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Briefs are to be cleared by Deputies and **provided to Finn by 5:30pm tomorrow**. Please let me know if this will be an issue/ if you’re running late.

If you were not in today’s meeting and would like some background, please give me a call. s47F and Daniel will be leads on all one pagers in the Minister’s office.

Thanks very much

s47F

s47F

Executive Officer to the Secretary
Department of the Environment and Energy

s47F

John Gorton Building
King Edward Terrace, Parkes
CANBERRA ACT 2601

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From: [Edwards, Bruce](#)
To: [Tregurtha, James](#)
Cc: s47F
Subject: RE: URGENT BRIEFING REQUEST for Minister [DLM=Sensitive]
Date: Monday, 29 January 2018 5:35:15 PM

Thanks, beat me to it. We'll get onto the other one.

From: Tregurtha, James
Sent: Monday, 29 January 2018 5:29 PM
To: Edwards, Bruce
Cc: s47F
Subject: FW: URGENT BRIEFING REQUEST for Minister [DLM=Sensitive]

Hi Bruce,
Further to the below, I have followed up with s47F and she is going to retask the EPBC Grasslands (read: land clearing) one to Office of Compliance.
James

From: s47F
Sent: Monday, 29 January 2018 5:13 PM
To: Chisholm, James <James.Chisholm@environment.gov.au>; Sullivan, Sean <Sean.Sullivan@environment.gov.au>; Bacon, Rachel <Rachel.Bacon@environment.gov.au>; Archer, Brad <Brad.Archer@environment.gov.au>; Milnes, Gayle <Gayle.Milnes@environment.gov.au>; Tregurtha, James <James.Tregurtha@environment.gov.au>; Parry, Rachel <Rachel.Parry@environment.gov.au>; Bennett, Helen <Helen.Bennett@environment.gov.au>; s47F
s47F Edwards, Bruce <Bruce.Edwards@environment.gov.au>; Bover, Travis <Travis.Bover@environment.gov.au>; Campbell, Emma <Emma.Campbell@environment.gov.au>; White, James <James.White@environment.gov.au>; O'Toole, James ; s47F s47F
Cc: Evans, Jo <Jo.Evans@environment.gov.au>; Heferen, Rob <Rob.Heferen@environment.gov.au>; Knudson, Dean <Dean.Knudson@environment.gov.au>; Cahill, Matt <Matt.Cahill@environment.gov.au>; s47F
s47F Caruso, Daniel <Daniel.Caruso@environment.gov.au>; s47F s47F s47F
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s47F s47F s47F
s47F s47F s47F
s47F s47F <s47F@environment.gov.au>;
Goodwin, Paula <Paula.Goodwin@environment.gov.au>; Tregurtha, Margaret <Margaret.Tregurtha@environment.gov.au>; Wilson, Helen <Helen.Wilson@environment.gov.au>

Subject: URGENT BRIEFING REQUEST for Minister [DLM=Sensitive]

Hi everyone
Following on from the meeting with the Minister just now (and picking up where we left off last Thursday), we need to develop one pagers to support the Minister's meeting with the PM on Friday, with all one pagers due with the Minister on Wednesday morning. One pagers are required on the following issues, with leads identified alongside each one:

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s47F

s47F

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From: s47F
To: s47F
Cc: s47F ; Tregurtha, James; s47F ; Caruso, Daniel; Sullivan, Sean
Subject: URGENT BRIEFING REQUEST for Minister [DLM=Sensitive]
Date: Monday, 29 January 2018 5:31:21 PM
Attachments: [template for Minister PM briefing.docx](#)

Hi s47F

Please see email below. I mistakenly put James Tregurtha down as the lead for the brief on EPBC Grasslands, when I should have put you down. Sorry about that.

Thanks

s47F

s47F

From: s47F

Sent: Monday, 29 January 2018 5:13 PM

To: Chisholm, James ; Sullivan, Sean ; Bacon, Rachel ; Archer, Brad ; Milnes, Gayle ; Tregurtha, James ; Parry, Rachel ; Bennett, Helen ; s47F ; Edwards, Bruce ; Bover, Travis ; Campbell, Emma ; White, James ; O'Toole, James ; s47F

Cc: Evans, Jo ; Heferen, Rob ; Knudson, Dean ; Cahill, Matt ; s47F ; Caruso, Daniel ; s47F ; s47F ; s47F ; s47F ; s47F s47F , s47F s47F Goodwin, Paula ; Tregurtha, Margaret ; Wilson, Helen

Subject: URGENT BRIEFING REQUEST for Minister [DLM=Sensitive]

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s47F

s47F

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Update on [TOPIC]

What is the issue?

[Dot points:

- *logical, self-explanatory description of what the issue is*
- *this should include key points only and explain the “so what”]*

Where are we up to?

[Dot points:

- *key things that have happened/ not happened*
- *this should include key points only and explain the “so what”]*

What are the next steps?

[Dot points:

- *What needs to happen to achieve what we want*
- *explain what decisions/ actions are required – by Minister/ Government, if any;*
- *cover off on options]*

From: s47F
To: s47F
Subject: FW: template for Minister PM briefing (002) [DLM=Sensitive]
Date: Tuesday, 30 January 2018 2:46:26 PM
Attachments: [template for Minister PM briefing \(002\).docx](#)

s47F and s47F

Very little changes – thanks heaps for the great work on this.

s47F

From: Knudson, Dean

Sent: Tuesday, 30 January 2018 2:26 PM

To: s47F

Cc: s47F Richardson, Geoff

Subject: template for Minister PM briefing (002) [DLM=Sensitive]

Brief on the grasslands for the Minister's meeting with the PM.

Thanks s47F and Geoff for pulling this together. I made minor changes.

EPBC GRASSLANDS**What is the issue?**

- Land holders have raised concerns about the potential for production losses resulting from the protection of native grasslands in the Monaro Region of NSW.
- The Department is making inquiries into an allegation that land holders at Corrowong in NSW sprayed at least 30 hectares of the critically endangered *Natural Temperate Grassland of the South Eastern Highlands* ecological community with herbicide, in contravention of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act).

Where are we up to?

- Contrary to media statements that the grassland is imposing new regulatory requirements on farmers, it has been listed under the EPBC Act since 2000. An updated definition in 2016 reduced the potential regulatory responsibility for farmers on the Monaro.
- The revised definition was part of a comprehensive reassessment in 2016 by the national Threatened Species Scientific Committee that also upgraded the listing from endangered to critically endangered. This was based on data indicating that up to 90% of the community had been lost and large high quality remnant patches are very rare. The grassland provides habitat for 20 nationally threatened species and for other declining native species.
- Most landholders in the region do not need to be assessed under the EPBC Act because either: they do not have native grassland on their property, particularly of the size and quality required to meet the EPBC definition; or ongoing grazing is a continuing use that predates the EPBC Act and is therefore exempt (on the Monaro, most farming involves long term grazing); or typical changes in grazing practices would not have a significant impact.
- Since listing of the grassland in 2000, a large number of government grants have been provided to assist with common threats to the grassland and farming, particularly weeds.

s37(1)(a), s47E(d)

What are the next steps?

- The Department is working with NSW Local Land Services and agricultural organisations such as the National Farmers' Federation (NFF) to ensure that NSW landholders are aware of their responsibilities under the EPBC Act.
- In recent discussions with the Department, the NFF have indicated they are considering submitting a public nomination to request the grassland re-assessed by the Threatened Species Scientific Committee. The Department is unaware of any evidence to support a new assessment at this time.
- The Department will continue to engage with the land owner to resolve the compliance matter, consistent with the Department's Compliance and Enforcement Policy.

Following on from the meeting with the Minister just now (and picking up where we left off last Thursday), we need to develop one pagers to support the Minister's meeting with the PM on Friday, with all one pagers due with the Minister on Wednesday morning. One pagers are required on the following issues, with leads identified alongside each one:

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Thanks very much

s47F

s47F

Executive Officer to the Secretary
Department of the Environment and Energy

s47F

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EPBC GRASSLANDS

What is the issue?

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- The Department is making inquiries into an allegation that land holders at Corrowong in NSW sprayed at least 30 hectares of the *Natural Temperate Grassland of the South Eastern Highlands* ecological community with herbicide, in contravention of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act).

Where are we up to?

- Contrary to media statements that the grassland is imposing new regulatory requirements on farmers, it has been listed under the EPBC Act since 2000. An updated definition in 2016 reduced the potential regulatory responsibility for farmers on the Monaro.
- The revised definition was part of a comprehensive reassessment by the national Threatened Species Scientific Committee that also upgraded the listing from endangered to critically endangered in 2016. This was based on data indicating that up to 90% of the community had been lost and large high quality remnants are very rare. The grassland provides habitat for 20 nationally threatened species and for other declining native species.
- Most landholders in the region do not need to be assessed under the EPBC Act because either: they do not have native grassland on their property, particularly of the size and quality required to meet the EPBC definition; or ongoing grazing is a continuing use that is exempt from EPBC Act consideration (on the Monaro most farming activities involve long term grazing); or typical changes in grazing practices would not have a significant impact.
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s37(1)(a), s47E(d)

What are the next steps?

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- The Department will continue to engage with the land owner to resolve the compliance matter, consistent with the Department's Compliance and Enforcement Policy.

From: s47F
To: s47F
Cc: s47F; [Geoff Richardson](#); s47F; s47F
Subject: Re: Minister - PM briefing - Grassland EC [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]
Date: Tuesday, 30 January 2018 12:33:23 PM
Attachments: [template for Minister PM briefing.docx](#)

Thanks ^{s47F} Geoff and I have worked on the points about the listing and suggested a couple of other additions in yellow.

Cheers

s47F

From: s47F
Sent: Tuesday, 30 January 2018 11:39 AM
To: s47F
Cc: s47F; Richardson, Geoff
Subject: Minister - PM briefing - Grassland EC [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Hi ^{s47F}

See our revised points attached. Can you please drop your input into this document and send it back asap.

Happy to discuss,

^{s47F}

Senior Compliance Officer | Compliance Section

Office of Compliance
Department of the Environment and Energy
GPO Box 787 Canberra ACT 2601

s47F

EPBC GRASSLANDS

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- Since listing of the grassland in 2000, a large number of government grants have been provided to assist with common threats to the grassland and farming, particularly weeds.

s37(1)(a), s47E(d)

What are the next steps?

- The Department will continue to engage with the land owner to resolve the compliance matter, consistent with the Department's Compliance and Enforcement Policy.
- [suggest point here related to NFF/farmer outreach efforts]
- In recent discussions with the Department, the NFF have indicated they are considering submitting a public nomination to have the grassland re-assessed. The Department is unaware of any evidence to support a new assessment at this time.

From: s47F
To: s34(3)
Subject: s34(3)
Date: Wednesday, 25 March 2020 4:39:54 PM
Attachments: s34(3)

PROTECTED

Sensitive: Cabinet

From: Edwards, Bruce (Protected)
Sent: Wednesday, 25 March 2020 9:15 AM
To: s47F
Cc: Tregurtha, James (Protected) <James.Tregurtha@protected.environment.gov.au>
Subject: s34(3)
s34(3)

s47F See below an item that may be in scope of your FOI. Although it may be exempted under Cabinet and deliberative rules.

I will phone to discuss.

Bruce

From: Knudson, Dean (Protected)
Sent: Tuesday, 30 January 2018 4:28 PM
To: s47F
Cc: Tregurtha, James (Protected) <James.Tregurtha@protected.environment.gov.au>;
Edwards, Bruce (Protected) <Bruce.Edwards@protected.environment.gov.au>; s47F
Subject: s34(3)
s34(3)

s47F – for Finn’s review.

James/Bruce/s47F - Please note I tried to make the brief easier to use for a meeting with the PM (please keep this in mind for future briefs), and made a few changes to the content that I discussed with Bruce.