

**EIGHTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE
STATES PARTIES TO AMENDED
PROTOCOL II TO THE CONVENTION ON
PROHIBITIONS OR RESTRICTIONS ON THE USE
OF CERTAIN CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS WHICH
MAY BE DEEMED TO BE EXCESSIVELY INJURIOUS
OR TO HAVE INDISCRIMINATE EFFECTS**

CCW/AP.II/CONF.8/NAR.23
6 November 2006

ENGLISH ONLY

Geneva, 6 November 2006

Item 10 of the provisional agenda

**Consideration of matters arising from
reports by High Contracting Parties
according to paragraph 4 of Article 13
of the Amended Protocol II**

AUSTRALIA

National annual report

Submitted in accordance with Article 13, paragraph 4 and Article 11 paragraph 2 of the
Protocol on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Mines,
Booby-Traps and Other Devices
as Amended on 3 May 1996 to the CCW

PROTOCOL ON PROHIBITIONS OR RESTRICTIONS ON THE USE OF MINES,
BOOBY-TRAPS AND OTHER DEVICES AS AMENDED ON 3 MAY 1996, ANNEXED
TO THE CONVENTION ON PROHIBITIONS OR RESTRICTIONS ON THE USE OF
CERTAIN CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS WHICH MAY BE DEEMED TO BE
EXCESSIVELY INJURIOUS OR TO HAVE INDISCRIMINATE EFFECTS
(PROTOCOL II AS AMENDED ON 3 MAY 1996)

Summary sheet

Summary Reporting Format for Article 13 paragraph 4 and Article 11 paragraph 2,
pursuant to the decision of the Fifth Annual Conference of the States Parties to CCW
Amended Protocol II as stipulated in paragraph 20 of its Final Document,
CCW/AP.II/CONF.5/2

NAME OF THE HIGH CONTRACTING PARTY	<u>AUSTRALIA</u>
DATE OF SUBMISSION	<u>November 2006</u>
NATIONAL POINT(S) OF CONTACT	Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Canberra Director, Counter-Proliferation Section International Security Division Ph: 61 2 6261 2943 <u>Fax: 61 2 6261 2151</u>

This information can be available to other interested parties and relevant organizations

- YES
 NO

REPORTING PERIOD: 16.09.2005 to 31.10.2006

- Form A:** Dissemination of information: changed
 unchanged (last reporting: yyyy)
- Form B:** Mine clearance and rehabilitation programmes: changed
 unchanged (last reporting: yyyy)
- Form C:** Technical requirements and relevant information: changed
 unchanged (last reporting: 2004)
- Form D:** Legislation: changed
 unchanged (last reporting: 2004)
- Form E:** International technical information exchange, co-operation on mine clearance, technical co-operation and assistance: changed
 unchanged (last reporting: yyyy)
- Form F:** Other relevant matters: changed
 unchanged (last reporting: 2004)
- Form G:** Information to the UN-database on mine clearance: changed
 unchanged (last reporting: yyyy)
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Form A Dissemination of information

Article 13, “The High Contracting Parties shall provide annual reports to the
paragraph 4 (a) Depository ... on:

(a) dissemination of information on this Protocol to their armed
forces and to the civilian population;”

Remark:

High Contracting Party	<u>Australia</u>	reporting for time period from	<u>16.09.2005</u>	to	<u>31.10.2006</u>
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Information to the armed forces

A Training Information Bulletin (TIB), No. 86, 'Conventions on the use of Landmines: A Commander's Guide' was prepared and promulgated in October 1999, within the Australian Defence Force. The document provides Commanders and staff with an interpretation of revised policy on landmines, booby traps and improvised explosive devices and its application to military operations, following the entry into force of international instruments such as Amended Protocol II and the Mine-Ban Convention. The general policy concerning landmines, booby traps, and other devices is also contained in Australian Defence Doctrine Publication 06.4, Law of Armed Conflict, which was published in May 2006. It contains guidance for commanders and details responsibilities and obligations for Australian Defence Force members.

Information to the civilian population

Information on the Australian Government's Mine Action Strategy (2005 – 2010), including references to Amended Protocol II, is disseminated to the civilian population through:

- Ministerial press releases.
- Numerous media interviews and speaking engagements conducted by the Minister for Foreign Affairs and the Parliamentary Secretary for Foreign Affairs, who is also Australia's Special Representative on Mine Action.
- Regular meetings of the National Consultative Committee on International Security Issues in which Government officials and community members exchange views on peace and disarmament issues, including landmines.
- Landmines websites established by the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID) and the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. Website addresses are: <http://www.dfat.gov.au/landmines/>, <http://www.dfat.gov.au/security/ccw.html> and <http://www.ausaid.gov.au>. <http://www.ausaid.gov.au>. Program information and the Mine Action Strategy (2005 – 2010) is available from <http://www.ausaid.gov.au/human/landmines.cfm>.

Form B Mine clearance and rehabilitation programmes

Article 13, “The High Contracting Parties shall provide annual reports to the
paragraph 4 (b) Depository ... on:

(b) mine clearance and rehabilitation programmes;”

Remark:

High
Contracting reporting for time
Party Australia period from 16.09.2005 to 31.10.2006

Mine clearance programmes

Cambodia – Clearing for Results (UNDP)
Cambodia – Contributions to Cambodia Mine Action Centre (CMAC)
Sri Lanka – Mine Action Program (UNDP)
Sri Lanka – Mine Clearance Operations (FSD)
Laos – Community-based UXO Clearance (FSD)
Sudan – Emergency Road Repair and Mine Clearance of Key Transport Routes in Sudan in
Support of WFP EMOP in Sudan

Rehabilitation programmes

Burma – Mine risk education for Burmese refugees.
Cambodia – Landmine Victim Assistance Funding for NGOs including a variety of community-
based land mine victim assistance projects.
Cambodia – Physical Rehabilitation Study.
Cambodia – Community Strengthening & Gender Mainstreaming in Integrated Mine Action in
Battambang and Preah Vihear Provinces (NGO).
Cambodia – Integrated Mine Action Banteay Meanchey (NGO) incorporates victim
assistance/livelihoods components.
Cambodia – Integrated Mine Action Battambang and Preah Vihear Provinces (NGO)
incorporates victim assistance/livelihoods components.
Cambodia – Integrated Mine Action in Pailin (NGO) incorporates victim assistance/livelihoods
components.
Cambodia – ICRC Special Appeal for Mine Action 2006.
Global – ICRC Special Appeal for Mine Action 2006 and Special Fund for the Disabled (SFD)
Appeal 2006.
Global – Research into Mine Victim Assistance including ‘Landmine Victim Assistance in 2005:
Overview of the Situation in 24 States Parties’ publication.
Global – Research into Mine Victim Assistance (NGO).
Laos – Support for the development of a landmine victim assistance database.
Vietnam – Strengthening the Vietnam Peer Support Network of the Landmine Survivors
Network Vietnam.

Form C Technical requirements and relevant information

Article 13, “The High Contracting Parties shall provide annual reports to the
paragraph 4 (c) Depositary ... on:

(c) steps taken to meet technical requirements of this Protocol and
any other relevant information pertaining thereto;”

Remark:

High Contracting Party	<u>Australia</u>	reporting for time period from	<u>16.09.2005</u> to <u>31.10.2006</u>
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Technical requirements

Australia does not have minefields, or produce or deploy munitions which fall under the
technical requirements of this Protocol.

Any other relevant information

Australian Defence Force doctrine specifically promulgates compliance with Australia’s
obligations under this Protocol, the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons generally and
the Mine-Ban Convention.

Form D Legislation

Article 13, “The High Contracting Parties shall provide annual reports to the
 paragraph 4 (d) Depository ... on:

(d) legislation related to this Protocol;”

Remark:

High Contracting Party	Australia	reporting for time period from	16.09.2005	to	31.10.2006
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Legislation

It is the Australian Government's policy to enact national legislation implementing international instruments only where existing national legislation is insufficient to meet the international obligations contained in the international instruments concerned.

Australia has not enacted specific legislation to implement Amended Protocol II, as existing legislation sufficiently covered the Protocol's provisions.

[It should be noted that Australia has enacted legislation - the Anti-Personnel Mines Convention Act 1998 - to implement the Mine-Ban Convention. Section 7 of the Act makes it an offence to place, possess, develop, produce, acquire, stockpile, move or transfer anti-personnel mines.]

Form E **International technical information exchange, cooperation on mine clearance, technical cooperation and assistance**

Article 13, “The High Contracting Parties shall provide annual reports to the
paragraph 4 (e) Depositary ... on:

(e) measures taken on international technical information exchange, on international cooperation on mine clearance, and on technical cooperation and assistance;”

Remark:

High Contracting Party reporting for time period from 16.09.2005 to 31.10.2006
Australia

International technical information exchange

Australia attended a number of meetings to promote technical information exchange on landmine issues: CCW GGE (14-22 November); CCW APII Conference of States Parties (22 November); CCW Conference of States Parties (24-25 November); Mine-Ban Convention Sixth MSP (28 November – 2 December); CCW GGE (6-10 March); NGO workshop, cluster munitions & IHL (13-14 March); Mine-Ban Convention intersessional (8-12 May); Mine Action outreach to Laos (4-7 June); CCW GGE (19-23 June); Small States Strategy Workshop (29-30 June); Mine Action meeting (10-11 July); CCW GGE (28 August – 7 September) Mine-Ban Convention Seventh MSP as President (18-22 September); Mine-Ban outreach to Poland (21 September); and UNGA 61 First Committee outreach on the Mine-Ban Convention (October).

International cooperation on mine clearance

In countries where Australia is a major donor to mine action, for example Cambodia and Laos, Australia is a member of various committees that focus on donor cooperation and coordination. Australia participates actively in meetings of the New York-based Mine Action Support Group which helps to coordinate international responses to mine action issues. International cooperation on mine clearance, and mine action in general, has been identified as a high priority in Australia's Mine Action Strategy (2005 – 2010) for the aid program.

International co-operation on technical co-operation and assistance

Australia provides funding to several Australian NGOs to implement integrated mine action programs in Cambodia, and provides funding for the development of technical capacities of national clearance authorities in Cambodia, Sri Lanka and Laos.

Form F Other relevant matters

Article 13, “The High Contracting Parties shall provide annual reports to the
paragraph 4 (f) Depository ... on:

(f) other relevant matters.”

Remark:

High
Contracting reporting for time
Party Australia period from 16.09.2005 to 31.10.2006

Other relevant matters

Form G Information to the UN-database on mine clearance

Article 11,
paragraph 2 “Each High Contracting Party undertakes to provide information to the database on mine clearance established within the United Nations System, especially information concerning various means and technologies of mine clearance, and lists of experts, expert agencies or national points of contact on mine clearance.”

High Contracting Party Australia reporting for time period from 16.09.2005 to 31.10.2006

Means and technologies of mine clearance

Within the Australian Department of Defence, the Defence Science and Technology Organisation (DSTO) and the Combined Arms Training Centre are developing new methods of clearing mines. Completion of this research will take a number of years. DSTO undertakes work in a number of areas covering mine detection and clearance, including background mine detection research and evaluation of route mine clearance systems, as exemplified by its recent Capability Technology Demonstrator (CTD) multi-sensor system and ongoing improvement of the Dorbyl Husky system.

Australian private enterprise, with Government support, is also involved in developing new technologies for mine clearance to speed up the rate at which mines are removed from the ground. A new type of detector invented and produced by an Australian company, Minelab Electronics, used in UN demining operations in Cambodia, Laos and elsewhere, has been funded through the Australian Government's aid program. Minelab Electronics has also provided the metal detector component of the US dual sensor hand-held stand-off mine detector (HSTAMIDS), being sold by Cyterra. A metal detector array based on the same technology was developed for the DSTO CTD and is now in use with a US humanitarian mine clearance vehicle program being run through Applied Research Associates, Inc.

Lists of experts and experts agencies

For information on experts and their agencies, the initial point of contact is:

Australian Army Headquarters – Staff Officer – Grade 1 Operations – Ph: (61 2) 6265 4224.

For information on policy, the initial point of contact is:

Director Counter-Proliferation and Arms Control
Counter-Proliferation and Arms Control Section
Security Policy and Programs Branch
Strategic Policy Division
R1-1-A043 Russell Offices
Department of Defence
Canberra ACT 2600
Telephone: (61 2) 6265 6510
Facsimile: (61 2) 6265 6313

National point of contact on mine action:

Mine Action Coordinator
East Timor and Burma Section
AusAID
GPO Box 887
Canberra ACT 2601
Telephone: (61 2) 6206 4572
Facsimile: (61 2) 6206 4983

National points of contact on mine clearance
