From: s47F
To: Knudson, Dean

Cc: \$47F \$47F ; Edwards, Bruce; \$47F Tregurtha, James

s47F

Subject: For Clearance in PE - EPBC Act Reform briefing : URGENT BRIEFING REQUEST for Minister [DLM=Sensitive]

Date: Tuesday, 30 January 2018 3:58:45 PM

Hi Dean

Please note that the Minister's PM Briefing for EPBC Act Reform (as cleared by James A/g FAS) is with you in the PE for clearance/review

Cheers

s47F

Assistant Director - Environment Protection Regulatory Policy Section

Policy and Reform Branch | Department of the Environment and Energy

s47F | GPO BOX 787 Canberra ACT 2600 | Phone s47F

From: s47F

Sent: Monday, 29 January 2018 5:13 PM

To: Chisholm, James < <u>James.Chisholm@environment.gov.au</u>>; Sullivan, Sean

<<u>Sean.Sullivan@environment.gov.au</u>>; Bacon, Rachel <<u>Rachel.Bacon@environment.gov.au</u>>;

Archer, Brad < Brad.Archer@environment.gov.au>; Milnes, Gayle

<<u>Gayle.Milnes@environment.gov.au</u>>; Tregurtha, James

<lames.Tregurtha@environment.gov.au>; Parry, Rachel < Rachel.Parry@environment.gov.au>;

Bennett, Helen < Helen.Bennett@environment.gov.au >; \$47F

s47F Edwards, Bruce <<u>Bruce.Edwards@environment.gov.au</u>>;

Bover, Travis < Travis.Bover@environment.gov.au>; Campbell, Emma

<Emma.Campbell@environment.gov.au>; White, James <James.White@environment.gov.au>;

O'Toole, James ; **\$47F** @environment.gov.au>

Cc: Evans, Jo < <u>Jo. Evans@environment.gov.au</u>>; Heferen, Rob

<<u>Rob.Heferen@environment.gov.au</u>>; Knudson, Dean <<u>Dean.Knudson@environment.gov.au</u>>;

Cahill, Matt < ; \$47F

s47F @environment.gov.au>; Caruso, Daniel < Daniel.Caruso@environment.gov.au>;

s47F @environment.gov.au>; s47F

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\$47F @environment.gov.au>; \$47F @environment.gov.au>;

s47F @environment.gov.au>; s47F

s47F @environment.gov.au>;s47F @environment.gov.au>;

Goodwin, Paula < Paula. Goodwin@environment.gov.au >; Tregurtha, Margaret

<<u>Margaret.Tregurtha@environment.gov.au</u>>; Wilson, Helen

< Helen. Wilson@environment.gov.au>

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

Hi evervone

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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- 16. EPBC grasslands = James Tregurtha

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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

 From:
 Edwards, Bruce

 To:
 Tregurtha, James

 Co:
 \$47F

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: \$47F

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 < <u>James.Chisholm@environment.gov.au</u>>; Sullivan, Sean

<Sean.Sullivan@environment.gov.au>; Bacon, Rachel < Rachel.Bacon@environment.gov.au>;

Archer, Brad < Brad. Archer@environment.gov.au >; Milnes, Gayle

<<u>Gayle.Milnes@environment.gov.au</u>>; Tregurtha, James

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Bennett, Helen < Helen. Bennett@environment.gov.au >; \$47F

s47F Edwards, Bruce < <u>Bruce.Edwards@environment.gov.au</u>>;

Bover, Travis < Travis.Bover@environment.gov.au>; Campbell, Emma

<Emma.Campbell@environment.gov.au>; White, James <James.White@environment.gov.au>;

O'Toole, James ; **\$47F \$47F**

Cc: Evans, Jo < <u>Jo. Evans@environment.gov.au</u>>; Heferen, Rob

<Rob.Heferen@environment.gov.au>; Knudson, Dean <Dean.Knudson@environment.gov.au>;

Cahill, Matt < Matt. Cahill@environment.gov.au >; \$47F

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 Caruso, Daniel < Daniel. Caruso@environment.gov.au >;

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s47F s47F @environment.gov.au>;

Goodwin, Paula < Paula < a href="mailto:Paula.Goodwing.gov.au">Paula < a href="mailto:Paula.Goodwing.gov.

< <u>Margaret.Tregurtha@environment.gov.au</u>>; Wilson, Helen

<Helen.Wilson@environment.gov.au>

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

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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

From: 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

⊣is47F

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 Goodwin, Paula ; Tregurtha, Margaret ; Wilson, Helen

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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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

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

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: \$47F

Cc: \$47F 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.
- With regard to the alleged breach, the Department has received independent expert advice that a contravention has occurred. The land owner disagrees with the expert's conclusions.

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.

From: s47F
To: Dean Knudson

Cc: s47F s47F Geoff Richardson

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

Date: Tuesday, 30 January 2018 1:08:58 PM
Attachments: template for Minister PM briefing (002).docx

Importance: High

Dean

As discussed, attached is a draft PM's meeting brief for the EPBC Grasslands issue for your consideration and clearance.

Brief was prepared jointly between the office of compliance and listings branches.

s47F

From: S47F

Sent: Monday, 29 January 2018 5:31 PM

To: \$47F

Cc: s47F ; Tregurtha, James ; **s47F** Caruso, Daniel ; Sullivan, Sean

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

His47F

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 < <u>James.Chisholm@environment.gov.au</u>>; Sullivan, Sean

<<u>Sean.Sullivan@environment.gov.au</u>>; Bacon, Rachel <<u>Rachel.Bacon@environment.gov.au</u>>;

Archer, Brad < Brad.Archer@environment.gov.au; Milnes, Gayle

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O'Toole, James ; **\$47F \$47F**

Cc: Evans, Jo < <u>Jo. Evans@environment.gov.au</u>>; Heferen, Rob

<<u>Rob.Heferen@environment.gov.au</u>>; Knudson, Dean <<u>Dean.Knudson@environment.gov.au</u>>;

Cahill, Matt < ; \$47F

s47F Caruso, Daniel < <u>Daniel.Caruso@environment.gov.au</u>>;

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Goodwin, Paula < Paula. Goodwin@environment.gov.au >; Tregurtha, Margaret

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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

EPBC GRASSLANDS

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 either: they do not have native grassland on their property, particularly of the size and
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 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.
- 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.
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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 ^{§47F} 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: \$47F

Cc: \$47F Richardson, Geoff

Subject: Minister - PM briefing - Grassland EC [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

His47F

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.
- With regard to the alleged breach, the Department has received independent expert advice that a contravention has occurred. The land owner disagrees with the expert's conclusions.
- This is the first and only EPBC Act investigation into landowner impacts on the grassland.

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

Subject: S34(3)

Date: Wednesday. 25 March 2020 4:39:54 PM

Attachments: \$34(3)

PROTECTED

Sensitive: Cabinet

From: Edwards, Bruce (Protected)

Sent: Wednesday, 25 March 2020 9:15 AM

To: \$47F

Cc: Tregurtha, James (Protected) < James. Tregurtha@protected.environment.gov.au>

Subject: **S**34(3)

s34(3)

\$47F 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: \$47F

Cc: Tregurtha, James (Protected) < <u>James.Tregurtha@protected.environment.gov.au</u>>; Edwards, Bruce (Protected) < <u>Bruce.Edwards@protected.environment.gov.au</u>>; **\$47F**

Subject: \$34(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.