

**From:** s22  
**To:**  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** RE: Talking points [SEC=PROTECTED]  
**Date:** Wednesday, 28 June 2023 5:50:58 PM  
**Attachments:** [FINAL space messaging.docx](#)

---

Thanks s22 .  
Copying in s22 to this thread.  
s22 | Acting Deputy Head

**Australian Space Agency**

s22

s22 [@space.gov.au](mailto:s22@space.gov.au)

**My EA is** s22

[@space.gov.au](mailto:s22@space.gov.au)

**PROTECTED**

---

**From:** s22 [@industry.gov.au](mailto:s22@industry.gov.au)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 28 June 2023 5:49 PM  
**To:** s22 [@space.gov.au](mailto:s22@space.gov.au); s22 [@space.gov.au](mailto:s22@space.gov.au); s22 [@space.gov.au](mailto:s22@space.gov.au)  
**Cc:** s22 [@industry.gov.au](mailto:s22@industry.gov.au); s22 [@industry.gov.au](mailto:s22@industry.gov.au)  
s22 [@industry.gov.au](mailto:s22@industry.gov.au)  
**Subject:** Talking points [SEC=PROTECTED]

**PROTECTED**

Hi all,  
Final key messaging we are using at MO level for tomorrow's announcement is attached. We are sharing this with other relevant Ministerial offices this evening, so not for distribution outside DISR at this stage please.

Thanks,  
s22

**Adviser | Office of the Hon Ed Husic MP  
Minister for Industry and Science**

s22 [@industry.gov.au](mailto:s22@industry.gov.au)

**PROTECTED**

### Key Messaging Space NSMEO announcement

- The Albanese Government has determined not to proceed with the Morrison government's National Space Mission for Earth Observation (NSMEO) program.
- The Morrison government announced this program in March 2022, just weeks out of from the last election.
- It was envisaged the program would build four satellites to be launched between 2028 and 2033 to assist with Australian access to global earth observation data.
- We have re-prioritised \$452.4 million of the program over the forward estimates to assist with budget repair. The cost over the life of the program was estimated to be over a billion dollars.
- Since coming to government, we've made tough choices to find \$40bn in budget savings and reprioritisations to improve the budget. This has been achieved while also providing responsible cost of living relief, investing in a stronger and more secure economy, and funding the critical services Australians rely on.
- In making this decision it is important to emphasise: no tenders have been put to market and no commercial contracts have been signed.
- Earth observation data is currently provided by international partners. We will continue with these arrangements to meet current and future needs.
- The government continues to support Australia's space sector with significant investments across a range of portfolios, including \$34.2m in core funding for the Australian Space Agency.
- The sector will be supported by the \$15 billion National Reconstruction Fund and can apply for funding through the key priority areas of enabling technologies, defence, and transport.
- Smaller companies in the sector can apply for growth funding and advice under the government's new \$392m Industry Growth Program, announced at the recent budget.
- Impacted staff and prospective NSMEO partners have been informed of the government's decision.
- Around 30 contractors and APS staff will be impacted. All APS staff will be re-assigned, and all contracted staff will have their current contracts honoured.

### What is the NSMEO?

This program was designed to provide Australia with earth observation data with the launch of four satellites in the 2030s.

The program was to be led by the Australian Space Agency, in partnership with the defence department, the CSIRO, the Bureau of Meteorology and Geoscience Australia.

**What's the purpose?**

It will provide earth observation data. Current arrangements with international partners will continue to provide us with high quality earth observation data.

**How do we currently get earth observational data?**

Current arrangements with international partners will continue to provide us with high quality earth observation data.

**When was it announced?**

This program was commissioned in the final weeks of the Morrison government – March 2022. No commercial contracts have been signed.

**Where will the jobs losses be?**

They will be the Australian Space Agency in Adelaide and in Geoscience Australia in Canberra. While we are expecting less than 10 job losses around 30 jobs will be impacted. The majority will be redeployed within the public service.

**This program was meant to jobs in the sector – what are you doing to grow the sector?**

In the last budget we gave the Australian Space Agency \$34 million in core funding, putting it on a sustainable path into the future. Space companies can apply for funding through the \$15 billion National Reconstruction Fund and the \$392 million Industry Growth Program.

**Will any companies lose contracts?**

Tender was not open; no contracts were issued. As the sector grows, space companies can apply for funding through the National Reconstruction Fund and the Industry Growth Program.

**From:** s22  
**To:**  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** RE: Readout from call with National Space Council [SEC=PROTECTED]  
**Date:** Wednesday, 28 June 2023 12:59:04 PM

---

Hi s22

The timing didn't work, as I was getting briefed on the plan for tomorrow while the call was made. It was important the call was made due to the lateness of the hour.

s22

**PROTECTED**

---

**From:** s22 @industry.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 27 June 2023 10:42 PM  
**To:** s22 @industry.gov.au>; s22  
s22 @industry.gov.au>  
**Cc:** s22 @industry.gov.au>; s22  
s22 @industry.gov.au>; s22 @industry.gov.au>  
**Subject:** Re: Readout from call with National Space Council [SEC=PROTECTED]

**PROTECTED**

Thanks s22 . Sounds like you were not on the call? I'd understood you'd be on as an observer.  
s22

[industry.gov.au](mailto:industry.gov.au)

Office of Hon. Ed Husic  
Minister for Industry and Science

---

**From:** s22 @industry.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 28, 2023 12:39:50 PM  
**To:** s22 @industry.gov.au>; s22  
s22 @industry.gov.au>  
**Cc:** s22 @industry.gov.au>; s22  
s22 @industry.gov.au>; s22 @industry.gov.au>  
**Subject:** Readout from call with National Space Council [SEC=PROTECTED, CAVEAT=SH:CABINET]

**PROTECTED//CABINET**

Hi s22 ,

As you're aware, DHOM called National Space Council this evening to communicate the decision regarding the National Space Mission for Earth Observation (NSMEO) program. I understand it was a quick call.

Key points:

- Reiterated this was close hold which NSpC understood and agreed to.
- They were not totally surprised given the press they had read.
- Thanked Australia for providing advanced notice.
- Understood the realities of budget decisions.
- Asked for more details post the announcement.

Many thanks,

s22

Minister Counsellor - Industry, Science and Resources | USA and Canada  
Embassy of Australia | Washington DC s22

**PROTECTED//CABINET**

From: s22  
 To:  
 Cc:  
 Subject: RE: Announcement timing [SEC-PROTECTED]  
 Date: Wednesday, 28 June 2023 6:51:48 AM

---

Thanks s22 . Will do.

PROTECTED

From: s22 @industry.gov.au>  
 Sent: Tuesday, 27 June 2023 4:50 PM  
 To: s22 @industry.gov.au>; s22  
 s22 @industry.gov.au>  
 Cc: s22 @space.gov.au>; s22  
 s22 @industry.gov.au>; s22 @industry.gov.au>  
 Subject: Re: Announcement timing [SEC-PROTECTED]

PROTECTED

Still working on confirming numbers s22 . So please hold off.

Thanks

s22

s22

[industry.gov.au](mailto:industry.gov.au)

Office of Hon. Ed Husic  
 Minister for Industry and Science

---

From: s22 [industry.gov.au](mailto:industry.gov.au)>  
 Sent: Wednesday, June 28, 2023 6:15:19 AM  
 To: s22 @industry.gov.au>  
 Cc: s22 @industry.gov.au>; s22  
 s22 @space.gov.au>; s22 @industry.gov.au>; s22  
 s22 @industry.gov.au>  
 Subject: RE: Announcement timing [SEC-PROTECTED]

Morning s22

A short update from post.

On the update, we have cancelled the meetings with NASA and NSpC. USGS is in a holding pattern.

I have let each know that I would get back to them regarding rescheduling the briefing as soon as practical. USGS has flagged availability for tomorrow afternoon US time. NASA's AU desk will coordinate any follow up briefing them.

S 47C

With that in mind, we would like to make a request. Our strong feeling is that we need to brief NSpC this evening. A rep from NSpC has indicated they can be available this evening for a short discussion but will be unavailable from 630pm until later in the evening. Can the office let me know if they support a short update being provided to NSpC this evening, preferably before 630pm (830am AU time) if possible.

As always – happy to get on a call to discuss.

s22

---

PROTECTED

**From:** s22  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 27 June 2023 9:04 AM  
**To:** s22 <[s22@industry.gov.au](mailto:s22@industry.gov.au)>  
**Cc:** s22 <[s22@industry.gov.au](mailto:s22@industry.gov.au)>; s22 <[s22@space.gov.au](mailto:s22@space.gov.au)>; s22 <[s22@industry.gov.au](mailto:s22@industry.gov.au)>; s22 <[s22@industry.gov.au](mailto:s22@industry.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** RE: Announcement timing [SEC=PROTECTED]

Thanks s22

We will cancel those meetings the NSpC and NASA, and put USGS into a holding pattern as we were yet to set a time with them.

As discussed, the earliest we can speak with NSpC as the primary contact point will be 2pm Wednesday US time.

S 47C

Thanks  
s22

---

PROTECTED

**From:** s22 <[s22@industry.gov.au](mailto:s22@industry.gov.au)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 27 June 2023 8:20 AM  
**To:** s22 <[s22@industry.gov.au](mailto:s22@industry.gov.au)>  
**Cc:** s22 <[s22@industry.gov.au](mailto:s22@industry.gov.au)>; s22 <[s22@space.gov.au](mailto:s22@space.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** Announcement timing [SEC=PROTECTED]

PROTECTED

Hi s22

s33

We will advise next steps first thing in our morning, so please hold until you hear from us.

Thanks,  
s22

**Adviser | Office of the Hon Ed Husic MP**  
**Minister for Industry and Science**

s22

[@industry.gov.au](mailto:industry@industry.gov.au)

PROTECTED

**From:** s22  
**To:**  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** RE: Space timing [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]  
**Date:** Tuesday, 27 June 2023 10:00:26 AM

---

s22

The amount to s47C , with additional ongoing costs for operations. Over the full length of the program this amounted to a bit over \$1 billion AUD. None of that was going to the US of course – the program was to build and operate the satellites and provide the data service back to the US.

Note, s47C

s22 | Acting Deputy Head

**Australian Space Agency**

s22

s22

[@space.gov.au](mailto:space.gov.au)

**My EA is** s22

[@space.gov.au](mailto:space.gov.au)

---

**From:** s22 @industry.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 27 June 2023 9:43 AM  
**To:** s22 @space.gov.au>; s22  
s22 @space.gov.au>; s22 @industry.gov.au>  
**Cc:** s22 @industry.gov.au>; s22  
s22 @space.gov.au>  
**Subject:** RE: Space timing [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

Hi All,

Thanks for the info below.

Can I confirm how much destined to support our collaboration with the US? I am seeking to understand how much we committed which would form a gap in NASA/USGS budget.

Thanks,

s22

**OFFICIAL: Sensitive**

---

**From:** s22 @space.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Monday, 26 June 2023 6:59 PM  
**To:** s22 @space.gov.au>; s22  
s22 @industry.gov.au>; s22 @industry.gov.au>  
**Cc:** s22 @industry.gov.au>; s22  
s22 @space.gov.au>  
**Subject:** RE: Space timing [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]  
s47C

This is continuing.

This has not yet been announced so please do not discuss with the US.

Total NSMEO funding also included other Australian activities, so the full 1.16 billion was to be spent across several activities including the US SCR program.

s22 | Acting Deputy Head

**Australian Space Agency**

s22

s22

[@space.gov.au](mailto:space.gov.au)



My EA is s22

@space.gov.au

**OFFICIAL: Sensitive**

---

**From:** s22 <space.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 27 June 2023 8:53 AM  
**To:** s22 <@industry.gov.au>; s22 <@industry.gov.au>; s22 <@space.gov.au>  
**Cc:** s22 <@industry.gov.au>; s22 <@space.gov.au>  
**Subject:** Re: Space timing [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

**OFFICIAL: Sensitive**

s47C

. s22 , please have your team clarify the number

---

**From:** s22 <@industry.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 27, 2023 8:19:24 AM  
**To:** s22 <@industry.gov.au>; s22 <@space.gov.au>  
**Cc:** s22 <@industry.gov.au>; s22 <@space.gov.au>; s22 <@space.gov.au>  
**Subject:** RE: Space timing [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]  
 Hi s22

The attached email from s22 addresses your first question.

On your second question, the exact figure (according to when this was first announced in March 2022) is \$1.16 billion to 2038-39. But in a lot of talking points both then and since it has been rounded to \$1.2 billion.

s22

**OFFICIAL: Sensitive**

---

**From:** s22 <@industry.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 27 June 2023 8:41 AM  
**To:** s22 <@industry.gov.au>; s22 <@space.gov.au>  
**Cc:** s22 <@industry.gov.au>; s22 <@space.gov.au>; s22 <@space.gov.au>  
**Subject:** Re: Space timing [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

**OFFICIAL: Sensitive**

Thanks s22

A couple of immediate questions:

- We discuss a \$10 billion investment in space. Do we have a breakdown of that investment?
- What is the total amount We originally committed over the near and long term for NSMEO. I have heard multiple numbers but would like confirmation. Is it \$1.2 billion?

s22

---

**From:** s22 <@industry.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 26, 2023 6:23:38 PM  
**To:** s22 <@industry.gov.au>; s22 <@space.gov.au>  
**Cc:** s22 <@industry.gov.au>; s22 <@space.gov.au>; s22 <@space.gov.au>  
**Subject:** RE: Space timing [SEC=PROTECTED]

Hi s22

Attached are the DISR talking points s22 team prepared, as well as the higher level key messages the Minister will use. There may be further changes to the latter document later this morning which I'm happy to share, but in the interest of time this gives you the general narrative we'll use domestically.

I have also attached the more detailed answers s22 provided to you previously via email. Happy to discuss.

s22

**Adviser | Office of the Hon Ed Husic MP  
Minister for Industry and Science**

s22

[@industry.gov.au](mailto:industry.gov.au)

**PROTECTED**

---

**From:** s22 [@industry.gov.au](mailto:industry.gov.au)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 27 June 2023 7:33 AM  
**To:** s22 [@space.gov.au](mailto:space.gov.au)>; s22 [@industry.gov.au](mailto:industry.gov.au)>  
**Cc:** s22 [@industry.gov.au](mailto:industry.gov.au)>; s22  
 2; s22 [@space.gov.au](mailto:space.gov.au)>; s22 [@space.gov.au](mailto:space.gov.au)>

**Subject:** RE: Space timing [~~SEC=PROTECTED~~]

Good Morning All,

- We are speaking with s22 and her leadership team from 1230-1245 pm – it was the only time available that matched diaries. I suspect NASA will come back with questions post the briefing.
- NSpC is scheduled for 1pm – at the White House. We are meeting with s22 s22 was unavailable on short notice.
- USGS I am still trying to secure a time with. I have an email out with their Australia desk as they've been uncontactable via phone.

We will need speaking points in the next hour or so if we are to review and seek any necessary feedback. Appreciate guidance.

Thanks,

s22

**PROTECTED**

---

**From:** s22 [@space.gov.au](mailto:space.gov.au)>  
**Sent:** Monday, 26 June 2023 4:59 PM  
**To:** s22 [@industry.gov.au](mailto:industry.gov.au)>; s22  
 s22 [@industry.gov.au](mailto:industry.gov.au)>  
**Cc:** s22 s22 [@industry.gov.au](mailto:industry.gov.au)>; s22  
[gov.au](mailto:gov.au)>

**Subject:** Re: Space timing [~~SEC=PROTECTED~~]

**PROTECTED**

Thank you s22 If you could let us know the timing of the meetings and which officers they are with that would be helpful tracking the time table to public release.

Cheers

s22

---

**From:** s22 [@industry.gov.au](mailto:industry.gov.au)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 27, 2023 12:35 am  
**To:** s22 [@industry.gov.au](mailto:industry.gov.au)>; s22 [@space.gov.au](mailto:space.gov.au)>

**Cc:** s22 <[s22@industry.gov.au](mailto:s22@industry.gov.au)>

**Subject:** RE: Space timing [SEC=PROTECTED]

Good Morning All,

A quick update, we have secured a time for NSpC, and I am in the process of booking times for NASA and USGS.

s22 wanted to check if we have had any word in the approved speaking points?

Many thanks,

s22

**PROTECTED**

**From:** s22

**Sent:** Friday, 23 June 2023 5:58 PM

**To:** s22 <[s22@industry.gov.au](mailto:s22@industry.gov.au)>; s22 <[s22@space.gov.au](mailto:s22@space.gov.au)>

**Cc:** s22 <[s22@industry.gov.au](mailto:s22@industry.gov.au)>

**Subject:** RE: Space timing [SEC=PROTECTED]

Hi All,

Just a quick update.

I've sent a meeting request to NSpC (s22) for next Tuesday afternoon. I wasn't able to get s22 on the phone today, but have flagged we'd like to confidentially brief them on Australia's space policy settings.

On staging, we are looking to secure a time with NSpC before approaching NASA or USGS. This may mean that NASA and USGS conversations happen by telephone with the constrained timeframes.

Will update as more information comes through.

Appreciate getting the approved TPs through sooner than later – in case we need to ask for more information/clarification.

Thanks,

s22

Minister Counsellor - Industry, Science and Resources | USA and Canada  
Embassy of Australia | Washington DC | s22

**PROTECTED**

**From:** s22 <[s22@industry.gov.au](mailto:s22@industry.gov.au)>

**Sent:** Friday, 23 June 2023 4:54 AM

**To:** s22 <[s22@industry.gov.au](mailto:s22@industry.gov.au)>; s22 <[s22@space.gov.au](mailto:s22@space.gov.au)>

**Subject:** Space timing [SEC=PROTECTED]

**PROTECTED**

Hi s22

s33

Wednesday 28th June (afternoon AU time): MO Husic to brief relevant state government counterparts, caucus colleagues and select media.

Thursday 29th June (mid-morning AU time): public announcement via doorstep, no media release. Agencies to notify staff in parallel. MO Husic to call select space industry stakeholders immediately after announcement is made.

This means Post can begin reaching out to schedule the meetings for next week. We will send cleared TPs to you on Monday AU time so you'll have them ahead of discussions taking place on your Tuesday afternoon.

s22 I'm available on mobile over the weekend if you'd like to discuss any of the above.

Thanks,

s22

Adviser | Office of the Hon Ed Husic MP  
Minister for Industry and Science

**From:** s22  
**To:**  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** RE: Space timing [~~SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive~~]  
**Date:** Tuesday, 27 June 2023 8:50:11 AM  
**Attachments:** s22

---

Hi s22

The attached email from s22 addresses your first question.

On your second question, the exact figure (according to when this was first announced in March 2022) is \$1.16 billion to 2038-39. But in a lot of talking points both then and since it has been rounded to \$1.2 billion.

s22

~~OFFICIAL: Sensitive~~

---

**From:** s22 @industry.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 27 June 2023 8:41 AM  
**To:** s22 @industry.gov.au>; s22 @space.gov.au>  
**Cc:** s22 @industry.gov.au>; s22 @space.gov.au>; s22 @space.gov.au>  
**Subject:** Re: Space timing [~~SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive~~]

~~OFFICIAL: Sensitive~~

Thanks s22

A couple of immediate questions:

- We discuss a \$10 billion investment in space. Do we have a breakdown of that investment?
- What is the total amount We originally committed over the near and long term for NSMEO. I have heard multiple numbers but would like confirmation. Is it \$1.2 billion?

s22

---

**From:** s22 @industry.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 26, 2023 6:23:38 PM  
**To:** s22 @industry.gov.au>; s22 @space.gov.au>  
**Cc:** s22 @industry.gov.au>; s22 @space.gov.au>; s22 @space.gov.au>  
**Subject:** RE: Space timing [~~SEC=PROTECTED~~]

Hi s22

Attached are the DISR talking points s22 team prepared, as well as the higher level key messages the Minister will use. There may be further changes to the latter document later this morning which I'm happy to share, but in the interest of time this gives you the general narrative we'll use domestically.

I have also attached the more detailed answers s22 provided to you previously via email.

Happy to discuss.

s22

**Adviser | Office of the Hon Ed Husic MP  
Minister for Industry and Science**

s22

@industry.gov.au

~~PROTECTED~~

---

**From:** s22 <[s22@industry.gov.au](mailto:s22@industry.gov.au)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 27 June 2023 7:33 AM  
**To:** s22 <[s22@space.gov.au](mailto:s22@space.gov.au)>; s22 <[s22@industry.gov.au](mailto:s22@industry.gov.au)>  
**Cc:** s22 <[s22@industry.gov.au](mailto:s22@industry.gov.au)>; s22 <[s22@space.gov.au](mailto:s22@space.gov.au)>; s22 <[s22@space.gov.au](mailto:s22@space.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** RE: Space timing [SEC=PROTECTED]

Good Morning All,

- We are speaking with s22 and her leadership team from 1230-1245 pm – it was the only time available that matched diaries. I suspect NASA will come back with questions post the briefing.
- NSpC is scheduled for 1pm – at the White House. We are meeting with s22 – s22 was unavailable on short notice.
- USGS I am still trying to secure a time with. I have an email out with their Australia desk as they've been uncontactable via phone.

We will need speaking points in the next hour or so if we are to review and seek any necessary feedback. Appreciate guidance.

Thanks,

s22

**PROTECTED**

**From:** s22 <[s22@space.gov.au](mailto:s22@space.gov.au)>  
**Sent:** Monday, 26 June 2023 4:59 PM  
**To:** s22 <[s22@industry.gov.au](mailto:s22@industry.gov.au)>; s22 <[s22@industry.gov.au](mailto:s22@industry.gov.au)>  
**Cc:** s22 <[s22@industry.gov.au](mailto:s22@industry.gov.au)>; s22 <[s22@space.gov.au](mailto:s22@space.gov.au)>; s22 <[s22@space.gov.au](mailto:s22@space.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** Re: Space timing [SEC=PROTECTED]

**PROTECTED**

Thank you s22 . If you could let us know the timing of the meetings and which officers they are with that would be helpful tracking the time table to public release.

Cheers

s22

**From:** s22 <[s22@industry.gov.au](mailto:s22@industry.gov.au)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 27, 2023 12:35 am  
**To:** s22 <[s22@industry.gov.au](mailto:s22@industry.gov.au)>; s22 <[s22@space.gov.au](mailto:s22@space.gov.au)>  
**Cc:** s22 <[s22@industry.gov.au](mailto:s22@industry.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** RE: Space timing [SEC=PROTECTED]

Good Morning All,

A quick update, we have secured a time for NSpC, and I am in the process of booking times for NASA and USGS.

s22 I wanted to check if we have had any word in the approved speaking points?

Many thanks,

s22

**PROTECTED**

**From:** s22 <[s22@industry.gov.au](mailto:s22@industry.gov.au)>  
**Sent:** Friday, 23 June 2023 5:58 PM  
**To:** s22 <[s22@industry.gov.au](mailto:s22@industry.gov.au)>; s22 <[s22@space.gov.au](mailto:s22@space.gov.au)>  
**Cc:** s22 <[s22@industry.gov.au](mailto:s22@industry.gov.au)>

**Subject:** RE: Space timing-[~~SEC=PROTECTED~~]

Hi All,

Just a quick update.

I've sent a meeting request to NSpC s22 ) for next Tuesday afternoon. I wasn't able to get s22 on the phone today, but have flagged we'd like to confidentially brief them on Australia's space policy settings.

On staging, we are looking to secure a time with NSpC before approaching NASA or USGS. This may mean that NASA and USGS conversations happen by telephone with the constrained timeframes.

Will update as more information comes through.

Appreciate getting the approved TPs through sooner than later – in case we need to ask for more information/clarification.

Thanks,

s22

Minister Counsellor - Industry, Science and Resources | USA and Canada  
Embassy of Australia | Washington DC | s22

**PROTECTED**

**From:** s22 <[industry.gov.au](mailto:industry.gov.au)>

**Sent:** Friday, 23 June 2023 4:54 AM

**To:** s22 <[@industry.gov.au](mailto:@industry.gov.au)>; s22 <[@space.gov.au](mailto:@space.gov.au)>

**Subject:** Space timing[~~SEC=PROTECTED~~]

**PROTECTED**

Hi s22 ,

s33

Wednesday 28th June (AU time): DC Post to notify US system under strict embargo, only those who need to know. Note that it was an express preference from the Minister and PMO that US be notified no earlier than Wednesday AU time, and we have communicated that with the Foreign Minister's Office.

Wednesday 28th June (afternoon AU time): MO Husic to brief relevant state government counterparts, caucus colleagues and select media.

Thursday 29th June (mid-morning AU time): public announcement via doorstep, no media release. Agencies to notify staff in parallel. MO Husic to call select space industry stakeholders immediately after announcement is made.

This means Post can begin reaching out to schedule the meetings for next week. We will send cleared TPs to you on Monday AU time so you'll have them ahead of discussions taking place on your Tuesday afternoon.

s22 I'm available on mobile over the weekend if you'd like to discuss any of the above.

Thanks,

s22

Adviser | Office of the Hon Ed Husic MP  
Minister for Industry and Science

**From:** s22  
**To:**  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** RE: Space timing [SEC=PROTECTED]  
**Date:** Tuesday, 27 June 2023 8:23:44 AM  
**Attachments:** [NSMEO High level TPs DISR.docx](#)  
[Key Messages MO.docx](#)  
[RE NSMEO Announcement SECPROTECTED CAVEATSHCABINET.msg](#)

Hi s22

Attached are the DISR talking points s22 team prepared, as well as the higher level key messages the Minister will use. There may be further changes to the latter document later this morning which I'm happy to share, but in the interest of time this gives you the general narrative we'll use domestically.

I have also attached the more detailed answers s22 provided to you previously via email.

Happy to discuss.

s22

**Adviser | Office of the Hon Ed Husic MP  
Minister for Industry and Science**

s22

[@industry.gov.au](mailto:s22@industry.gov.au)

**PROTECTED**

**From:** s22 @industry.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 27 June 2023 7:33 AM  
**To:** s22 @space.gov.au>; s22 @industry.gov.au>  
**Cc:** s22 @industry.gov.au>; s22 @space.gov.au>; s22 @space.gov.au>  
**Subject:** RE: Space timing [SEC=PROTECTED]

Good Morning All,

- We are speaking with s22 and her leadership team from 1230-1245 pm – it was the only time available that matched diaries. I suspect NASA will come back with questions post the briefing.
- NSpC is scheduled for 1pm – at the White House. We are meeting with s22 – s22 was unavailable on short notice.
- USGS I am still trying to secure a time with. I have an email out with their Australia desk as they've been uncontactable via phone.

We will need speaking points in the next hour or so if we are to review and seek any necessary



feedback. Appreciate guidance.

Thanks,  
s22

**PROTECTED**

---

**From:** s22 <[s22@space.gov.au](mailto:s22@space.gov.au)>  
**Sent:** Monday, 26 June 2023 4:59 PM  
**To:** s22 <[s22@industry.gov.au](mailto:s22@industry.gov.au)>; s22 <[s22@industry.gov.au](mailto:s22@industry.gov.au)>  
**Cc:** s22 <[s22@industry.gov.au](mailto:s22@industry.gov.au)>; s22 <[s22@space.gov.au](mailto:s22@space.gov.au)>; s22 <[s22@space.gov.au](mailto:s22@space.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** Re: Space timing [SEC=PROTECTED]

**PROTECTED**

Thank you s22 . If you could let us know the timing of the meetings and which officers they are with that would be helpful tracking the time table to public release.

Cheers  
s22

---

**From:** s22 <[s22@industry.gov.au](mailto:s22@industry.gov.au)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 27, 2023 12:35 am  
**To:** s22 <[s22@industry.gov.au](mailto:s22@industry.gov.au)>; s22 <[s22@space.gov.au](mailto:s22@space.gov.au)>  
**Cc:** s22 <[s22@industry.gov.au](mailto:s22@industry.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** RE: Space timing [SEC=PROTECTED]

Good Morning All,

A quick update, we have secured a time for NSpC, and I am in the process of booking times for NASA and USGS.

s22 I wanted to check if we have had any word in the approved speaking points?

Many thanks,  
s22

**PROTECTED**

---

**From:** s22  
**Sent:** Friday, 23 June 2023 5:58 PM  
**To:** s22 <[s22@industry.gov.au](mailto:s22@industry.gov.au)>; s22 <[s22@space.gov.au](mailto:s22@space.gov.au)>  
**Cc:** s22 <[s22@industry.gov.au](mailto:s22@industry.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** RE: Space timing [SEC=PROTECTED]

Hi All,

Just a quick update.

I've sent a meeting request to NSpC (s22) for next Tuesday afternoon. I wasn't able to get s22 on the phone today, but have flagged we'd like to confidentially brief them on Australia's space policy settings.

On staging, we are looking to secure a time with NSpC before approaching NASA or USGS. This may mean that NASA and USGS conversations happen by telephone with the constrained timeframes.

Will update as more information comes through.

Appreciate getting the approved TPs through sooner than later – in case we need to ask for more information/clarification.

Thanks,

s22

Minister Counsellor - Industry, Science and Resources | USA and Canada  
Embassy of Australia | Washington DC s22

**PROTECTED**

---

**From:** s22 <[s22@industry.gov.au](mailto:s22@industry.gov.au)>  
**Sent:** Friday, 23 June 2023 4:54 AM  
**To:** s22 <[s22@industry.gov.au](mailto:s22@industry.gov.au)>; s22 <[s22@space.gov.au](mailto:s22@space.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** Space timing[~~SEC=PROTECTED~~]

**PROTECTED**

Hi s22,

s33

Wednesday 28th June (afternoon AU time): MO Husic to brief relevant state government counterparts, caucus colleagues and select media.

Thursday 29th June (mid-morning AU time): public announcement via doorstep, no media release. Agencies to notify staff in parallel. MO Husic to call select space industry stakeholders immediately after announcement is made.

This means Post can begin reaching out to schedule the meetings for next week. We will send cleared TPs to you on Monday AU time so you'll have them ahead of discussions taking place on

your Tuesday afternoon.

s22 - I'm available on mobile over the weekend if you'd like to discuss any of the above.

Thanks,

s22

Adviser | Office of the Hon Ed Husic MP  
Minister for Industry and Science

## National Space Mission for Earth Observation – Key Messages

### DOMESTIC AUDIENCE

#### **Government's Decision**

1. The Government has decided to not continue the National Space Mission for Earth Observation (NSMEO).
2. Government has reassessed its industry policies to ensure they are coherent and balanced across the industry portfolio. This realignment work seeks to bring balance to the levels of space industry investment previously made.
  - a. Realignment of programs under the industry portfolio is an important and sensible initiative to modernise the framework under which industry receives support in Australia and make it easier for industry to navigate.
  - b. An important part of this realignment is helping to provide funding for key science agencies which had not been prioritised by previous governments.
  - c. This realignment also reinvests back into the Australian Space Agency, including securing resources to continue delivering regulatory and policy functions, and to inspire young people to consider a career in STEM.

#### **Government will continue to create the right conditions for growth in the space industry**

3. The Government is investing more than \$10 billion in space over the forward estimates and beyond.
4. The space sector has solid momentum across the nation, with significant investment across the pipeline from governments at various levels, as well as from universities, research organisations and the private sector.
5. The 2023-24 Budget delivers new funding and confirms continuing space programs:
  - a. \$34.2 million over 3 years from 2023–24 for A Sustainable Australian Space Agency, which will put the Agency on a secure baseline of funding, ensuring core government work related to the Australian space sector can continue.
  - b. \$12.5 million over 5 years from 2021-22 (and \$0.3 million per year ongoing) to enhance the regulation of space activities is retained to amend existing space activities regulation, remove duplication to encourage US space launch from Australia, and deliver a decadal plan for new space activities. It affirms there is no cost recovery of fees for authorisations under the Act.
  - c. The \$3.2 million Student Challenge is retained without impact to funding.
  - d. An investigation into an Australian Human Spaceflight Regulatory Framework is retained without impact to funding.
6. The International Space Investment India Projects program will continue, investing more than \$20 million over 4 years into the industry – for Australian businesses and research

PROTECTED CABINET

organisations to conduct joint projects and build closer relationships with the Indian space sector across areas of mutual priority.

7. And the flagship Moon to Mars initiative will continue. This includes the \$50 million Trailblazer program that will send an Australian rover to the moon as early as 2026 and the Demonstrator program that will support Australian businesses and researchers to develop and launch space products or projects.

**There are other avenues for industry support that will benefit the space industry**

8. The \$15 billion National Reconstruction Fund (NRF) will provide future co-investment opportunities for the space sector.
  - a. Space is an important contributor to the NRF priority areas, such as value-adding in resources, value-adding in agriculture, forestry and fisheries, transport, and defence capabilities.
9. Many nascent space companies are still some way from being ready for NRF investment, but the new \$392 million Industry Growth Program announced in the Budget will help close that gap.
  - a. This program will offer advice and grants to start-ups and small-to-medium businesses, to help them commercialise their ideas and grow.
  - b. Via grants and mentorship, the program will expand the pipeline of investment-ready projects for the National Reconstruction Fund to consider in coming years.
  - c. This end-to-end approach will provide a clear pathway for our entrepreneurs to turn their ideas into thriving businesses in Australia instead of overseas.
10. Space is a cross-cutting capability that feeds into broader government priorities around quantum, artificial intelligence, robotics and automation.
  - a. The Government is developing strategies in these areas that will lift the advanced technology sector in Australia more broadly. The space industry will benefit as an early adopter of advanced technology and advanced manufacturing
  - b. Satellite and advanced aerospace technologies are listed as critical technologies in the national interest
11. The Buy Australian Plan election commitment aims to make more Government procurement opportunities available to Australian businesses. The Australian Government spends around \$70 billion annually on goods and services in sectors such as ICT, defence and infrastructure; areas where space has capabilities and could value-add.
  - a. The delivery of the Plan will improve opportunities for businesses and workers in the space sector to participate in Commonwealth procurement and contracts.

**Government will ensure Australians have access to the satellite Earth observation data they need**

12. Satellite Earth observation data is critical to Australian communities, to the economy and to protection of our environment.

PROTECTED CABINET

PROTECTED CABINET

- a. It is used to boost productivity, supports communities during difficult times such as natural disasters, helps us manage and protect the environment, informs policy making, and underpins the delivery of government programs.
13. Agencies including Geoscience Australia, CSIRO and the Bureau of Meteorology engage with international partners, commercial providers and the Australian EO community to ensure Australians have sustained access to the trusted land remote sensing data they require for our unique needs.
  14. We will be reaching out to the Australian EO community to refresh our understanding of the nation's data needs and re-assessing the avenues for securing access to that data.

## INTERNATIONAL AUDIENCE

### **Government's Decision**

15. Australia and the United States are the closest of partners across a broad range of areas. However, considering a challenging economic and fiscal environment, the Government has had to make a very difficult decision to not continue the Australian contribution to the National Space Mission for Earth Observation (NSMEO) program.
16. NSMEO was an Australian contribution to the United States' Sustainable Land Imaging (SLI) program. SLI is a critical Earth observation program delivered by United States Geological Survey (USGS) and NASA.
17. The decision is due to be announced [tomorrow, Australia time]
  - a. we have shared the information with you in advance to allow us to discuss but we ask that you hold it close, including among your staff in the United States and Australia, until it has been publicly released.

### **Australia is modernising how it supports industry**

18. Australia, like all leading developed nations, is reassessing our industry policies to ensure they are fit for purpose for the times we live in.
19. Our support framework for industry was not cohesive. It needed to be modernised to match the global shifts in industry policy by other nations, and in response to the pressure on the Australian economy to meet increasingly diversified global supply chains.
20. This means changes in how we support Australian space, manufacturing, agriculture, defence, and technology industries. This includes how we support industry growth alongside the launch of the \$15 billion National Reconstruction Fund (NRF).

### **Australia remains a strong partner in space and science**

21. Terminating NSMEO does not represent a diminution of Australia's commitment to working internationally with key partners to realise the potential of space capabilities to the mutual benefit.
  - a. in a constrained domestic fiscal context, it reflects a necessary streamlining and simplification of internal funding mechanisms to offer best value to the Australian taxpayer while remaining focused on policy objectives.

PROTECTED CABINET

PROTECTED CABINET

22. The \$15 billion NRF will provide future co-investment opportunities for the space sector. Space projects will also continue to be supported through dedicated bilateral programs including the Moon to Mars initiative and International Space Investment India Projects program.
23. We will continue to support global efforts to observe the Earth from space for the benefit of communities, businesses and the environment including joint efforts to tackle climate change
  - a. We remain strongly committed to our partnership with the United States, and USGS and NASA.
  - b. We thank them sincerely for the support they have provided to NSMEO, and for inviting us to contribute to the US's SLI program
  - c. We appreciate this likely poses challenges with Congress on appropriations and complicates your planning.
  - d. We will continue to contribute to our partners' programs, including through providing ground station services, supporting quality assurance of satellite data, and collaborating on new scientific and data analytics techniques to maximise the value of satellite data. We welcome the opportunity to discuss and refine our collaborative activities considering this news
  - e. We will also continue as active and engaged contributors to multilateral forums, such as the International Committee on Earth Observation Satellites, in which we work so closely together to provide leadership to the international community
  - f. Our commitment to the global project to build the world's largest and most capable radio telescopes, the Square Kilometre Array, remains unchanged.
24. Australia will continue to support the US Artemis program, which will return humans to the moon, including the first female and person of colour on the moon.
  - a. The Agency will coordinate the wide range of activity across the Australian space sector that supports Artemis, including the AUD 50 million Trailblazer program, which will land an Australian built rover on the moon as early as 2026.
25. We have also agreed in-principle on a Technology Safeguards Agreement with the United States and committed to host a NASA Lunar Exploration Ground Station in Australia – two significant steps to expand civil space cooperation and economic opportunity between our two countries.

**Moving Forward (*if international partners get advanced notice*)**

26. We understand you will likely need time to consider the impact of this decision; but we are keen to continue the discussion on how you re-shape this program in the near term, including the impact on your staff and your disclosure obligations to Congress
  - a. and it is in neither of our interests that this decision reflects badly on the Alliance.

**If asked**

PROTECTED CABINET

PROTECTED-CABINET

*What is the size of the US' investment in Earth observation compared to Australia's contribution?*

The United States' Earth observation program is spread across three agencies - NASA, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and United States Geological Survey (USGS) – and has an estimated annual value of approximately \$4bn USD.

In comparison, Australia's contribution is made primarily by Geoscience Australia and CSIRO and consists of ground station services, calibration/validation ground sites and expertise, and data management services and software. Total cost of Australia's contribution is less than \$20 m AUD annually.

*What was NSMEO*

The National Space Mission for Earth Observation was an industry-delivered Australian satellite program with the Australian Government as an anchor customer which aimed to launch two hyperspectral smallsats every two years from 2027.

It was designed to dovetail into the United States Geological Survey's Space Land Imaging program, which provides global data from space that is used for climate change monitoring, environmental assessments, disaster preparedness and response, and national security.

PROTECTED-CABINET



## Key Messaging

- This is a globally sensitive time for the economies across Western democracies with rising inflation and interest rates.
- Since coming to government we've had to make some tough decisions to repair the budget while still investing in revitalising manufacturing, cheaper childcare and a stronger Medicare system.
- The government has decided not to proceed with the National Space Mission for Earth Observation Program (NSMEO).
- This decision will contribute to budget repair.
- This government recognises that the space sector is important.
- The government continues to invest \$10 billion in space across several programs. In the last budget we gave the Australian Space Agency \$34 million in ongoing funding putting it on a sustainable path into the future.
- The sector will be supported by the \$15 billion National Reconstruction Fund and can apply through the key priority areas of enabling technologies, defence, and transport.
- We acknowledge there will be some job losses – up to twelve people, but we are actively looking to redeploy these staff into other public sector jobs.
- NSMEO did not open for tender and there were no business or commercial contracts signed.
- Australia has a proud history of space cooperation with international partners including the US and Japan - the Albanese Government wants to see that continue.

s22

**From:** s22 <[s22@industry.gov.au](mailto:s22@industry.gov.au)>  
**Date:** Tuesday, 27 June 2023 at 3:18:08 pm  
**To:** "s22" <[s22@space.gov.au](mailto:s22@space.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** For fact check [~~SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive~~]

~~OFFICIAL: Sensitive~~

Hi mate, see below .. noting we don't have the FE's number as yet.

- Since coming to government we've made tough choices to find \$40bn in budget savings so we can address the \$1 trillion of debt we inherited from the Liberals.
- We have made the difficult decision not to proceed with the National Space Mission for Earth Observation program and re-prioritise **\$500m over the forward estimates** to assist with budget repair, revitalising manufacturing, providing cheaper childcare and strengthening Medicare.
- The previous government announced this program in March 2022, just weeks out of from the last election.
- No commercial contracts have been signed and no tenders have been put to market.
- **It was envisaged the program would build 4 satellites to be launched in around 2030 to provide earth observation data to assist with weather forecasting.**
- Earth observation data is currently provided by international partners.
- The government continues to support Australia's space sector with significant investments across a range of portfolios, including \$34.2m in ~~sustainable~~ core funding for the Australian Space Agency.
- The sector will be supported by the \$15 billion National Reconstruction Fund and can apply for funding through the key priority areas of enabling technologies, defence, and transport.
- Smaller companies in the sector can apply for growth funding and advice under the

government's new \$392 Industry Growth Program, announced at the recent budget.

- Prospective NSMEO partners have been informed of the government's decision.
- We acknowledge there will be some job losses – up to twelve people, but we are actively looking to redeploy these staff into other public sector jobs.

Quotes attributable to Ed Husic, Minister for Industry and Science:

"A trillion dollars in Liberal debt isn't going to pay itself back.

"Our government's prepared to make the tough but necessary decisions required so we can support manufacturing, provide cheaper childcare and strengthen Medicare.

"No contracts had been signed under this program, which Scott Morrison announced a few weeks out from the last election.

"The Albanese government continues to support the emerging space sector with significant investments across a range of portfolios."

s22

**Media Adviser**

Office of the Hon Ed Husic MP  
Minister for Industry and Science

s22

[@industry.gov.au](mailto:industry@gov.au)

~~OFFICIAL: Sensitive~~  
~~OFFICIAL: Sensitive~~

s22

---

**From:** s22  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 28 June 2023 11:37 AM  
**To:** s22 @industry.gov.au; s22 @space.gov.au  
**Cc:** s22

**Subject:** RE: For fact check [SEC=PROTECTED]

Thanks s2

For headline figures, the original announcement was for over \$1 billion to 2038-39, which is public, s33

The saving over the forward estimates is the \$452.4m. As a headline figure, this gives little insight into the distribution across agencies or program components so there is no concern from our perspective.

We are happy to check with PMC and Finance if there are any issues with releasing this headline saving figure if you would like.

The comment in my email below is around the detailed figures, as they indicate the available budget for large procurement activities which could affect future agency's procurement negotiations if the items progress.

Thanks

s22

PROTECTED

---

**From:** s22 @industry.gov.au  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 28 June 2023 10:47 AM  
**To:** s22 @space.gov.au; s22 @space.gov.au  
**Cc:** s22

**Subject:** RE: For fact check [SEC=PROTECTED]

Hi s2

Thanks very much for this breakdown. Noting what you have said below about these numbers being NFP, **can you please confirm what headline number the Minister can accurately use publicly** for the purposes of media inquiries? To avoid any doubt, this should be the same number the department is prepared to use in an Estimates context.

Regards,

s22

Adviser | Office of the Hon Ed Husic MP  
 Minister for Industry and Science

s22

[industry.gov.au](mailto:industry.gov.au)

PROTECTED

---

**From:** s22 @space.gov.au  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 28 June 2023 10:39 AM  
**To:** s22 @space.gov.au; s22 @industry.gov.au  
**Cc:** s22

**Subject:** RE: For fact check [SEC=PROTECTED]

Hi s2

s47C

s47C

s47C

Thanks

s22

s22 A/g GM | Space Strategy  
Australian Space Agency

s22

PROTECTED

From: s22 @space.gov.au  
Sent: Wednesday, 28 June 2023 8:52 AM  
To: s22 @industry.gov.au; s22 @space.gov.au  
Cc: s22

Subject: RE: For fact check [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

Will do s2 We will have that to you soon The information needs to be summarised from a detailed spreadsheet

s22 | Acting Deputy Head  
Australian Space Agency

s22

S @space.gov.au  
My EA is s22 @space.gov.au

OFFICIAL- Sensitive

From: s22 @industry.gov.au  
Sent: Wednesday, 28 June 2023 8:11 AM  
To: s22 @space.gov.au; s22 @space.gov.au  
Cc: s22

Subject: RE: For fact check [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

Hi s22 ,

For us to have on hand, can you please send through asap this morning a full breakdown of exactly what activities make up the \$452.4 million each year over the forward estimates, and the balance in the out years

s33

Thanks

s22

Adviser | Office of the Hon Ed Husic MP  
Minister for Industry and Science

S @industry.gov.au

OFFICIAL- Sensitive

From: s22 @space.gov.au  
Sent: Tuesday, 27 June 2023 5:46 PM  
To: s22 @industry.gov.au  
Cc: s22 @space.gov.au  
Subject: FW: For fact check [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

OFFICIAL- Sensitive

s22 | Acting Deputy Head  
Australian Space Agency

s22

S t@space.gov.au  
My EA is s22 @space.gov.au

From: s22  
Sent: Tuesday, 27 June 2023 4:32 PM  
To: s22 @industry.gov.au  
Subject: RE: For fact check [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

Hey s

I have updated all of the yellow with suggested alternatives

Keegan

s22 | A/g Director of Communications and Public Outreach

Australian Space Agency

s22



Yuggera Country | Level 13 100 Creek Street Brisbane QLD  
GPO Box 2013 Canberra ACT 2601



[Subscribe to our newsletter](#) to receive regular updates and all the latest news from the Australian Space Agency.

#### Acknowledgement of Country

Our Agency recognises the First Peoples of this nation and their ongoing connection to culture and country. We acknowledge First Nations Peoples as the Traditional Owners Custodians and Lore Keepers of the world's oldest living culture and pay respects to their Elders past present and emerging.

OFFICIAL- Sensitive

**From:** s22 [@industry.gov.au](mailto:industry.gov.au)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 27 June 2023 3:48 PM  
**To:** S [@space.gov.au](mailto:space.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** For fact check [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

OFFICIAL- Sensitive

Hi mate, see below noting we don't have the FE's number as yet

- Since coming to government we've made tough choices to find \$40bn in budget savings so we can address the \$1 trillion of debt we inherited from the Liberals
- We have made the difficult decision not to proceed with the National Space Mission for Earth Observation program and re-prioritise \$452.4 million over the forward estimates to assist with budget repair, revitalising manufacturing, providing cheaper childcare and strengthening Medicare
- The previous government announced this program in March 2022, just weeks out of from the last election
- No commercial contracts have been signed and no tenders have been put to market
- It was envisaged the program would build 4 satellites to be launched between 2028 and 2033 to assure Australian access to global earth observation data
- Earth observation data is currently provided by international partners
- The government continues to support Australia's space sector with significant investments across a range of portfolios, including \$34.2m in sustainable core funding for the Australian Space Agency
- The sector will be supported by the \$15 billion National Reconstruction Fund and can apply for funding through the key priority areas of enabling technologies, defence, and transport
- Smaller companies in the sector can apply for growth funding and advice under the government's new \$392 Industry Growth Program, announced at the recent budget
- Prospective NSMEO partners have been informed of the government's decision
- Around 30 staff will be impacted, but all APS Staff will be re-assigned to other priorities and all contracted staff will have their current contracts honoured

Quotes attributable to Ed Husic, Minister for Industry and Science:

"A trillion dollars in Liberal debt isn't going to pay itself back

"Our government's prepared to make the tough but necessary decisions required so we can support manufacturing, provide cheaper childcare and strengthen Medicare

"No contracts had been signed under this program, which Scott Morrison announced a few weeks out from the last election

"The Albanese government continues to support the emerging space sector with significant investments across a range of portfolios"

s22

Office of the Hon Ed Husic MP  
Minister for Industry and Science

s22

[@industry.gov.au](mailto:industry.gov.au)

OFFICIAL- Sensitive  
OFFICIAL- Sensitive

**From:** s22  
**To:**  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** RE: Talking points [SEC=PROTECTED]  
**Date:** Wednesday, 28 June 2023 5:50:00 PM  
**Attachments:** [FINAL space messaging.docx](#)

---

Thanks s22

Copying in s22 to this thread.

s22  
Acting Deputy Head  
**Australian Space Agency**

s22

s22  
@space.gov.au  
My EA is s22 @space.gov.au  
**PROTECTED**

---

**From:** s22 @industry.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 28 June 2023 5:49 PM  
**To:** s22

@industry.gov.au>  
**Subject:** Talking points [SEC=PROTECTED]

**PROTECTED**

Hi all,

Final key messaging we are using at MO level for tomorrow's announcement is attached. We are sharing this with other relevant Ministerial offices this evening, so not for distribution outside DISR at this stage please.

Thanks,  
s22

s22

**Adviser | Office of the Hon Ed Husic MP**  
**Minister for Industry and Science**

s22  
[@industry.gov.au](#)

**PROTECTED**

**From:** s22  
**To:**  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** RE: For fact check [~~SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive~~]  
**Date:** Wednesday, 28 June 2023 10:28:00 AM  
s22

---

s22

The numbers below are correct, I have adjusted how contractor “job losses” are described to be consistent. To reiterate, some contracts will not be renewed, but no contract will be terminated early at the initiative of the Commonwealth (individual contractors may of course resign at their own volition).

The GA numbers are a mix of FTE and Headcount. They have a total headcount (individuals who will be impacted) of 18 including ongoing APS, non-ongoing APS, contractors and a foreign service provider. 8 is correct as the number whose contracts will not be renewed – this include the non-ongoing APS. The outposted foreign contractor will return to his employer in the US.

Happy to discuss

s22

Acting Deputy Head  
**Australian Space Agency**

s22

**E:** s22 [@space.gov.au](mailto:s22@space.gov.au)

**My EA is** s22

[@space.gov.au](mailto:s22@space.gov.au)

**OFFICIAL: Sensitive**

---

**From:** s22 [@industry.gov.au](mailto:s22@industry.gov.au)>

**Sent:** Wednesday, 28 June 2023 10:04 AM

**To:** s22

**Subject:** RE: For fact check [~~SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive~~]

**Importance:** High

Thanks s22

We have also taken a closer look at the jobs numbers provided by you and GA and want to triple check that we have interpreted the following correctly:

ASA - 17 impacted, ~~5 people jobs loss~~, 5 contracts will not be renewed

GA - ~~15.6~~ 18 impacted, 8 contractors won't have their contracts renewed (per email attached)



Our assumption here is that jobs impacted includes both ongoing APS staff and contractors; jobs lost is only contractors who will not be renewed.

Grateful advice.

Regards,

s22

**OFFICIAL: Sensitive**

---

**From:** s22 <[s22@space.gov.au](mailto:s22@space.gov.au)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 28 June 2023 8:52 AM  
**To:** s22 <[s22@industry.gov.au](mailto:s22@industry.gov.au)>; s22 <[s22@space.gov.au](mailto:s22@space.gov.au)>  
**Cc:** s22

**Subject:** RE: For fact check [~~SEC=OFFICIAL: Sensitive~~]

Will do s22 . We will have that to you soon. The information needs to be summarised from a detailed spreadsheet.

s22 | Acting Deputy Head  
**Australian Space Agency**

s22

s  
 2  
 My EA is s22 <[s22@space.gov.au](mailto:s22@space.gov.au)>  
 <[s22@space.gov.au](mailto:s22@space.gov.au)>  
**OFFICIAL: Sensitive**

---

**From:** s22 <[s22@industry.gov.au](mailto:s22@industry.gov.au)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 28 June 2023 8:11 AM  
**To:** s22

**Subject:** RE: For fact check [~~SEC=OFFICIAL: Sensitive~~]

Hi s22

For us to have on hand, can you please send through asap this morning a full breakdown of exactly what activities make up the \$452.4 million each year over the forward estimates, and the balance in the out years.

Separately, s47C  
 that is continuing.

Thanks,  
 s22

s22

**Adviser | Office of the Hon Ed Husic MP  
Minister for Industry and Science**

s22

[@industry.gov.au](mailto:industry.gov.au)

~~OFFICIAL: Sensitive~~

---

**From:** s22 [@space.gov.au](mailto:space.gov.au)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 27 June 2023 5:46 PM  
**To:** s22 [@industry.gov.au](mailto:industry.gov.au)>  
**Cc:** s22 [@space.gov.au](mailto:space.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** FW: For fact check [~~SEC=OFFICIAL: Sensitive~~]

~~OFFICIAL: Sensitive~~

s22

Acting Deputy Head

**Australian Space Agency**

s22

s  
2  
My EA is s22 [@space.gov.au](mailto:space.gov.au) [@space.gov.au](mailto:space.gov.au)

---

**From:** s22  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 27 June 2023 4:32 PM  
**To:** s22 [@industry.gov.au](mailto:industry.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** RE: For fact check [~~SEC=OFFICIAL: Sensitive~~]

Hey s22

I have updated all of the yellow with suggested alternatives.

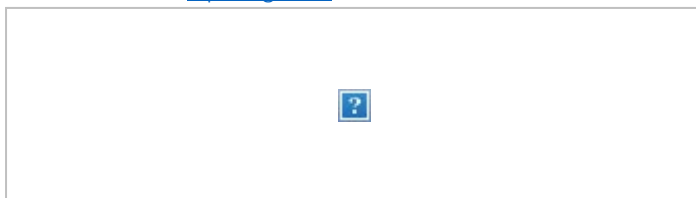
s22

A/g Director of Communications and Public Outreach

**Australian Space Agency**

s22

[\\_space.gov.au](mailto:space.gov.au)



Yuggera Country | Level 13, 100 Creek Street, Brisbane, QLD  
GPO Box 2013, Canberra ACT 2601



[Subscribe to our newsletter](#) to receive regular updates and all the latest news from the Australian Space Agency.

### Acknowledgement of Country

Our Agency recognises the First Peoples of this nation and their ongoing connection to culture and country. We acknowledge First Nations Peoples as the Traditional Owners, Custodians and Lore Keepers of the world's oldest living culture and pay respects to their Elders past, present and emerging.

~~OFFICIAL: Sensitive~~

**From:** s22 [@industry.gov.au](mailto:s22@industry.gov.au)>

**Sent:** Tuesday, 27 June 2023 3:48 PM

**To:** s22 [@space.gov.au](mailto:s22@space.gov.au)>

**Subject:** For fact check [~~SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive~~]

~~OFFICIAL: Sensitive~~

Hi mate, see below .. noting we don't have the FE's number as yet.

- Since coming to government we've made tough choices to find \$40bn in budget savings so we can address the \$1 trillion of debt we inherited from the Liberals.
- We have made the difficult decision not to proceed with the National Space Mission for Earth Observation program and re-prioritise \$452.4 million over the forward estimates to assist with budget repair, revitalising manufacturing, providing cheaper childcare and strengthening Medicare.
- The previous government announced this program in March 2022, just weeks out of from the last election.
- No commercial contracts have been signed and no tenders have been put to market.
- It was envisaged the program would build 4 satellites to be launched between 2028 and 2033 to assure Australian access to global earth observation data.
- Earth observation data is currently provided by international partners.
- The government continues to support Australia's space sector with significant investments across a range of portfolios, including \$34.2m in sustainable core funding for the Australian Space Agency.
- The sector will be supported by the \$15 billion National Reconstruction Fund and can apply for funding through the key priority areas of enabling technologies, defence, and transport.
- Smaller companies in the sector can apply for growth funding and advice under the government's new \$392 Industry Growth Program, announced at the recent budget.
- Prospective NSMEO partners have been informed of the government's decision.
- Around 30 staff will be impacted, but all APS Staff will be re-assigned to other priorities and all contracted staff will have their current contracts honoured.

Quotes attributable to Ed Husic, Minister for Industry and Science:

“A trillion dollars in Liberal debt isn’t going to pay itself back.

“Our government’s prepared to make the tough but necessary decisions required so we can support manufacturing, provide cheaper childcare and strengthen Medicare.

“No contracts had been signed under this program, which Scott Morrison announced a few weeks out from the last election.

“The Albanese government continues to support the emerging space sector with significant investments across a range of portfolios.”

s22

**Media Adviser**

Office of the Hon Ed Husic MP

Minister for Industry and Science

s22

[@industry.gov.au](https://www.industry.gov.au)

~~OFFICIAL: Sensitive~~

~~OFFICIAL: Sensitive~~

**From:** s22  
**To:**  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** RE: Space timing [~~SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive~~]  
**Date:** Tuesday, 27 June 2023 10:00:00 AM

---

s22

The amount to s47C, with additional ongoing costs for operations. Over the full length of the program this amounted to a bit over \$1 billion AUD. s33

s47C

s22

Acting Deputy Head  
**Australian Space Agency**

s22

s  
2  
My EA is s22 [@space.gov.au](mailto:space.gov.au) [@space.gov.au](mailto:space.gov.au)

---

**From:** s22 @industry.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 27 June 2023 9:43 AM  
**To:** s22

**Subject:** RE: Space timing [~~SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive~~]

Hi All,

Thanks for the info below.

Can I confirm how much destined to support our collaboration with the US? I am seeking to understand how much we committed which would form a gap in NASA/USGS budget.

Thanks,  
s22

**OFFICIAL: Sensitive**

---

**From:** s22 [@space.gov.au](mailto:space.gov.au)>  
**Sent:** Monday, 26 June 2023 6:59 PM  
**To:** s22

**Subject:** RE: Space timing [~~SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive~~]

s33

s33

Total NSMEO funding also included other Australian activities, so the full 1.16 billion was to be spent across several activities including the US SCR program.

s22

Acting Deputy Head

**Australian Space Agency**

s22

s  
2  
My EA is [s22@space.gov.au](mailto:s22@space.gov.au)

[s22@space.gov.au](mailto:s22@space.gov.au)~~OFFICIAL: Sensitive~~


---

**From:** s22 [s22@space.gov.au](mailto:s22@space.gov.au)>

**Sent:** Tuesday, 27 June 2023 8:53 AM

**To:** s22

**Subject:** Re: Space timing [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

~~OFFICIAL: Sensitive~~

s47C

s22 , please have your team clarify the number

---

**From:** s22 [s22@industry.gov.au](mailto:s22@industry.gov.au)>

**Sent:** Tuesday, June 27, 2023 8:19:24 AM

**To:** s22

**Subject:** RE: Space timing [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

Hi s22

The attached email from s22 addresses your first question.

On your second question, the exact figure (according to when this was first announced in March 2022) is \$1.16 billion to 2038-39. But in a lot of talking points both then and since it has been rounded to \$1.2 billion.

s22

~~OFFICIAL: Sensitive~~


---

**From:** s22 [s22@industry.gov.au](mailto:s22@industry.gov.au)>

**Sent:** Tuesday, 27 June 2023 8:41 AM

To: s22

Subject: Re: Space timing [~~SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive~~]

~~OFFICIAL: Sensitive~~

Thanks s22

A couple of immediate questions:

- We discuss a \$10 billion investment in space. Do we have a breakdown of that investment?
- What is the total amount We originally committed over the near and long term for NSMEO. I have heard multiple numbers but would like confirmation. Is it \$1.2 billion?

s22

---

From: s22 <[s22@industry.gov.au](mailto:s22@industry.gov.au)>

Sent: Monday, June 26, 2023 6:23:38 PM

To: s22

Subject: RE: Space timing [~~SEC=PROTECTED~~]

Hi s22

Attached are the DISR talking points Enrico's team prepared, as well as the higher level key messages the Minister will use. There may be further changes to the latter document later this morning which I'm happy to share, but in the interest of time this gives you the general narrative we'll use domestically.

I have also attached the more detailed answers Dara provided to you previously via email.

Happy to discuss.

s22

s22

**Adviser | Office of the Hon Ed Husic MP**

s22

[s22@industry.gov.au](mailto:s22@industry.gov.au)

~~PROTECTED~~

---

From: s22 <[s22@industry.gov.au](mailto:s22@industry.gov.au)>

Sent: Tuesday, 27 June 2023 7:33 AM

To: s22

Cc: s22

**Subject:** RE: Space timing [~~SEC=PROTECTED~~]

Good Morning All,

- We are speaking with s22 and her leadership team from 1230-1245 pm – it was the only time available that matched diaries. I suspect NASA will come back with questions post the briefing.
- NSpC is scheduled for 1pm – at the White House. We are meeting with s22 s22 was unavailable on short notice.
- USGS I am still trying to secure a time with. I have an email out with their Australia desk as they've been uncontactable via phone.

We will need speaking points in the next hour or so if we are to review and seek any necessary feedback. Appreciate guidance.

Thanks,  
s22

---

**PROTECTED**

**From:** s22 <[s22@space.gov.au](mailto:s22@space.gov.au)>  
**Sent:** Monday, 26 June 2023 4:59 PM  
**To:** s22

**Subject:** Re: Space timing [~~SEC=PROTECTED~~]

**PROTECTED**

Thank you s22 If you could let us know the timing of the meetings and which officers they are with that would be helpful tracking the time table to public release.

Cheers  
s22

---

**From:** s22 <[s22@industry.gov.au](mailto:s22@industry.gov.au)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 27, 2023 12:35 am  
**To:** s22

**Subject:** RE: Space timing [~~SEC=PROTECTED~~]

Good Morning All,



A quick update, we have secured a time for NSpC, and I am in the process of booking times for NASA and USGS.

s22 I wanted to check if we have had any word in the approved speaking points?

Many thanks,  
s22

**PROTECTED**

---

**From:** s22  
**Sent:** Friday, 23 June 2023 5:58 PM  
**To:** s22

**Subject:** RE: Space timing-[~~SEC=PROTECTED~~]

Hi All,

Just a quick update.

I've sent a meeting request to NSpC s22 ) for next Tuesday afternoon. I wasn't able to get s22 on the phone today, but have flagged we'd like to confidentially brief them on Australia's space policy settings.

On staging, we are looking to secure a time with NSpC before approaching NASA or USGS. This may mean that NASA and USGS conversations happen by telephone with the constrained timeframes.

Will update as more information comes through.

Appreciate getting the approved TPs through sooner than later – in case we need to ask for more information/clarification.

Thanks,  
s22

Minister Counsellor - Industry, Science and Resources | USA and Canada  
Embassy of Australia | Washington DC s22

**PROTECTED**

---

**From:** s22 <[s22@industry.gov.au](mailto:s22@industry.gov.au)>  
**Sent:** Friday, 23 June 2023 4:54 AM  
**To:** s22  
**Subject:** Space timing[~~SEC=PROTECTED~~]

**PROTECTED**

Hi s22 ,

s33

Wednesday 28th June (afternoon AU time): MO Husic to brief relevant state government counterparts, caucus colleagues and select media.

Thursday 29th June (mid-morning AU time): public announcement via doorstep, no media release. Agencies to notify staff in parallel. MO Husic to call select space industry stakeholders immediately after announcement is made.

This means Post can begin reaching out to schedule the meetings for next week. We will send cleared TPs to you on Monday AU time so you'll have them ahead of discussions taking place on your Tuesday afternoon.

s22 I'm available on mobile over the weekend if you'd like to discuss any of the above.

Thanks,

s22

Adviser | Office of the Hon Ed Husic MP  
Minister for Industry and Science