

**FIFTH 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.5/NAR.27
3 November 2003

ENGLISH ONLY

Geneva, 26 November 2003

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

GE.03-64978

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>30 October 2003</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

(Organization, telephones, fax, email)

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 AUSTRALIA reporting for time
period from 16.10.2002 to 15.10.2003

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 C Technical requirements and relevant information

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

(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 16.10.2002 to 15.10.2003

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 Depository ... on:

(d) legislation related to this Protocol;

Remark:

High Contracting reporting for time
Party AUSTRALIA period from 16.10.2002 to 15.10.2003

Legislation

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 16.10.2002 to 15.10.2003

International technical information exchange

Australia attended a number of meetings to promote technical information exchange on landmine issues: the Ottawa Convention intersessional meetings in February 2003 and May 2003 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 Fifth Meeting of States Parties to the Ottawa Convention held in Geneva (15-19 September 2003): Regional Seminar on Mine Action in Phnomn Penh (26-28 March 2003) the Annual Conference of States Parties to Amended Protocol II of the CCW in Geneva (December 2002): and the Third Review Conference of the CCW in Geneva (December 2002).

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

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

Australia has also placed one expert Australian within the UNMAS mine action coordination team for Iraq.

