



WESTERN AUSTRALIA

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Request for Australian Government Physical Assistance

REQUEST NO.

(SEC use only)

(Explanatory notes are provided in State EM Response Procedure 20)

PART 1:

TO:

Executive Officer SECG

FROM: Department of Fire and Emergency Services Western Australia

SITUATION

A 19.9 Giga-becquerel (GBq) industrial radiation source in a level gauge was transported by road on a trailer from **s 22 - Irrelevant** the Pilbara to the Perth metropolitan area **s 22 - Irrelevant**. The ceramic radioactive material was inside a metal capsule which is 6 mm diameter and 8 mm long.

The source was packed on 10 January 2023 - secured in the gauge housing, then inside a transport box (to which it was bolted), this was mounted on a pallet and initially stored **s 22 - Irrelevant**. The Pallet was collected and loaded onto a trailer **s 22 - Irrelevant** on 12 January 2023 for transport by road to Perth. It travelled through some intermediate depots before arriving at **s 22 - Irrelevant** Malaga on 16 January 2023. The pallet was stored at those premises until being opened on 25 January 2023, when the source was found to be missing. The source is thought to have fallen through a hole in the damaged box and then from the trailer to the road.

Investigations **s 22 - Irrelevant** including physical and instrumental searches of various sites and a section of the Great Northern Highway near Bindoon, have been conducted and are continuing. These efforts to find the source have not been successful. The Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) is the Hazard Management Agency for the incident.

The potential search area could cover approximately 1400 km of regional and metropolitan roads, and this task is beyond the direct capability of the State in a suitable timeframe.

Released by KYP/PAWSA under FOI

REQUEST

This is a new request.

Australian Government assistance is requested to locate the missing radiation source, namely:

- Specialised radiation detection capability, to locate 20 giga-becquerel of Caesium-137 up to 10 to 15 metres off the side of the road.
- The total distance of road is estimated as 1350km of regional highways, and would also include some metropolitan road routes.
- The request is a priority, with the requirement for the equipment to be on the ground into Perth by no later than Wednesday 1 February 2023. The duration of the request is unknown at this stage and would be dependent on the ground coverage area of the capability provided.

CONSTRAINTS

N/A

DELIVERY

As soon as possible, due to the risk to public safety.

CONSIGN

Incident Management Team – Department of Fire and Emergency Services. Perth, Western Australia.

CONTACT

NAME 1: s 22 - Irrelevant

NAME 2: s 22 - Irrelevant

STATEMENT BY DEPUTY COMMISSIONER OPERATIONS (HMA Delegate)

As the HMA delegate making this request, I certify that due to the nature of the event, the total resources (government, community and commercial) of the State do not possess the required specialised detection equipment and cannot reasonably cope with the needs of the current situation.

Name:

s 22 - Irrelevant
(HMA Delegate)

Signature:

s 22 - Irrelevant

Date/Time:

19:15 Hours
27 January 2023

REQUEST NO.

(EO SECG use only)

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REQUEST FOR AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT PHYSICAL ASSISTANCE

PART 2: *To be completed by SECG Executive Officer.*

REQUEST PASSED TO STATE EMERGENCY COORDINATOR		
Name:	Signature:	Date:
		Time:

PART 3: *To be completed by the State Emergency Coordinator*

REQUEST	APPROVED	
<i>(delete whichever does not apply)</i>		
Name: s 22 - Irrelevant	Signature: s 22 - Irrelevant	Date: 27 /01/ 2023
		Time: 2030hrs

PART 4: *For official use*

REQUEST PASSED TO EMA	Date:	Time:
RESPONSE RECEIVED FROM EMA	Date:	Time:
REQUESTING AUTHORITY ADVISED	Date:	Time:
	Date:	Time:
Name:	Signature:	Date:
		Time:

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