

Geneva, 11 December 2002

AUSTRALIA

National annual report

Submitted in accordance with Article 13, para. 4 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)

Provisional Reporting Formats for Article 13 para 2 and Article 11 para 2.

NAME OF HIGH CONTRACTING PARTY	<u>Australia</u>
DATE OF SUBMISSION	<u>November 2002</u>
NATIONAL POINT(S) OF CONTACT	DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND TRADE, CANBERRA DIRECTOR, CONVENTIONAL AND NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT SECTION INTERNATIONAL SECURITY DIVISION PH: 61 2 6261 3206 FAX: 61 2 6261 2151 <u>(Organization, telephones, fax, email)</u>

Form A Dissemination of information

Article 13 / 4 / a “The High Contracting Parties shall provide annual reports to the Depositary ... 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>16.10.2001</u>	to	<u>15.10.2002</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 Ottawa Convention.

Information to the civilian population

Information on the Australian Government's landmines policy, 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 Peace and Disarmament 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/> and <http://www.ausaid.gov.au>.

Form B Mine clearance and rehabilitation programmes

Article “The High Contracting Parties shall provide annual reports to the Depositary
13 / 4 / b ... on:

(b) mine clearance and rehabilitation programmes;”

Remark:

High
Contracting reporting for time
Party Australia period from 16.10.2001 to 15.10.2002

Mine clearance programmes

Cambodia - Contributions to Cambodia Mine Action Centre (CMAC)
Cambodia - Mine Clearance Program (NGO)
Cambodia - Humanitarian Mines Project (NGO)
Cambodia - Integrated Humanitarian Mine Action Project (NGO) (*completed August 2002*)
Cambodia - Integrated Development and Demining Project (NGO)
Cambodia - Destroy-a-Minefield Program (NGO)
Laos - Integrated UXO Clearance Program (NGO)
Laos - Integrated UXO Protection Program (NGO) (*completed September 2002*)
Mozambique - Contributions to United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
Accelerated Demining Programme
Mozambique - Mine Clearance in Northern Mozambique (NGO) (*completed September 2002*)
Mozambique - Inhambane Demining and Development (NGO)
Vietnam - Mine Action Program (NGO)

Rehabilitation programmes

Angola - Production of Prosthetic Feet (NGO) (*completed September 2002*)
Cambodia - Support for Red Cross Hospital Kompong Speu (Australian Red Cross)
Laos - UXO safety activities for children (NGO)

Global - Contribution to International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) Global Appeal for Victims of Landmines and UN Mine Action Service (UNMAS)

Form C

Article
13 / 4 / c

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

Remark:

High
Contracting
Party

Australia

reporting for time
period from

16.10.2001 to 15.10.2002

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 Ottawa Convention.

Form D Legislation

Article “The High Contracting Parties shall provide annual reports to the
13 / 4 / d Depositary ... on:

(d) legislation related to this Protocol;

Remark:

High Contracting		reporting for time		
Party	Australia	period from	16.10.2001	to 15.10.2002

It is the Australian Government's policy to enact national legislation ratifying 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 Ottawa Convention. Section 8 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 “The High Contracting Parties shall provide annual reports to the Depositary
13 / 4 / e ... on:

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

Remark:

High
Contracting reporting for time
Party Australia period from 16.10.2001 to 15.10.2002

International technical information exchange

Australia attended a number of meetings to promote technical information exchange on landmine issues: the Ottawa Convention intersessional meetings in January 2002 and May 2002 on: Mine Clearance; Mine Awareness and Mine Action Technologies; Victim Assistance and Socio-economic Reintegration; Stockpile Destruction; and, the General Status and Operation of the Convention: the Fourth Meeting of States Parties to the Ottawa Convention held in Geneva (16-20 September 2002); the Annual Conference of States Parties to Amended Protocol II of the CCW in Geneva (December 2001); and the Second Review Conference of the CCW in Geneva (December 2001).

International cooperation on mine clearance

Australia provides an annual contribution to UNMAS for its coordination role. 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 has been identified as a high priority in Australia's mine action strategy

International co-operation on technical co-operation and assistance

Until 31 March 2002, the Australian Defence Force provided two military personnel on a rotating basis to work as technical advisers to provide assistance, including training Mozambicans in demining techniques, to the UN's Accelerated Demining Program in Mozambique.

Australian civilians provide training and organisational support to Cambodia's mine action program.

Article 13 / 4 / f	“The High Contracting Parties shall provide annual reports to the Depositary ... on:
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(f) other relevant matters.

Remark:

High Contracting Party	Australia	reporting for time period from	16.10.2001	to	15.10.2002
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Other relevant matters

Form G Information to the UN-database on mine clearance

Article 11 “The High Contracting Parties shall provide information to the database on
para 2 mine clearance established within the United Nations System,
 especially.....on:

- 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 reporting for time
Party Australia period from 16.10.2001 to 15.10.2002

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 is undertaking work in a number of areas covering mine detection and mine clearance, including background mine detection research and a Capability Technology Demonstrator (CTD) project to explore multi-sensor systems for route clearance.

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.

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 Support – Ph: (61 2) 6265 4224.

National points of contact on mine clearance

Derek Taylor, Humanitarian and Emergencies Section, AusAID,
Phone (61 2) 6206 4717 Fax (61 2) 6206 4587.
