

Statement on additional 2003 Cabinet records transferred to National Archives of Australia

Between 31 December 2023 and 5 January 2024, 82 additional Cabinet records from 2003 were transferred from the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet to National Archives of Australia.

Of these records, 13 are National Security Committee records that relate directly to the Iraq War. One additional record briefly refers to the Iraq War.

These 14 records have been examined as a priority in consultation with relevant agencies. National Archives has now finalised access decisions and the records will be available to view online via RecordSearch from Thursday 14 March.

Of the 14 records, 12 are Open and 2 are Open with Exception (OWE), meaning some information has been withheld.

Under the *Archives Act 1983*, National Archives is required to release as much information as possible. However, under the Act, certain information is exempt from public access. National Archives is legally bound to withhold information that could impact upon Australia's security or put any person in danger.

Section 33 of the Archives Act lists the reasons why a record, or part of a record, may be withheld from public release. Statements explaining the specific reasons for exemptions will be included within the individual records on RecordSearch.

The remaining 68 records are currently being examined and will be progressively made available online over the coming months. These records relate to other matters, including aviation and maritime security, terrorism/counter terrorism, fuel excise and foreign affairs.

Records being released on Thursday 14 March belong to series [A14371](#) and are listed below.

Title	Control symbol	Barcode	Access status
Iraq: Australian contingency arrangements for possible military action	JH03/0001/P1	32712254	OPEN
National Foreign Intelligence Assessment Priorities	JH03/0024/P1	202904983	OWE
Iraq: Authority of Australian Defence Force Military Action	JH03/0124/P1	32711388	OPEN
Iraq	JH03/0128/P1	32712486	OPEN
Iraq: Phase IV - Australian Engagement in Post-Conflict Activities	JH03/0146/P1	202905000	OPEN
Iraq Economic Reconstruction and Debt Issues	JH03/0203/P1	31472107	OPEN
Iraq Update	JH03/0216/P1	31472113	OPEN
Operation Catalyst	JH03/0242/P1	31472118	OPEN
ADF Contribution to the Rehabilitation of Iraq - Financial Aspects	JH03/0269/P1	31472121	OPEN



NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF AUSTRALIA

Iraq Update	JH03/0310/P1	31472126	OPEN
Review of ADF Participation in Operation CATALYST AND SLIPPER	JH03/0368/P1	31472135	OWE
Iraq Update	JH03/0385/P1	32712489	OPEN
Lessons Arising from Operations Bastille and Falconer	JH03/0389/P1	31472138	OPEN
Iraq Update	JH03/0443/P1	31472147	OPEN

For more information:

- [Latest Cabinet release](#)
- [Review of the transfer of the 2003 Cabinet records from PM&C to the National Archives of Australia](#)
- [Response to Review of 2003 Cabinet records transfer to the National Archives of Australia](#)
- [Access to records under the Archives Act](#)

Contact

National Archives of Australia Media Team | [e media@naa.gov.au](mailto:media@naa.gov.au) | [m 0417 247 157](tel:0417247157)