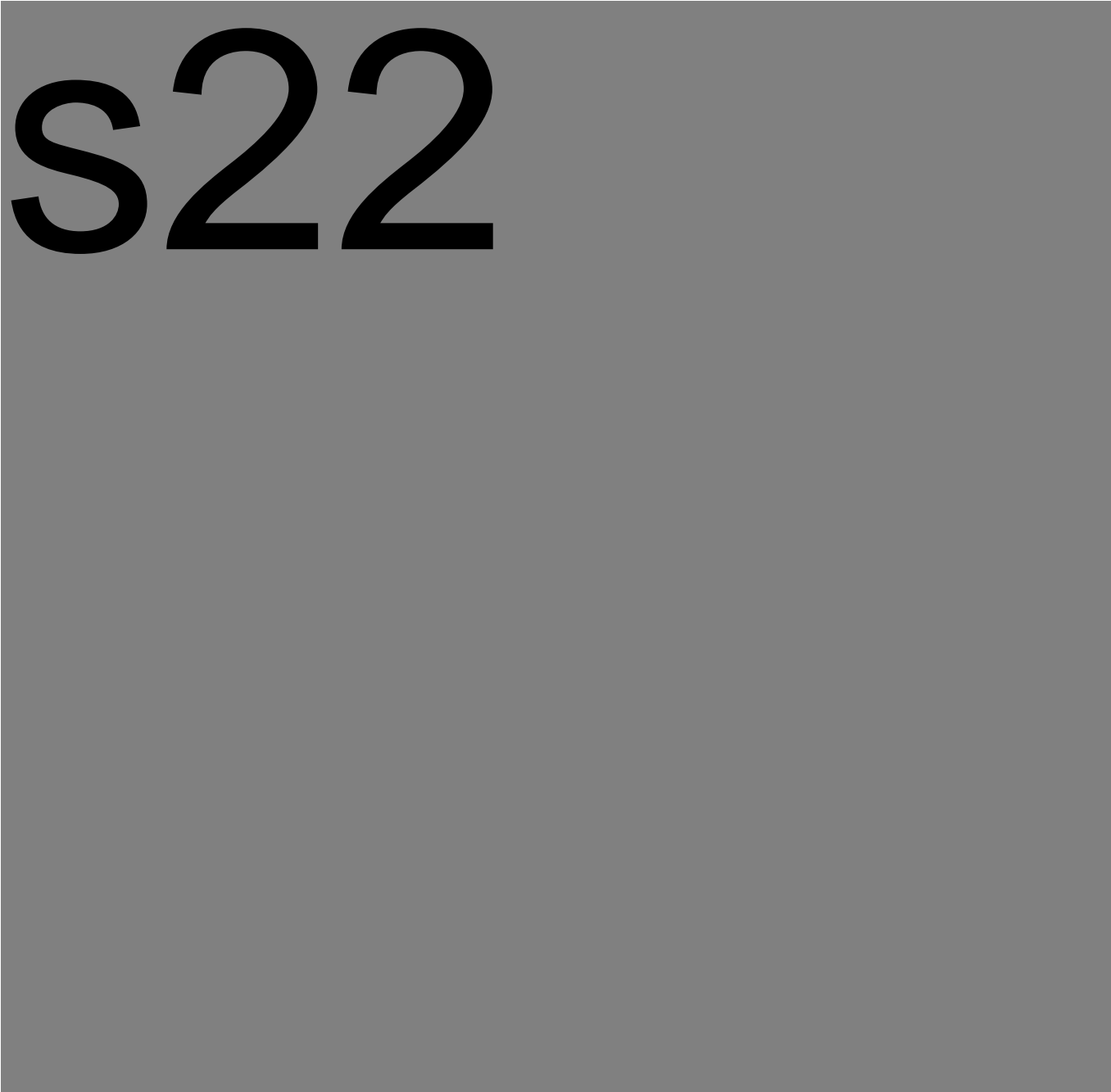
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WP005 – Antarctica as a platform for exploring the universe: Successful international collaborations and recent achievements (United States)

Australian researchers are benefiting from the field of Multi-Messenger Astronomy, which is highlighted by the Working Paper. s47C, s47E(d)

s47C, s47E(d)

s47C, s47E(d)

Australia encourages increased international collaboration in Antarctica including in the field of astronomy.

Australia has provided some direct support for these unique scientific observations (e.g. measures concerning spectrum management to protect radioastronomy windows, logistics support for recovery of long duration balloon payloads).

s47C, s47E(d)

2017-18 season quid pro quo activities
with other national Antarctic programs

s47C, s47E(d)

s47C, s47E(d), s33(a)(iii)

s33(a)(iii), s47E(d), s47C

s47C, s47E(d), s33(a)(iii)

If raised: China's proposal for a new Antarctic runway

China's proposal for a new runway

- Aviation access to and within the Antarctic region is increasingly important to all nations operating in Antarctica.
- There has been recent media regarding China's proposal to build an airfield in East Antarctica, in the Larsemann Hills (approximately 100km from Davis research station).
- These reports suggest that the project will:
 - have a 1,500-metre compressed snow runway
 - include a terminal (some reports call this the 'permanent airport')
 - be located 28km from China's Zhongshan station
 - take several years to complete
 - initially be used by China's 'Snow Eagle', an intra-continental Basler aircraft
 - long-term be used by medium to large scale intercontinental aircraft
 - potentially be used for science and tourism
 - give China a role in any future airspace management decisions
- China has previously made Australia aware that it is exploring options for a runway in the Larsemann Hills region to support intercontinental flights.
- All proposed activities in Antarctica must be subject to prior environmental impact assessment, in accordance with the requirements of the *Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty* (Environmental Protocol).
- It is unclear what works will be undertaken this coming summer.
- We expect that there would be an environmental assessment process, including notification of other Antarctic Treaty parties, prior to any significant works being undertaken.
 - We are not aware of any such assessment to date.
- It is not clear where China is considering flying to Antarctica from, nor the technical parameters of the project, therefore Australia is not in a position to comment on the long-term feasibility of the proposed runway as an intercontinental airstrip.

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Advancing policy discussions on enhanced environmental protection and other key areas

The 2017 Antarctic Science Workshop (see above) identified several opportunities for future collaboration on protecting and managing the Antarctic environment, including:

- Regular and long-term exchange of personnel with focus on science to inform and implement environmental management practices (for example, the national Antarctic conference is a good platform)
- Coordination and collaboration on engagement in Antarctic Treaty System forums (e.g. shared science priorities, management of activities at Dome A, proposed new ASPA at Inexpressible Island)
- Exchange of experience with implementing Antarctic legislation, particularly Annex VI to the Environmental Protocol (Liability Arising from Environmental Emergencies)
- Sharing of experience, practices and technology to support Green Expeditions (e.g. waste management, environmental training, remediation, Environmental Management Systems)
- Exchange of environmental/scientific data
- Joint/coordinated monitoring to support protected area management (e.g. Amanda Bay ASPA, Stornes ASPA, Larsemann Hills ASMA)

Related to these opportunities:

- Australia was pleased to co-sponsor China's Working Paper to CEP XX /ATCM XL (2017) on the concept of Green Expeditions.
- In conjunction with the 2017 workshop AAD's Environment Manager hosted a visit by Ms Li Xiaohao from PRIC, and subsequently provided information about AAD's environmental management practices.
- Australia welcomed China participation in the Australia-led intersessional discussions on shared science priorities, which will be reported to ATCM XLII in Working Paper 32 and a supporting Information Paper.
- Australia has participated in CEP discussions led by China on management of Dome A (see briefing under Agenda Item 4.1)
- Australia welcomed China's co-sponsorship of an Australia-led proposal to CEP XXI to convene a joint SCAR/CEP Workshop on Further Developing the Antarctic Protected Area System. The workshop will be held in Prague prior to CEP XXII.

Australia and China have jointly prepared a Working Paper for CEP XXII reporting on the five-yearly review of the management plan for ASPA 169 Amanda Bay and, together with Russia and India, will report on the continuing

	five-yearly review of the management plans for ASMA 6 Larsemann Hills and ASPA 174 Stornes.
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Bureau of Meteorology (BOM)

- China and Australia (via BoM and AAD) co-invest in the running of the Davis station Ozonesonde program, which meets the requirements set by WMO Global Atmospheric Watch (GAW).
- The Bureau coordinates its Antarctic aviation weather services (observations and forecasts) with the Polar Research Institute of China whenever flights are undertaken between the two national programs, such as when GCX Snow Eagle flies between Casey and Zhongshan (Progress).

- There have been Antarctic forecaster training opportunities provided to China's National Marine Environment and Forecasting Centre (NMEFC) meteorologists over the last few years from the Bureau's Hobart office.

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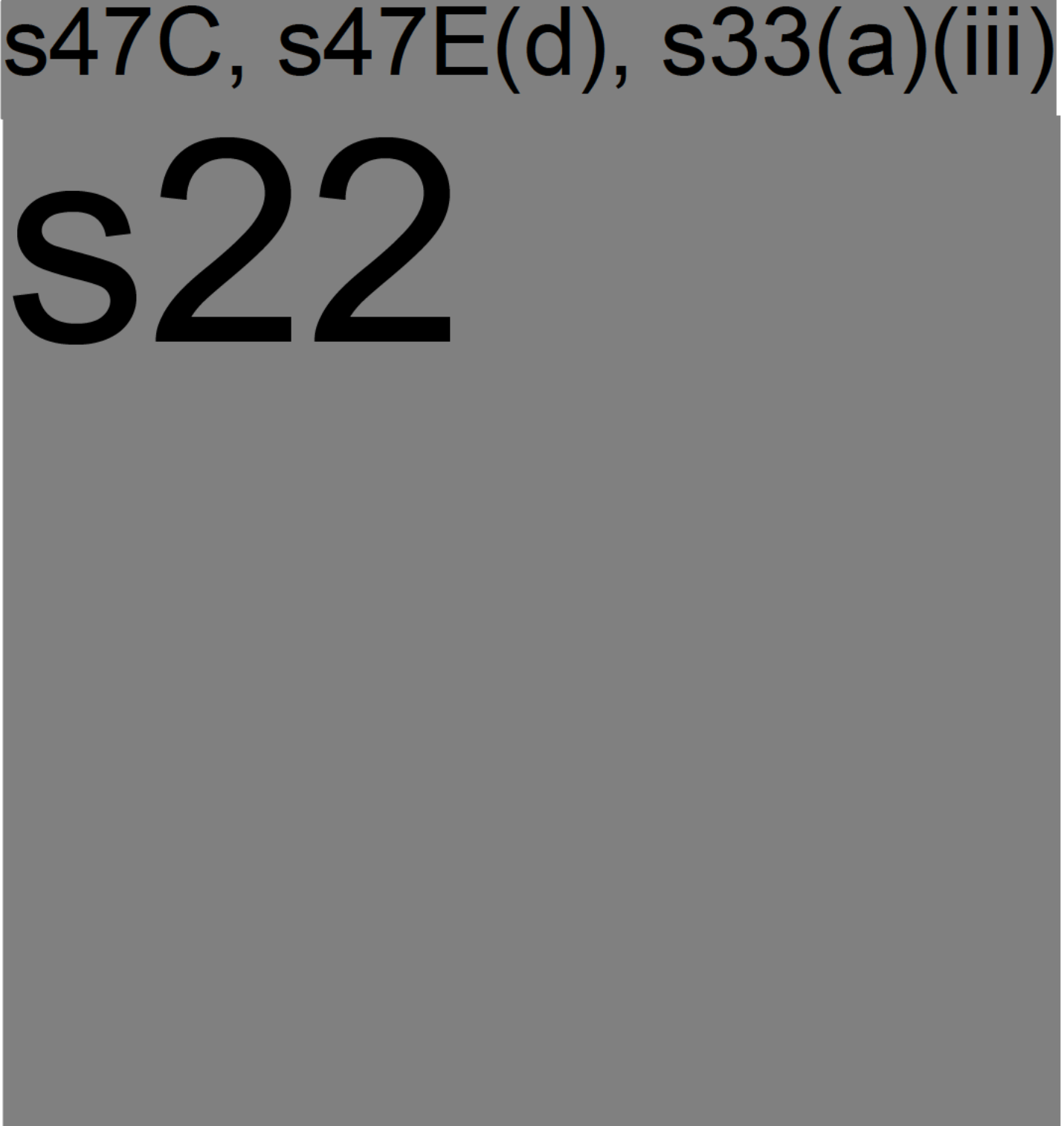


Increasing activity in the Australian Antarctic Territory

- Nations are increasing physical presence in Antarctica with a number building or rebuilding stations and new icebreaking vessels (see Background).
- In the Australian Antarctic Territory there are now 15 stations operated by 8 other nations compared to Australia's three stations.

s47C, s47E(d), s33(a)(iii)

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Activities of other key Antarctic nations in the Australian Antarctic Territory

- Australia has close working relationships with all nations active in the Australian Antarctic Territory.
- China has four Antarctic stations, three of which are within the Australian Antarctic Territory:
 - Zhongshan Station was built in 1989.
 - Kunlun Station deep in the interior was opened in 2009.
 - The summer station Taishan was opened in February 2014 to support traverse activity to Kunlun.

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s47C, s47E(d), s33(a)(iii)

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Activities of other key Antarctic nations in the Australian Antarctic Territory

- Australia has close working relationships with all nations active in the AAT.
- China has four Antarctic stations, three of which are within the AAT:
 - Zhongshan Station was built in 1989.
 - Kunlun Station deep in the interior was opened in 2009.
 - The summer station Taishan was opened in February 2014 to support traverse activity to Kunlun.
 - China is constructing a new year-round station in New Zealand's Ross Sea Dependency, which neighbours the AAT. This proposal is being progressed under well-established Antarctic Treaty system processes for the development of scientific research stations in Antarctica.
 - China is constructing a new icebreaker to begin operations in 2019.

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