

Question on notice no. 61

Portfolio question number: AE22-061

Additional estimates

Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee, Home Affairs Portfolio

Senator Alexander Antic: asked the Australian Federal Police on 14 February 2022

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Senator ANTIC: I know Senator Roberts touched on this earlier when he mentioned the deployment of some equipment. I think he was referring to an LRAD machine, and I've been provided with this photograph, which I'm happy to table, electronically, of course, from a distance. It does appear to show the deployment of an LRAD machine—a long-range acoustic device, I think it's called—which is a device designed to pitch sound at long range and can cause some pretty serious injuries. You can't confirm, even give than photo, that that device was deployed on the day?

CHAIR: Senator Antic, I just want to interrupt here to make it clear that this question has already been taken on notice. Do you have another question?

Senator ANTIC: I understand that, but with the benefit of having had that photograph, which tends to confirm it, we still can't confirm that that device was there on the day?

Mr Kershaw: I think, to be proper, I'd like to take that on notice.

Answer —

Please see the attached answer.

**SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES
14 FEBRUARY 2022**

Home Affairs Portfolio

Program: Australian Federal Police

AE22-061 – Long Range Acoustic Devices

Senator ANTIC asked:

Senator ANTIC: I know Senator Roberts touched on this earlier when he mentioned the deployment of some equipment. I think he was referring to an LRAD machine, and I've been provided with this photograph, which I'm happy to table, electronically, of course, from a distance. It does appear to show the deployment of an LRAD machine – a long-range acoustic device, I think it's called – which is a device designed to pitch sound at long range and can cause some pretty serious injuries. You can't confirm, even given the photo, that that device was deployed on the day?

CHAIR: Senator Antic, I just want to interrupt here to make it clear that this question has already been taken on notice. Do you have another question?

Senator ANTIC: I understand that, but with the benefit of having had that photograph, which tends to confirm it, we still can't confirm that that device was there on the day?

Mr KERSHAW: I think, to be proper, I'd like to take that on notice.

Answer:

Refer to AE22-284 to AE22-289.

Question on notice no. 282

Portfolio question number: AE22-282

Additional estimates

Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee, Home Affairs Portfolio

Senator Alexander Antic: asked the Australian Federal Police on 14 February 2022

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During the hearing on 15 February 2022 AFP Commissioner Kershaw advised that he understood the crowd size at the protest at and around Parliament House, Canberra on Saturday 12 February 2022 ("the Protest") to be between 6,000 at the low end and 10,000 at the high end based in estimates supplied to him and based upon assessment by AFP intel.

1. How were those estimates of crowd size at the Protest calculated?

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Answer —

Please see the attached answer.

**SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES
14 FEBRUARY 2022**

Home Affairs Portfolio

Program: Australian Federal Police

AE22-282 – Canberra Protest Crowd Size

Senator Alex ANTIC asked:

During the hearing on 15 February 2022 AFP Commissioner Kershaw advised that he understood the crowd size at the protest at and around Parliament House, Canberra on Saturday 12 February 2022 (“**the Protest**”) to be between 6,000 at the low end and 10,000 at the high end based in estimates supplied to him and based upon assessment by AFP intel.

How were those estimates of crowd size at the Protest calculated?

Answer:

ACT Policing routinely plan for events that are attended by significant crowds. These include sporting events and music festivals that are often ticketed, which result in accurate crowd attendance numbers. Experience gained from attending these events allows ACT Policing to provide estimated crowd numbers, as they did in relation to the protest activity within the Parliamentary Precinct on 12 February 2022.

Question on notice no. 283

Portfolio question number: AE22-283

Additional estimates

Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee, Home Affairs Portfolio

Senator Alexander Antic: asked the Australian Federal Police on 14 February 2022

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During the hearing on 15 February 2022 AFP Commissioner Kershaw advised that he understood the crowd size at the protest at and around Parliament House, Canberra on Saturday 12 February 2022 ("the Protest") to be between 6,000 at the low end and 10,000 at the high end based in estimates supplied to him and based upon assessment by AFP intel.

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2. Did AFP use any form of aerial surveillance, automated photographic method, mobile phone tower data or other technical method to calculate crowd size at the Protest?

Answer —

Please see the attached answer.

**SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
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Home Affairs Portfolio

Program: Australian Federal Police

AE22-283 – Canberra Protest Crowd Size – Surveillance Methods Used

Senator Alex ANTIC asked:

During the hearing on 15 February 2022 AFP Commissioner Kershaw advised that he understood the crowd size at the protest at and around Parliament House, Canberra on Saturday 12 February 2022 (“**the Protest**”) to be between 6,000 at the low end and 10,000 at the high end based in estimates supplied to him and based upon assessment by AFP intel.

Did AFP use any form of aerial surveillance, automated photographic method, mobile phone tower data or other technical method to calculate crowd size at the Protest?

Answer:

The Australian Federal Police operates a range of manned and unmanned aerial capabilities, which were utilised during the protest at and around Parliament House, to improve the situational awareness of police commanders and operational planners. Imagery obtained was made available to ACT Policing to assist with crowd estimation.

Question on notice no. 284

Portfolio question number: AE22-284

Additional estimates

Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee, Home Affairs Portfolio

Senator Alexander Antic: asked the Australian Federal Police on 14 February 2022

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Various photographs have appeared on social media during and following the Protest, purporting to show a Long Range Acoustic Device ("LRAD") deployed during the Protest. See Annexure A for one example of such photograph.

3. Is the photograph at Annexure A an LRAD, or similar device capable of being used as a directional sonic weapon ("LRAD Devices") ?

Answer —

Please see the attached answer.

**SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
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Home Affairs Portfolio

Program: Australian Federal Police

AE22-284 – Long Range Acoustic Devices

Senator Alex ANTIC asked:

Various photographs have appeared on social media during and following the Protest, purporting to show a Long Range Acoustic Device (“LRAD”) deployed during the Protest. See Annexure A for one example of such photograph.

3. Is the photograph at Annexure A an LRAD, or similar device capable of being used as a directional sonic weapon (“LRAD Devices”)?

Answer:

3. The photograph depicts a Long Range Acoustic Device (LRAD). LRADs are designed for emergency management, crowd control and protest response. LRADs are high efficiency loud speakers. All LRADs also have an inbuilt alert/warning tone recording. The alert tone recording is a sound file containing an acoustically produced collection of tones, squeals, high pitch pulses and beeps that are unpleasant to listen to. In this mode the LRAD is just playing an audio recording and does not emit anything apart from a very loud, annoying sound. The alert tone is similar to any other emergency warning sound, in that it is designed to grab attention and encourage people to move away from an area of danger.

Question on notice no. 285

Portfolio question number: AE22-285

Additional estimates

Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee, Home Affairs Portfolio

Senator Alexander Antic: asked the Australian Federal Police on 14 February 2022

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Various photographs have appeared on social media during and following the Protest, purporting to show a Long Range Acoustic Device ("LRAD") deployed during the Protest. See Annexure A for one example of such photograph.

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4. Does AFP possess or otherwise have access to LRAD Devices?

Answer —

Please see the attached answer.

**SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
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Home Affairs Portfolio

Program: Australian Federal Police

AE22-285 – LRAD – possession or access to

Senator Alex ANTIC asked:

Various photographs have appeared on social media during and following the Protest, purporting to show a Long Range Acoustic Device (“LRAD”) deployed during the Protest. See Annexure A for one example of such photograph.

4. Does AFP possess or otherwise have access to LRAD Devices?

Answer:

4. Yes, the AFP possesses a LRAD capability. LRADs are deployed routinely in support of AFP operational activity as part of specialist policing interdependent capabilities. A common use of LRADs is to function as a loudspeaker to convey voice messages to crowds, as occurred during the protests in the ACT on 12-13 February 2022.

Question on notice no. 286

Portfolio question number: AE22-286

Additional estimates

Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee, Home Affairs Portfolio

Senator Alexander Antic: asked the Australian Federal Police on 14 February 2022

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Various photographs have appeared on social media during and following the Protest, purporting to show a Long Range Acoustic Device ("LRAD") deployed during the Protest. See Annexure A for one example of such photograph.

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4. Does AFP possess or otherwise have access to LRAD Devices?

5. If the answer to Question 4 is yes:
 - a. How many LRAD Devices are in the possession of, or otherwise accessible to, AFP?
 - b. When did LRAD Devices first come into the possession of, or otherwise become accessible to, AFP?
 - c. What is the cost of each LRAD Device?
 - d. What are the operational capabilities of such LRAD Devices? (eg decibel output, directional and distance capabilities and any other technical information which describes their capabilities.)
 - e. Did AFP deploy any LRAD Devices (whether or not they were actually used or and whether or not used in a loudspeaker or other manner) in or around Parliament House, Canberra during the Protest?

- f. If the answer to Question 5
 - (e) is yes:
 - i. Were LRAD Devices pointed towards or otherwise directed (whether actually used or not) towards civilians at any time during the Protest?
 - ii. Were LRAD Devices tuned on, activated, used or otherwise operated at any time while pointed towards or directed towards civilians present at the Protest?
 - iii. If the answer to Question 5

 - (f)
 - (ii) is yes, in what manner were the LRAD Devices used? (eg decibel output, direction, distance and any other technical information which describes the manner in which the device was used.)

Answer —

Please see the attached answer.

**SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
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Home Affairs Portfolio

Program: Australian Federal Police

AE22-286 – LRAD – Details of LRAD Devices and their use

Senator Alex ANTIC asked:

Various photographs have appeared on social media during and following the Protest, purporting to show a Long Range Acoustic Device (“LRAD”) deployed during the Protest. See Annexure A for one example of such photograph.

4. Does AFP possess or otherwise have access to LRAD Devices? (response provided in AE-285)
5. If the answer to Question 4 is yes:
 - a. How many LRAD Devices are in the possession of, or otherwise accessible to, AFP?
 - b. When did LRAD Devices first come into the possession of, or otherwise become accessible to, AFP?
 - c. What is the cost of each LRAD Device?
 - d. What are the operational capabilities of such LRAD Devices? (eg decibel output, directional and distance capabilities and any other technical information which describes their capabilities.)
 - e. Did AFP deploy any LRAD Devices (whether or not they were actually used or and whether or not used in a loudspeaker or other manner) in or around Parliament House, Canberra during the Protest?
 - f. If the answer to Question 5(e) is yes:
 - i. Were LRAD Devices pointed towards or otherwise directed (whether actually used or not) towards civilians at any time during the Protest?
 - ii. Were LRAD Devices tuned on, activated, used or otherwise operated at any time while pointed towards or directed towards civilians present at the Protest?
 - iii. If the answer to Question 5(f)(ii) is yes, in what manner were the LRAD Devices used? (eg decibel output, direction, distance and any other technical information which describes the manner in which the device was used.)

Answer:

5.

Several long range acoustic devices were deployed to the Canberra protest on the weekend of 12-13 February 2022.

The LRADs were positioned on Parliament forecourt, 165 metres from the protest area to quickly and effectively convey voice messages to the crowd who approached Australian Parliament House via Parliament Drive. The flow of protesters moving along this roadway were between 105 to 115 metres from the face of the device.

These devices were used to quickly and effectively convey voice messages to the crowd. The long range acoustic devices were only used as a loud speaker to communicate with the crowds. The alert function was not used.

The speaker did not exceed 80 decibel volume. A comparative example of an 80 decibel sound source would be peak hour traffic along a major Canberra arterial road or a plane flying overhead as it comes into land at Canberra Airport.

The use of the long range acoustic devices during this protest activity was compliant with AFP policies.

The AFP will not provide any further detail, as detailed information about AFP methodologies or equipment could compromise future AFP operations.

Question on notice no. 287

Portfolio question number: AE22-287

Additional estimates

Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee, Home Affairs Portfolio

Senator Alexander Antic: asked the Australian Federal Police on 14 February 2022

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Various photographs have appeared on social media during and following the Protest, purporting to show a Long Range Acoustic Device ("LRAD") deployed during the Protest. See Annexure A for one example of such photograph.

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6. Is the AFP aware of whether or not ACT Policing or other ACT Government agencies ("ACT Agencies") have possession of, or access to, LRAD Devices, and if so, which ACT Policing or other ACT Government agency has such access?

Answer —

Please see the attached answer.

**SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES
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Home Affairs Portfolio

Program: Australian Federal Police

AE22-287 – LRAD – ACT Police/Government access to LRAD

Senator Alex ANTIC asked:

Various photographs have appeared on social media during and following the Protest, purporting to show a Long Range Acoustic Device (“LRAD”) deployed during the Protest. See Annexure A for one example of such photograph.

6. Is the AFP aware of whether or not ACT Policing or other ACT Government agencies (“ACT Agencies”) have possession of, or access to, LRAD Devices, and if so, which ACT Policing or other ACT Government agency has such access?

Answer:

6. See response to AE22-286. ACT Policing is the AFP’s community policing capability delivered to the ACT.

Question on notice no. 288

Portfolio question number: AE22-288

Additional estimates

Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee, Home Affairs Portfolio

Senator Alexander Antic: asked the Australian Federal Police on 14 February 2022

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Various photographs have appeared on social media during and following the Protest, purporting to show a Long Range Acoustic Device ("LRAD") deployed during the Protest. See Annexure A for one example of such photograph.

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6. Is the AFP aware of whether or not ACT Policing or other ACT Government agencies ("ACT Agencies") have possession of, or access to, LRAD Devices, and if so, which ACT Policing or other ACT Government agency has such access?

7. If the answer to Question 6 is yes, is AFP aware of, and if so provide answers, with respect to the following:

a. What are the operational capabilities of LRAD Devices which ACT Agencies have possession or access to? (eg decibel, directional and distance capabilities and any other technical information which describes their capabilities.)

b. Did any ACT Agencies deploy any LRAD Devices (whether or not actually used or and whether or not used in a loudspeaker or other manner) in or around Parliament House, Canberra during the Protest?

c. If the answer to Question 7

(b) is yes:

i. Were LRAD Devices pointed towards or otherwise directed (whether actually used or not) towards civilians at any time during the Protest?

ii. Were LRAD Devices turned on, activated, used or otherwise operated at any time while pointed towards or directed towards civilians present at the Protest?

iii. If the answer to Question 7

(g)

(ii) is yes, in what manner were the LRAD Devices used? (eg decibel output, direction, distance and any other technical information which describes the manner in which the device was used.)

Answer —

Please see the attached answer.

**SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
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Home Affairs Portfolio

Program: Australian Federal Police

AE22-288 – LRAD – Further details on ACT Police/Government access to LRAD

Senator Alex ANTIC asked:

Various photographs have appeared on social media during and following the Protest, purporting to show a Long Range Acoustic Device (“LRAD”) deployed during the Protest. See Annexure A for one example of such photograph.

6. Is the AFP aware of whether or not ACT Policing or other ACT Government agencies (“ACT Agencies”) have possession of, or access to, LRAD Devices, and if so, which ACT Policing or other ACT Government agency has such access? (response provided in AE-287)
7. If the answer to Question 6 is yes, is AFP aware of, and if so provide answers, with respect to the following:
 - a. What are the operational capabilities of LRAD Devices which ACT Agencies have possession or access to? (eg decibel, directional and distance capabilities and any other technical information which describes their capabilities.)
 - b. Did any ACT Agencies deploy any LRAD Devices (whether or not actually used or and whether or not used in a loudspeaker or other manner) in or around Parliament House, Canberra during the Protest?
 - c. If the answer to Question 7(b) is yes:
 - i. Were LRAD Devices pointed towards or otherwise directed (whether actually used or not) towards civilians at any time during the Protest?
 - ii. Were LRAD Devices turned on, activated, used or otherwise operated at any time while pointed towards or directed towards civilians present at the Protest?
 - iii. If the answer to Question 7(g)(ii) is yes, in what manner were the LRAD Devices used? (eg decibel output, direction, distance and any other technical information which describes the manner in which the device was used.)

Answer:

7. In relation to the use of LRADs by ACT Police:

- The LRADs were positioned on Parliament forecourt, 165 metres from the protest area to quickly and effectively convey voice messages to the crowd who approached Australian Parliament House via Parliament Drive.
- The flow of protesters moving along this roadway were between 105 to 115 metres from the face of the device.
- The speaker did not exceed 80 decibel volume. A comparative example of an 80 decibel sound source would be peak hour traffic along a major Canberra arterial road or a plane flying overhead as it comes into land at Canberra Airport.

Question on notice no. 289

Portfolio question number: AE22-289

Additional estimates

Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee, Home Affairs Portfolio

Senator Alexander Antic: asked the Australian Federal Police on 14 February 2022

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(8. Were there any injuries reported to either the AFP or ACT Agencies from the use of LRAD Devices during the Protest, and if so what injuries were reported?

Answer —

Please see the attached answer.

**SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
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Home Affairs Portfolio

Program: Australian Federal Police

AE22-289 – LRAD – report injuries to AFP or ACT agencies

Senator Alex ANTIC asked:

8. Were there any injuries reported to the either the AFP or ACT Agencies from the use of LRAD Devices during the Protest, and if so what injuries were reported?

Answer:

8. The AFP has reviewed all formal complaints and feedback made to the AFP in relation to the protests in the ACT on the weekend of 12-13 February 2022.
 - As at 28 February, ten (10) complaints were made that referenced the AFP's use of a LRADs. Some complainants indicated they sustained injury from the Long Range Acoustic Device including skin irritations, skin burns, burnt lips, skin rash, eye soreness, headache, sweating, nausea, general un-wellness, hearing loss, vomiting and loss of appetite.
 - LRADs were only used as a loudspeaker to convey voice messages to the crowd, and the alert function was not used.
 - The AFP has responded to the complainants that the reported injuries cannot be attributed to the use of the LRAD during this protest activity.
 - Even if the alert function was used, it is not considered possible for the LRAD to cause the reported injuries.

Question on notice no. 309

Portfolio question number: AE22-309

Additional estimates

Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee, Home Affairs Portfolio

Senator Alexander Antic: asked the Australian Federal Police on 14 February 2022

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Did the AFP deploy or use, at any time during the Protest, any other technological crowd control devices, such as devices known as Active Denial Systems, or other crowd control technology?

Answer —

Please see the attached answer.

**SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
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Home Affairs Portfolio

Program: Australian Federal Police

AE22-309 – Crowd Control Systems - deployment

Senator asked:

9. Did the AFP deploy or use, at any time during the Protest, any other technological crowd control devices, such as devices known as Active Denial Systems, or other crowd control technology?

Answer:

No.

Question on notice no. 310

Portfolio question number: AE22-310

Additional estimates

Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee, Home Affairs Portfolio

Senator Alexander Antic: asked the Australian Federal Police on 14 February 2022

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If the answer to Question 9 is yes, what are the operational capabilities of such other devices? (eg directional and distance capabilities and any other technical information which describes their capabilities.)

Answer —

Please see the attached answer.

**SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
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Home Affairs Portfolio

Program: Australian Federal Police

AE22-310 – Crowd Control Systems – operational capabilities

Senator Alex ANTIC asked:

9. Did the AFP deploy or use, at any time during the Protest, any other technological crowd control devices, such as devices known as Active Denial Systems, or other crowd control technology? (response provided in AE-309)
10. If the answer to Question 9 is yes, what are the operational capabilities of such other devices? (eg directional and distance capabilities and any other technical information which describes their capabilities.)

Answer:

10. Not applicable.