

SUBJECT AFP in the Pacific

- The Government is committed to building stronger connections with Pacific countries.
- The AFP has capability development missions in the South West Pacific s 22(1)(a)(ii) Solomon Islands, s 22(1)(a)(ii)
s 22(1)(a)(ii)
 - These capability programs enable the AFP to continue to provide regional police development assistance with Pacific nations as part of its commitment to promoting the safety and security of the region.
 - s 33(a)(iii)
 - s 33(a)(iii), s 47E(c)

Contact Katherine Van Gorp National Manager Strategy and Performance	Phone s 22(1)(a)(ii)	Date Created 24 June 2022	Date Updated/Reviewed 8 July 2026
Contact Mike Pannett Assistant Commissioner International Command	Phone s 22(1)(a)(ii)	Date Created 24 June 2022	Date Updated/Reviewed 8 July 2026

•

s 33(a)(iii), s 47E(c)

- The AFP has invested in partnerships in the Pacific over many years and is committed to comprehensive policing assistance and partnerships.

Solomon Islands

- AFP and the Royal Solomon Islands Police Force have a strong and enduring partnership.
- In response to civil unrest in Honiara in November 2021, the Solomons' International Assistance Force (SIAF) was established as a police-led response, supported by military components.
- Following a request in March 2022 from the Solomon Islands Prime Minister, Australia has extended our Bilateral Security Treaty assistance to support the Solomon Islands prepare for and host the 2023 Pacific Games [December 2023].

•

s 33(a)(iii), s 47E(c)

- The AFP remains committed to supporting the Royal Solomon Islands Police Force and stands ready to deploy additional resources if and when required.

s 33(a)(iii)

s 33(a)(iii)

- Australia remains the security partner of choice for the Solomon Islands. The AFP has a longstanding partnership with the Royal Solomon Islands Police Force and friendship with the people of Solomon Islands.
- On 24 February 2022, a new Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the AFP, the Solomon Islands Ministry of Police, National Security and Correctional Services and Royal Solomon Islands Police Force in relation to the implementation of the Royal Solomon Islands Police Force and AFP Policing Partnership Program.

Pages 4 through 6 redacted for the following reasons:

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

THE DOCUMENT IS RELEASED BY
THE AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL POLICE
UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 1982



COMMISSIONER
GPO Box 401,
Canberra ACT 2601 Australia
Telephone s 22(1)(a)(ii)
www.afp.gov.au

3 December 2021

The Hon Karen Andrews MP
Minister for Home Affairs
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Cc:	Jessica Reid	Michael Pezzullo
	Michael Phelan	Nicole Rose
	Michael Outram	Mike Burgess

Dear Minister

I am writing to provide you with an update on matters arising over the past week, key issues and anticipated activity for the AFP for the period 4 – 10 December 2021.

Key operational updates

Operation SKYRAY

s 33(a)(iii), s 47E(c) to support the Royal Solomon Islands Police Force (RSIPF), including a New South Wales Police Force contingent (sworn in as AFP Special Members) s 33(a)(iii) The AFP is closely monitoring the situation and planning for further deployments. s 33(a)(iii)

s 33(a)(iii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Page 8 redacted for the following reason:

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

THE DOCUMENT IS RELEASED BY
THE AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL POLICE
UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 1982

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Yours sincerely



Reece P Kershaw APM
Commissioner

THE DOCUMENT IS RELEASED BY
THE AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL POLICE
UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 1982



COMMISSIONER
GPO Box 401,
Canberra ACT 2601 Australia
Telephone s 22(1)(a)(ii)
www.afp.gov.au

7 January 2022

The Hon Karen Andrews MP
Minister for Home Affairs
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Cc: Jessica Reid Michael Pezzullo
Michael Phelan Nicole Rose
Michael Outram Mike Burgess

Dear Minister

I am writing to provide you with an update on matters arising over the past three weeks, key issues and anticipated activity for the AFP for the period 8 - 14 January 2022.

Key operational updates

Operation SKYRAY

Operation SKYRAY has involved the most significant international mobilisation of AFP resources during Commissioner Kershaw's tenure as the AFP Commissioner s 33(a)(iii), s 47E(c) s 33(a)(iii), s 47E(c) providing support to the Royal Solomon Islands Police Force (RSIPF) and is closely monitoring the situation. The AFP is currently planning for adjustments to the contingent posture, whilst ensuring security, order, and the protection of life and critical infrastructure is maintained. s 33(a)(iii)

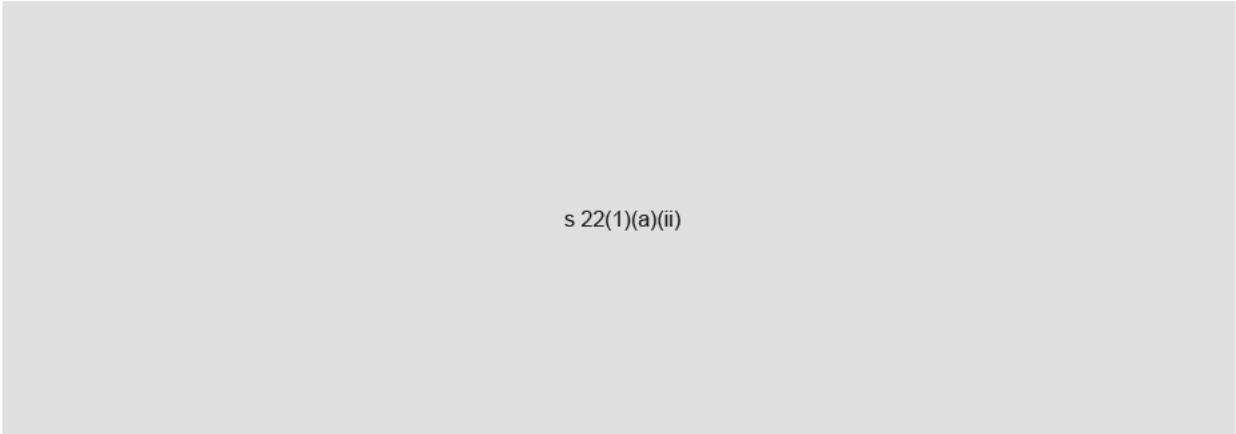
s 33(a)(iii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Page 11 redacted for the following reason:

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

THE DOCUMENT IS RELEASED BY
THE AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL POLICE
UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 1982



s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Yours sincerely



s 47E(c)

Brett Pointing APM
Performing the duties of Commissioner

THE DOCUMENT IS RELEASED BY
THE AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL POLICE
UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 1982



AFP

AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL POLICE

10 December 2021

COMMISSIONER

GPO Box 401,
Canberra ACT 2601 Australia
Telephone - s 22(1)(a)(ii)
www.afp.gov.au

The Hon Karen Andrews MP
Minister for Home Affairs
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

CC:	Jessica Reid	Michael Pezzullo
	Michael Phelan	Nicole Rose
	Michael Outram	Mike Burgess

Dear Minister

I am writing to provide you with an update on matters arising over the past week, key issues and anticipated activity for the AFP for the period 11 - 17 December 2021.

Key operational updates

Operation SKYRAY

Operation SKYRAY has involved the most significant international mobilisation of AFP resources during my tenure as the AFP Commissioner. s 33(a)(iii), s 47E(c)

s 33(a)(iii), s 47E(c) providing support to the Royal Solomon Islands Police Force (RSIPF). We are closely monitoring the situation and planning for further deployments of AFP staff, s 33(a)(iii)

s 33(a)(iii)

s 33(a)(iii)

Pacific Islands Chiefs of Police (PICP) meeting

s 33(a)(iii), s 33(b)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Page 14 redacted for the following reason:

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

THE DOCUMENT IS RELEASED BY
THE AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL POLICE
UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 1982

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Yours sincerely


Reece P Kershaw APM
Commissioner

THE DOCUMENT IS RELEASED BY
THE AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL POLICE
UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 1982



AFP
AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL POLICE

COMMISSIONER
GPO Box 401,
Canberra ACT 2601 Australia
Telephone s 22(1)(a)(ii)
www.afp.gov.au

17 December 2021

The Hon Karen Andrews MP
Minister for Home Affairs
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Cc:	Jessica Reid	Michael Pezzullo
	Michael Phelan	Nicole Rose
	Michael Outram	Mike Burgess

Dear Minister

I am writing to provide you with an update on matters arising over the past week, key issues and anticipated activity for the AFP for the period 18 - 24 December 2021.

Key operational updates

Operation SKYRAY

s 33(a)(iii), s 47E(c) providing support to the Royal Solomon Islands Police Force (RSIPF) and is closely monitoring the situation. The AFP is currently planning for adjustments to the contingent posture, whilst ensuring security, order and the protection of life and critical infrastructure is maintained.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Yours sincerely

s 47E(c)

Ian McCartney APM
Performing the duties of Commissioner



AFP
AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL POLICE

COMMISSIONER
GPO Box 401,
Canberra ACT 2601 Australia
Telephone s 22(1)(a)(ii)
www.afp.gov.au

21 January 2022

The Hon Karen Andrews MP
Minister for Home Affairs
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Cc: Jessica Reid Michael Pezzullo
Michael Phelan Nicole Rose
Michael Outram Mike Burgess

Dear Minister

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

I am writing to provide you with an update on matters arising over the past week, and key issues and anticipated activity for the AFP for the period 22 – 28 January 2022, and outline my key organisational priorities for the year ahead.

Key operational updates

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Operation SKYRAY

s 33(a)(iii), s 47E(c) providing support to the Royal Solomon Islands Police Force and is closely monitoring the situation.

s 33(a)(iii), s 33(b) Mr Ewen McDonald, and I are currently planning to travel to the Solomon Islands for bilateral discussions on 27 January 2022. At this stage, this travel is still to be confirmed pending assessment of recent COVID-19 developments in Honiara.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

THE DOCUMENT IS RELEASED BY
THE AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL POLICE
UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 1982

Yours sincerely



Reece P Kershaw APM
Commissioner



AFP
AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL POLICE

COMMISSIONER
GPO Box 401,
Canberra ACT 2601 Australia
Telephone - s 22(1)(a)(ii)
www.afp.gov.au

26 November 2021

The Hon Karen Andrews MP
Minister for Home Affairs
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Cc:	Jessica Reid	Michael Pezzullo
	Michael Phelan	Nicole Rose
	Michael Outram	Mike Burgess

Dear Minister

I am writing to provide you with an update on matters arising over the past week, key issues and anticipated activity for the AFP for the period 27 November - 3 December 2021.

Key operational updates

Operation SKYRAY

On 25 November 2021, the AFP Incident Coordination Centre was activated to coordinate Operation SKYRAY, the AFP's support to the Australian Government response to the civil unrest in the Solomon Islands. 23 AFP members deployed on 25 November 2021. s 33(a)(iii), s 47E(c)

s 33(a)(iii), s 47E(c) The AFP is closely monitoring the situation and planning for further deployments as required. s 33(a)(iii), s 47E(c)

s 33(a)(iii), s 47E(c) posted to the Solomon Islands under the Royal Solomon Islands Police Force-Australia Policing Partnership Program, remain safe and accounted for.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Page 21 redacted for the following reason:

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

THE DOCUMENT IS RELEASED BY
THE AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL POLICE
UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 1982

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Yours sincerely



Reece P Kershaw APM
Commissioner

THE DOCUMENT IS RELEASED BY
THE AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL POLICE
UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 1982



AFP
AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL POLICE

COMMISSIONER
GPO Box 401,
Canberra ACT 2601 Australia
Telephone +61 8 22(1)(a)(ii)
www.afp.gov.au

4 February 2022

The Hon Karen Andrews MP
Minister for Home Affairs
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Cc: Jessica Reid Michael Pezzullo
Michael Phelan Nicole Rose
Michael Outram Mike Burgess

Dear Minister

I am writing to provide you with an update on matters arising over the past week, and key issues and anticipated activity for the AFP for the period 5 – 11 February 2022.

Key operational updates

Operation SKYRAY

s 33(a)(ii), s 47E(c) providing support to the Royal Solomon Islands Police Force (RSIPF). s 33(a)(iii), s 33(b)
s 33(a)(ii), s 33(b) Ewen McDonald, and I reinforced our continuing commitment to supporting the RSIPF through the Solomon International Assistance Force and the RSIPF and AFP Policing Partnership Program, including support of the SIG's response to the current COVID-19 outbreak.



s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Page 24 redacted for the following reason:

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

THE DOCUMENT IS RELEASED BY
THE AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL POLICE
UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 1982

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Yours sincerely



Reece P Kershaw APM
Commissioner

Pages 26 through 33 redacted for the following reasons:

s 33(a)(iii)

THE DOCUMENT IS RELEASED BY
THE AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL POLICE
UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 1982



Submission

For information

PDMS Ref. Number MS22-000001

To **Minister for Home Affairs**

Subject **Commissioner's Intended Overseas Travel to Solomon Islands
27 – 29 January 2022**

Timing At your convenience, noting intended travel on 27 January 2022

Recommendations

That you:

1. **Note** my intended travel to the Solomon Islands from 27 – 29 January 2022 noted / please discuss

Minister for Home Affairs

Signature.....

Date:...../...../2022

Minister's Comments				
Rejected Yes/No	Timely Yes/No	Relevance ☐ Highly relevant ☐ Significantly relevant ☐ Not relevant	Length ☐ Too long ☐ Right length ☐ Too brief	Quality Poor 1.....2.....3.....4.....5 Excellent Comments:

Key Issues

- As previously foreshadowed with you, and further to the letter of exchange between Prime Minister Morrison and Solomon Islands Prime Minister Sogavare on 21 December 2021 (**Attachment A**), I write to update you on my intended travel to Solomon Islands from 27 - 29 January 2022.
- Approval to travel to the Solomon Islands is yet to be confirmed with the Solomon Islands Government. The AFP is expecting this decision imminently, but noting the proposed travel dates, I did not consider it prudent to await this confirmation before submitting this brief. The AFP will advise your office when the travel is confirmed or otherwise.
- If approval to travel is granted by the Solomon Islands Government, I will travel with the Head of the Office of the Pacific (HOTP), Mr Ewen McDonald, and my Staff Officer, Detective Inspector s 22(1)(a)(ii). We will travel under the *Australia Solomon Islands Bilateral Security Treaty Concerning the Basis for Deployment of Police, Armed Forces, and Other Personnel to Solomon Islands* utilising a Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) flight.

4. s 33(a)(iii)

5. s 22(1)(a)(ii)

6.

Background

7. s 22(1)(a)(ii)
8. On 24 November 2021, as a result of an escalation of civil unrest, the Australian Government received a request from the Solomon Island's Government for assistance under the *Australia Solomon Islands Bilateral Security Treaty Concerning the Basis for Deployment of Police, Armed Forces, and Other Personnel to Solomon Islands*.
9. On 25 November 2021, the AFP deployed 23 specialist operations tactical response members to the Solomon Islands to assist the Royal Solomon Islands Police Force (RSIPF) in stabilising the situation and restore public order.
10. The Australian Federal Police contingent have been well received by the RSIPF and the AFP continues to monitor the situation closely.

Consultation – internal/external

11. The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade have been consulted on the planning for the intended travel and proposed program.

Consultation – Commissioner

12. N/A

Stakeholder implications

13. N/A

Sensitivities

14. N/A

Financial/systems/legislation/deregulation/media implications

15. Due to the nature of the meetings I will be attending, I do not anticipate any live media coverage of my travel to the Solomon Islands.

Attachments

- Attachment A** MC21-152597 PM to Sogavare (Solomon Islands) – Request to extend Australia's assistance

Authorising Officer
Cleared by: Reece Kershaw Commissioner Australian Federal Police Date: 24 January 2022 Mob: s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Contact Officer Joanne Chidgey, Deputy Chief of Staff, Australian Federal Police Ph: s 22(1)(a)(ii)

THE DOCUMENT IS RELEASED BY
THE AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL POLICE
UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 1982

OFFICIAL

QUESTION TIME BRIEF (QTB) AFP BRIEFING – MINISTER FOR HOME AFFAIRS – SOLOMON ISLAND UNREST

QUESTION: What is the AFP doing to support the civil unrest in Honiara, Solomon Islands?

KEY TALKING POINTS:

- The AFP s 33(a)(iii), s 47E(c) to support the Royal Solomon Islands Police Force (RSIPF).
- The AFP has s 33(a)(iii), s 47E(c) under the Royal Solomon Islands Police Force and AFP Policing Partnership Program (RAPPP).
- The AFP is closely monitoring the situation and planning for a further deployment of a New South Wales Police contingent.
- s 33(a)(iii)
- All AFP members s 33(a)(iii), s 47E(c) posted to the Solomon Islands remain accounted for and safe.
- s 33(a)(iii)

If asked: COVID-19 Safety

- AFP personnel deployed to Solomon Islands are fully vaccinated and were Covid-19 tested prior to deployment.

BACKGROUND

- AFP support to the Solomon Islands is a key pillar of Australia's strategic relationship with the Solomon Islands Government and their law and justice sector.
- In July 2021, the AFP in consultation with the Royal Solomon Islands Police Force (RSIPF) introduced a new program called the *Royal Solomon Islands Police Force and AFP Policing Partnership Program (RAPPP) 2021 – 2025*.
- The RAPPP underpins the shared vision and commitment of the Royal Solomon Islands Police Force and AFP Commissioners, to provide a policing capability focused on delivering high quality police operations and services to the Solomon Islands.

OFFICIAL

QUESTION TIME BRIEF (QTB) AFP BRIEFING – MINISTER FOR HOME AFFAIRS – SOLOMON ISLAND UNREST

•

s 33(a)(iii), s 47E(c)

•

s 33(a)(iii), s 47E(c)

Australian Federal Police

Contact: a/Deputy Commissioner Justine Gough

Division: Deputy Commissioner Operations

Date first prepared: 26 November 2021

Originating Source: AFP

Phone: s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Action Officer: AFP Ministerial and Parliamentary Liaison

Date last Updated: 8/07/2026 - 12:25 PM

THE DOCUMENT IS RELEASED BY
THE AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL POLICE
UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 1982

PROTECTED

11 March 2022

The Hon Karen Andrews MP
Minister for Home Affairs
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

CC:	Lachlan McNaughton	Michael Pezzullo
	Michael Phelan	Nicole Rose
	Michael Outram	Mike Burgess

Dear Minister

I am writing to provide you with an update on matters arising over the past week, and key issues and anticipated activity for the AFP for the period 12 – 18 March 2022.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

PROTECTED

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Operation SKYRAY

Through Operation SKYRAY, the AFP is continuing to support the Royal Solomon Islands Police Force (RSIPF) to protect life, key infrastructure, and maintain order in the Solomon Islands. [REDACTED] s 33(a)(iii), s 47E(c) [REDACTED] providing support to the RSIPF. [REDACTED] s 33(a)(iii) [REDACTED] Our training supports the RSIPF enhance their tactical response capabilities, including responses to civil unrest and to combat current and emerging criminal threats.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

PROTECTED

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Yours sincerely

Reece P Kershaw APM
Commissioner

PROTECTED