

## UNIDENTIFIED AERIAL PHENOMENA

**Lead:** Enrico Palermo, Head of Australian Space Agency

- The Australian Space Agency (the Agency) does not monitor unidentified anomalous phenomena (UAPs), also known as unidentified flying objects (UFOs), or seek to resolve these issues.
- The Agency has no records relating to UAPs or UFOs in Australia, nor does it support UAP research.
- The Agency occasionally receives enquiries regarding meteorites or space objects entering the Earth's atmosphere. In this context the Agency has a responsibility as the regulator under the *Space (Launches and Returns) Act 2018*. ([EC24-000129 Space Debris refers](#))
- The Agency has no information on the 2023 US Congressional hearings into UAPs and did not contribute to the 2023 NASA report on UAPs
  - Any queries on these matters should be directed to representatives of the United States Government.

### Military reporting on UAPs and UFOs

- Questions relating to military reporting of UAPs and UFOs are a matter for the Department of Defence.

### Background

#### *Recent UAP developments in the United States*

- In 2023 United States Congress conducted hearings into Unidentified Anomalous Phenomenon (UAPs), also known as Unidentified Flying Objects (UFOs), which was widely reported.
- In 2023, NASA released the final report of its independent study into UAPs, and recently [appointed a Director for research into UAPs](#).
- Neither the Department nor the Agency have any connection to these developments in the United States.

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Cleared by: Enrico Palermo	Current as at: 01 February 2024

*Military reporting on UAPs and UFOs*

- The Department of Defence (Defence) has advised that on 23 November 2021, the United States' Director of National Intelligence directed the establishment of the Airborne Object Identification and Management Synchronisation Group to coordinate reporting across United States Department of Defense and other United States agencies, with the aim of minimising flight safety and national security concerns.
- Defence has also advised they have no plans to replicate a similar mechanism. The Defence Aviation Safety Authority and Civil Aviation Safety Authority already serve this function across flight safety issues, and apparatus exists for concerns regarding national security.

## OFFICIAL

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**Lead:** Enrico Palermo, Head of Agency

- The Department has noted recent [United States Congressional inquiry](#) into Unidentified anomalous phenomenon (UAPs), also known as Unidentified Flying Objects (UFOs).
  - *The Department has no information on this, and any queries should be directed to representatives of the United States Government.*
- The Department also [noted that NASA](#) recently released the final report of its independent study into UAPs.
  - *The Department, or the Agency, did not contribute to the study. Any inquiries should be directed NASA.*
- The Agency does not monitor UAPs or UFOs in Australia, nor seek to resolve these issues.
  - **For reference** - *the United States military has launched an office and website relating to resolution of anomalies in all domains – the [All-Domain Anomaly Resolution Office](#).*
- The Agency has no records relating to UAPs or UFOs in Australia – although we have received enquiries and FOI requests relating to such.
- From time-to-time, the Agency receives enquiries regarding meteorites or space objects entering the Earth’s atmosphere. One example is remains of a Russian rocket which was seen breaking up over Melbourne on the evening of 7 August 2023. These kinds of objects are easily understood as human made space objects re-entering the Earth’s atmosphere. In this context the Agency has a responsibility as the regulator under the *Space (Launches and Returns) Act 2018*.

*Emergency response in context of space debris*

- Emergency first response relating to space debris re-entry is covered under the Australian Plan for Space Re-Entry Debris (AUSSPREDPLAN), which is maintained by National Emergency Management Australia (NEMA), a part of the Department of Home Affairs.
- The Agency notes that AUSSPREDPLAN is outdated, and we’re expecting to update AUSSPREDPLAN in the context of updates to the Australian Government Crisis Management Framework being led by the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet.

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*Military reporting on UAPs and UFOs*

- Questions relating to military reporting of UAPs and UFOs are a matter for the Department of Defence.
- On 23 November 2021, the United States' Director of National Intelligence directed the establishment of the Airborne Object Identification and Management Synchronisation Group to coordinate reporting across United States Department of Defense and other United States agencies, with the goal to minimise flight safety and national security concerns.
- I am advised that the Department of Defence has no plans to replicate a similar mechanism. The Defence Aviation Safety Authority and Civil Aviation Safety Authority already serve this function across flight safety issues and apparatus exist for concerns regarding National security.