

Cc: Spindler, Alicia <[Alicia.Spindler@act.gov.au](mailto:Alicia.Spindler@act.gov.au)>

Subject: RE: Flag matters

OFFICIAL

Thanks, I am happy to be involved in any discussions. If I can get a copy of what we have, so I can get my head around them that would be great.

Graham

---

**From:** Keppell, Cassandra <[Cassandra.Keppell@act.gov.au](mailto:Cassandra.Keppell@act.gov.au)>

**Sent:** Thursday, 13 April 2023 9:11 AM


**To:** Tanton, Graham <[Graham.Tanton@act.gov.au](mailto:Graham.Tanton@act.gov.au)>; Shaw, Tania <[Tania.Shaw@act.gov.au](mailto:Tania.Shaw@act.gov.au)>; Dezman, Adam <[Adam.Dezman@act.gov.au](mailto:Adam.Dezman@act.gov.au)>

**Cc:** Spindler, Alicia <[Alicia.Spindler@act.gov.au](mailto:Alicia.Spindler@act.gov.au)>

**Subject:** RE: Flag matters

Hi

Sure no problem we have already identified that we will need to get together to update and improve process.

 also wants to be a part of the discussion from a DFAT perspective as well I am waiting on availability details from him so I can book something in.

Kass

---

**From:** Tanton, Graham <[Graham.Tanton@act.gov.au](mailto:Graham.Tanton@act.gov.au)>

**Sent:** Thursday, 13 April 2023 9:08 AM

**To:** Keppell, Cassandra <[Cassandra.Keppell@act.gov.au](mailto:Cassandra.Keppell@act.gov.au)>; Shaw, Tania <[Tania.Shaw@act.gov.au](mailto:Tania.Shaw@act.gov.au)>; Dezman, Adam <[Adam.Dezman@act.gov.au](mailto:Adam.Dezman@act.gov.au)>

**Cc:** Spindler, Alicia <[Alicia.Spindler@act.gov.au](mailto:Alicia.Spindler@act.gov.au)>

**Subject:** RE: Flag matters

OFFICIAL

Hi Kass, I know we have the flags and banner guidelines, can you also just pull out any process, procedures documents we may have with regards to flags and banners. I suggest we will need to work with the NCA to review and update.

Happy to discuss

Regards

Graham

---

**From:** Keppell, Cassandra <[Cassandra.Keppell@act.gov.au](mailto:Cassandra.Keppell@act.gov.au)>

**Sent:** Thursday, 13 April 2023 8:53 AM

**To:** Tanton, Graham <[Graham.Tanton@act.gov.au](mailto:Graham.Tanton@act.gov.au)>; Shaw, Tania <[Tania.Shaw@act.gov.au](mailto:Tania.Shaw@act.gov.au)>; Dezman, Adam <[Adam.Dezman@act.gov.au](mailto:Adam.Dezman@act.gov.au)>

**Cc:** Spindler, Alicia <[Alicia.Spindler@act.gov.au](mailto:Alicia.Spindler@act.gov.au)>

**Subject:** RE: Flag matters

Thanks

**From:** Tanton, Graham <[Graham.Tanton@act.gov.au](mailto:Graham.Tanton@act.gov.au)>

**Sent:** Thursday, 13 April 2023 8:32 AM

**To:** Shaw, Tania <[Tania.Shaw@act.gov.au](mailto:Tania.Shaw@act.gov.au)>; Dezman, Adam <[Adam.Dezman@act.gov.au](mailto:Adam.Dezman@act.gov.au)>; Keppell, Cassandra <[Cassandra.Keppell@act.gov.au](mailto:Cassandra.Keppell@act.gov.au)>

**Cc:** Spindler, Alicia <[Alicia.Spindler@act.gov.au](mailto:Alicia.Spindler@act.gov.au)>

**Subject:** FW: Flag matters

OFFICIAL

Sorry and again – FYI

Graham

---

**From:** Tanton, Graham

**Sent:** Wednesday, 12 April 2023 5:54 PM

**To:** Gallacher, Anton <[Anton.Gallacher@act.gov.au](mailto:Anton.Gallacher@act.gov.au)>; Prowse, Fay <[Fay.Prowse@act.gov.au](mailto:Fay.Prowse@act.gov.au)>; Cook, Michael <[Michael.Cook@act.gov.au](mailto:Michael.Cook@act.gov.au)>; Paviour, Mark <[Mark.Paviour@act.gov.au](mailto:Mark.Paviour@act.gov.au)>; West, Damian <[Damian.West@act.gov.au](mailto:Damian.West@act.gov.au)>; Polglase, David <[David.Polglase@act.gov.au](mailto:David.Polglase@act.gov.au)>

**Cc:** Ferguson, David <[David.Ferguson@act.gov.au](mailto:David.Ferguson@act.gov.au)>; Shaw, Tania <[Tania.Shaw@act.gov.au](mailto:Tania.Shaw@act.gov.au)>

**Subject:** RE: Flag matters

OFFICIAL

Good afternoon all,

Sch2 S 2.2(a)(x)

Regards

Graham

---

**From:** Tanton, Graham

**Sent:** Wednesday, 12 April 2023 11:17 AM

**To:** Gallacher, Anton <[Anton.Gallacher@act.gov.au](mailto:Anton.Gallacher@act.gov.au)>; Prowse, Fay <[Fay.Prowse@act.gov.au](mailto:Fay.Prowse@act.gov.au)>; Cook, Michael <[Michael.Cook@act.gov.au](mailto:Michael.Cook@act.gov.au)>; Paviour, Mark <[Mark.Paviour@act.gov.au](mailto:Mark.Paviour@act.gov.au)>; West, Damian <[Damian.West@act.gov.au](mailto:Damian.West@act.gov.au)>; Polglase, David <[David.Polglase@act.gov.au](mailto:David.Polglase@act.gov.au)>

**Cc:** Ferguson, David <[David.Ferguson@act.gov.au](mailto:David.Ferguson@act.gov.au)>; Shaw, Tania <[Tania.Shaw@act.gov.au](mailto:Tania.Shaw@act.gov.au)>

**Subject:** RE: Flag matters

OFFICIAL

Sch 2.2(a)(ii), Sch 2.2(a)(x)



**From:** "Tanton, Graham"  
**Sent:** 13/04/2023 10:53 AM  
**To:** "Read, Marilynne" <Marilynne.Read@act.gov.au>  
**Cc:** "West, Damian" <Damian.West@act.gov.au>; "Prowse, Fay" <Fay.Prowse@act.gov.au>  
**Subject:** RE: DFAT advice on Canberra Sikh Association flag design[SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

OFFICIAL

I just raised with David Ferguson, we just need guidance from Michael Cook (CM) prior to arranging a meeting with the CSA.

Can you look to set up a meeting with Michael Cook, David Ferguson, Anton Gallacher, David Polglase and Damian for 30 minutes today if possible.

The meeting on the processes and procedures will be with me and the team initially and then we will look to arrange further meetings with NCA and DFAT to work through .

Regards

Graham

---

**From:** Read, Marilynne <Marilynne.Read@act.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Thursday, 13 April 2023 10:35 AM  
**To:** Tanton, Graham <Graham.Tanton@act.gov.au>  
**Subject:** RE: DFAT advice on Canberra Sikh Association flag design[SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

OFFICIAL

Hi

I need to confirm my understanding of the meeting(s).

One meeting with you and CSA (and Tania?) preferably this afternoon. Held at ACTPG?

One meeting with you and who regarding flag processes. This week? Next week?

M

Marilynne Read | Executive Officer  
Office of the Executive Group Manager, Graham Tanton  
ACT Property Group, Office of Industrial Relations and Workforce Strategy  
Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate | ACT Government  
Level 3, Winyu House, 125 Gungahlin Place, Gungahlin ACT 2912 | GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601 | [act.gov.au](mailto:act.gov.au)  
Phone: MS Teams (preferred) or [Sch 2 s 2.2\(a\)\(ii\)](tel:0262011111) | Email: [Marilynne.Read@act.gov.au](mailto:Marilynne.Read@act.gov.au)

*I acknowledge the traditional custodians of the ACT. I acknowledge and respect their continuing culture and the contribution they make to the life of this city and this region.*

---

**From:** Tanton, Graham <[Graham.Tanton@act.gov.au](mailto:Graham.Tanton@act.gov.au)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, 13 April 2023 8:42 AM  
**To:** Gallacher, Anton <[Anton.Gallacher@act.gov.au](mailto:Anton.Gallacher@act.gov.au)>; West, Damian <[Damian.West@act.gov.au](mailto:Damian.West@act.gov.au)>; Cook, Michael <[Michael.Cook@act.gov.au](mailto:Michael.Cook@act.gov.au)>; Polglase, David <[David.Polglase@act.gov.au](mailto:David.Polglase@act.gov.au)>; Paviour, Mark <[Mark.Paviour@act.gov.au](mailto:Mark.Paviour@act.gov.au)>  
**Cc:** Ferguson, David <[David.Ferguson@act.gov.au](mailto:David.Ferguson@act.gov.au)>; Shaw, Tania <[Tania.Shaw@act.gov.au](mailto:Tania.Shaw@act.gov.au)>; Read, Marilynne <[Marilynne.Read@act.gov.au](mailto:Marilynne.Read@act.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** FW: DFAT advice on Canberra Sikh Association flag design[SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

OFFICIAL

Good morning everyone,

# Sch2 S 2.2(a)(x)

Happy to work around diaries as need be.

Regards

Graham

**From:** Sch 2 s 2.2(a)(ii) <[REDACTED]@dfat.gov.au>

**Sent:** Wednesday, 12 April 2023 8:48 PM

**To:** Tanton, Graham <Graham.Tanton@act.gov.au>; Sch 2 s 2.2(a)(ii) <[REDACTED]@nca.gov.au>

**Cc:** Shaw, Tania <Tania.Shaw@act.gov.au>; Dezman, Adam <Adam.Dezman@act.gov.au>; Keppell, Cassandra <Cassandra.Keppell@act.gov.au>; Read, Marilynne <Marilynne.Read@act.gov.au>

**Subject:** Re: DFAT advice on Canberra Sikh Association flag design[SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

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**OFFICIAL: Sensitive**

Thanks Graham

Sch2 S 2.2(a)(x)

Kind regards

Sch 2 s 2.2(a)(ii)

# Duplicate

Duplicate

Duplicate

# Duplicate

**From:** "Tyson, Katelyn" <Katelyn.Tyson@act.gov.au> on behalf of "Tanton, Graham" <Graham.Tanton@act.gov.au>  
**Sent:** 13/04/2023 11:21 AM  
**To:** "Cook, Michael" <Michael.Cook@act.gov.au>; "Ferguson, David" <David.Ferguson@act.gov.au>; "Gallacher, Anton" <Anton.Gallacher@act.gov.au>; "Polglase, David" <David.Polglase@act.gov.au>; "West, Damian" <Damian.West@act.gov.au>  
**Subject:** DFAT advice on Canberra Sikh Association flag design

Good afternoon all,

Graham has requested this meeting to discuss a way to move forward noting that DFAT guidance has been provided, and to get an understanding of where the CSA position is at.

I have tried to find an appropriate time for everyone to meet. Please let me know if you cannot make this time.

Kind regards,

Katelyn Tyson | A/g Executive Assistant to Dr Damian West  
Phone: 02 6207 7383 | Email: [katelyn.tyson@act.gov.au](mailto:katelyn.tyson@act.gov.au)  
Office of Industrial Relations and Workforce Strategy  
Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate | ACT Government  
Level 5, 220 London Circuit, Canberra City ACT 2601 | [act.gov.au](http://act.gov.au)

---

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**From:** "Thomas, Mikayla" <Mikayla.Thomas@act.gov.au>  
**Sent:** 13/04/2023 12:52 PM  
**To:** "Tanton, Graham" <Graham.Tanton@act.gov.au>; "Shaw, Tania" <Tania.Shaw@act.gov.au>; "Read, Marilynne" <Marilynne.Read@act.gov.au>; "Keppell, Cassandra" <Cassandra.Keppell@act.gov.au>; "Deswal, Chhavi" <Chhavi.Deswal@act.gov.au>  
**Cc:** "Dezman, Adam" <Adam.Dezman@act.gov.au>  
**Subject:** RE: Sikh Flag  
**Categories:** External

OFFICIAL

Hey Marilynne,

Chhavi can set this meeting up with the team if you want to let her know what time suits Grahams Diary 😊

Kind Regards,

**Mikayla Thomas | Executive Officer to Belinda Hedley**

Phone: 02 6207 9887 | Email: [mikayla.thomas@act.gov.au](mailto:mikayla.thomas@act.gov.au)

**ACT Property Group | Office of Industrial Relations and Workforce Strategy**

**Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate | ACT Government**

255 Canberra Avenue, Fyshwick ACT 2609 | GPO Box 777 Fyshwick ACT 2609

[www.economicdevelopment.act.gov.au](http://www.economicdevelopment.act.gov.au) | [www.act.gov.au](http://www.act.gov.au)

*We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the ACT, the Ngunnawal people. We acknowledge and respect their continuing*

*Culture and their contribution they make to the life of this city and this region.*

---

**From:** Tanton, Graham <Graham.Tanton@act.gov.au>

**Sent:** Thursday, 13 April 2023 12:51 PM

**To:** Shaw, Tania <Tania.Shaw@act.gov.au>; Read, Marilynne <Marilynne.Read@act.gov.au>; Thomas, Mikayla <Mikayla.Thomas@act.gov.au>; Keppell, Cassandra <Cassandra.Keppell@act.gov.au>

**Cc:** Dezman, Adam <Adam.Dezman@act.gov.au>

**Subject:** Sikh Flag

OFFICIAL

Afternoon all, I have just got off a call from the CM and SMOS offices. Marilynne can you liaise with Kass and Adam to get the contact details of the Canberra Sikh Community and look to set up a meeting for later this evening, early tomorrow. To discuss the flags situation.

I am flexible as to where we hold it- either at 255 CA, teams or if they have an office to go Out of scope. It would be good to have at least Tania and myself and if available Kass.

Regards

Graham

**Graham Tanton | Executive Group Manager ACT Property Group and Shared Services**

Phone: 02 6207 5757 | Mobile: [Sch 2 s 2.2\(a\)\(ii\)](#) | Email: [graham.tanton@act.gov.au](mailto:graham.tanton@act.gov.au)

**Office of Industrial Relations and Workforce Strategy | Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate | ACT Government**

Level 3, Winyu House, 125 Gungahlin Place, Gungahlin ACT 2601 | [act.gov.au](http://act.gov.au)



**From:** "Tanton, Graham"  
**Sent:** 13/04/2023 6:09 PM  
**To:** "West, Damian" <Damian.West@act.gov.au>; "Cook, Michael" <Michael.Cook@act.gov.au>; "Ferguson, David" <David.Ferguson@act.gov.au>  
**Cc:** "Gallacher, Anton" <Anton.Gallacher@act.gov.au>  
**Subject:** FW: Sikh Flag [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Sch 2.2(a)(ii), Sch 2.2(a)(x)

Regards

Graham

---

**From:** Sch 2 s 2.2(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Thursday, 13 April 2023 5:42 PM  
**To:** Tanton, Graham <Graham.Tanton@act.gov.au> Sch 2 s 2.2(a)(ii) @nca.gov.au>; Keppell, Cassandra <Cassandra.Keppell@act.gov.au>; Shaw, Tania <Tania.Shaw@act.gov.au>; hamid.heydarion@nca.gov.au  
**Subject:** RE: Sikh Flag [SEC=OFFICIAL]

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OFFICIAL

Dear Mr Tanton and Sch 2 s 2.2(a)(ii)

Sch 2 s 2.2(a)(ii), Sch2 S 2.2(a)(x)

Many thanks and kind regards

Sch 2 s 2.2(a)(ii)

---

a/g Assistant Secretary  
India Branch  
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

P +Sch 2 s 2.2(a)(ii) | M Sch 2 s 2.2(a)(ii)

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---

**From:** Tanton, Graham <[Graham.Tanton@act.gov.au](mailto:Graham.Tanton@act.gov.au)>

**Sent:** Thursday, 13 April 2023 5:07 PM

**To:** Sch 2 s 2.2(a)(ii) <[Sch 2 s 2.2\(a\)\(ii\)@dfat.gov.au](mailto:Sch 2 s 2.2(a)(ii)@dfat.gov.au)>; Sch 2 s 2.2(a)(ii) <[Sch 2 s 2.2\(a\)\(ii\)@nca.gov.au](mailto:Sch 2 s 2.2(a)(ii)@nca.gov.au)>; Keppell, Cassandra <[Cassandra.Keppell@act.gov.au](mailto:Cassandra.Keppell@act.gov.au)>; Shaw, Tania <[Tania.Shaw@act.gov.au](mailto:Tania.Shaw@act.gov.au)>; [hamid.heydarion@nca.gov.au](mailto:hamid.heydarion@nca.gov.au)

**Subject:** Sikh Flag

**Importance:** High

OFFICIAL

Sch 2 s 2.2(a)(ii), Sch2 S 2.2(a)(x)

Happy to discuss

Graham

Graham Tanton | Executive Group Manager ACT Property Group

Phone: 02 6207 5757 | Mobile: Sch 2 s 2.2(a)(ii) | Email: [graham.tanton@act.gov.au](mailto:graham.tanton@act.gov.au)

Office of Industrial Relations and Workforce Strategy | Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate | ACT Government

Level 3, Winyu House, 125 Gungahlin Place, Gungahlin ACT 2601 | GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601 | [act.gov.au](https://act.gov.au)

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**From:** "Tanton, Graham"  
**Sent:** 13/04/2023 6:54 PM  
**To:** "Hamid Heydarian" <Hamid.Heydarian@nca.gov.au>; [Sch 2 s 2.2(a)(ii)]  
 [redacted]@dfat.gov.au; [Sch 2 s 2.2(a)(ii)] [redacted]@nca.gov.au; "Keppell, Cassandra"  
 <Kassandra.Keppell@act.gov.au>; "Shaw, Tania" <Tania.Shaw@act.gov.au>  
**Subject:** RE: Sikh Flag [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Thank you Hamid, much appreciated.

Sch 2 s 2.2(a)(ii), Sch2 S 2.2(a)(x)

Thanks to both you and [redacted] for your assistance in this matter.

Regards

Graham

---

**From:** Hamid Heydarian <Hamid.Heydarian@nca.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Thursday, 13 April 2023 6:36 PM  
**To:** Tanton, Graham <Graham.Tanton@act.gov.au>; [Sch 2 s 2.2(a)(ii)] [redacted]@dfat.gov.au; [Sch 2 s 2.2(a)(ii)] [redacted]@nca.gov.au; Keppell, Cassandra <Kassandra.Keppell@act.gov.au>; Shaw, Tania <Tania.Shaw@act.gov.au>  
**Subject:** Re: Sikh Flag [SEC=OFFICIAL]

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Sch 2 s 2.2(a)(ii), Sch2 S 2.2

Cheers, Hamid

Hamid Heydarian  
 Chief Operating Officer  
 National Capital Authority

---

**From:** Tanton, Graham <Graham.Tanton@act.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 13, 2023 6:18 pm  
**To:** [Sch 2 s 2.2(a)(ii)] [redacted]@dfat.gov.au; [Sch 2 s 2.2(a)(ii)] [redacted]@nca.gov.au; Keppell, Cassandra <Kassandra.Keppell@act.gov.au>; Shaw, Tania <Tania.Shaw@act.gov.au>; Hamid Heydarian <Hamid.Heydarian@nca.gov.au>  
**Subject:** RE: Sikh Flag [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL



Thank you Jon,

# Sch 2 s 2.2(a)(ii), Sch2 S 2.2(a)(x)

Regards

Graham

Graham Tanton | Executive Group Manager ACT Property Group

Phone: 02 6207 5757 | Mobile: [Sch 2 s 2.2\(a\)\(ii\)](#) | Email: [graham.tanton@act.gov.au](mailto:graham.tanton@act.gov.au)

Office of Industrial Relations and Workforce Strategy | Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate | ACT Government

Level 3, Winyu House, 125 Gungahlin Place, Gungahlin ACT 2601 | GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601 | [act.gov.au](http://act.gov.au)

**From:** [Sch 2 s 2.2\(a\)\(ii\)](#) [@dfat.gov.au](mailto:Sch 2 s 2.2(a)(ii)@dfat.gov.au)

**Sent:** Thursday, 13 April 2023 5:42 PM

**To:** Tanton, Graham <[Graham.Tanton@act.gov.au](mailto:Graham.Tanton@act.gov.au)>; [Sch 2 s 2.2\(a\)\(ii\)](#) [@nca.gov.au](mailto:Sch 2 s 2.2(a)(ii)@nca.gov.au); Keppell, Cassandra <[Cassandra.Keppell@act.gov.au](mailto:Cassandra.Keppell@act.gov.au)>; Shaw, Tania <[Tania.Shaw@act.gov.au](mailto:Tania.Shaw@act.gov.au)>; [hamid.heydarion@nca.gov.au](mailto:hamid.heydarion@nca.gov.au)

**Subject:** RE: Sikh Flag [SEC=OFFICIAL]

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**OFFICIAL**

Dear Mr Tanton and [Sch 2 s 2.2\(a\)\(ii\)](#)

# Sch 2 s 2.2(a)(ii), Sch2 S 2.2(a)(x)

Many thanks and kind regards

[Sch 2 s 2.2\(a\)\(ii\)](#)

a/g Assistant Secretary

India Branch

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

P [+Sch 2 s 2.2\(a\)\(ii\)](#) | M [+Sch 2 s 2.2\(a\)\(ii\)](#)

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**Subject:** Sikh Flag

**Importance:** High

OFFICIAL

Sch 2 s 2.2(a)(ii), Sch2 S 2.2(a)(x)

Happy to discuss

Graham

**Graham Tanton | Executive Group Manager ACT Property Group**

Phone: 02 6207 5757 | Mobile: [Sch 2 s 2.2\(a\)\(ii\)@dfat.gov.au](mailto:Sch 2 s 2.2(a)(ii)@dfat.gov.au) | Email: [graham.tanton@act.gov.au](mailto:graham.tanton@act.gov.au)

**Office of Industrial Relations and Workforce Strategy | Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate | ACT Government**

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**From:** "Tanton, Graham" <Graham.Tanton@act.gov.au>  
**Sent:** 13/04/2023 7:16 PM  
**To:** "Cook, Michael" <Michael.Cook@act.gov.au>; "Ferguson, David" <David.Ferguson@act.gov.au>; "West, Damian" <Damian.West@act.gov.au>; "Polglase, David" <David.Polglase@act.gov.au>  
**Cc:** "Gallacher, Anton" <Anton.Gallacher@act.gov.au>  
**Subject:** FW: Sikh Flag [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

# Sch 2 s 2.2(a)(ii), Sch2 S 2.2(a)(x)

Happy to discuss,

Regards  
Graham

---

**From:** Hamid Heydarian <Hamid.Heydarian@nca.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Thursday, 13 April 2023 6:36 PM  
**To:** Tanton, Graham <Graham.Tanton@act.gov.au>; @dfat.gov.au; Johanna Hamilton <Johanna.Hamilton@dfat.gov.au>; @nca.gov.au; Keppell, Cassandra <Cassandra.Keppell@act.gov.au>; Shaw, Tania <Tania.Shaw@act.gov.au>  
**Subject:** Re: Sikh Flag [SEC=OFFICIAL]

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Sch 2 s 2.2(a)(ii), Sch2 S 2.2

Cheers, Hamid

Hamid Heydarian  
Chief Operating Officer  
National Capital Authority



**From:** Tanton, Graham <[Graham.Tanton@act.gov.au](mailto:Graham.Tanton@act.gov.au)>

**Sent:** Thursday, April 13, 2023 6:18 pm

**To:** [@dfat.gov.au](mailto:dfat.gov.au); [@nca.gov.au](mailto:nca.gov.au); Keppell, Cassandra <[Cassandra.Keppell@act.gov.au](mailto:Cassandra.Keppell@act.gov.au)>; Shaw, Tania <[Tania.Shaw@act.gov.au](mailto:Tania.Shaw@act.gov.au)>; Hamid Heydarian <[Hamid.Heydarian@nca.gov.au](mailto:Hamid.Heydarian@nca.gov.au)>

**Subject:** RE: Sikh Flag [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Thank you Jon,

Sch 2 s 2.2(a)(ii), Sch2 S 2.2(a)(x)

Regards

Graham

Graham Tanton | Executive Group Manager ACT Property Group

Phone: 02 6207 5757 | Mobile: | Email: [graham.tanton@act.gov.au](mailto:graham.tanton@act.gov.au)

Office of Industrial Relations and Workforce Strategy | Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate | ACT Government

Level 3, Winyu House, 125 Gungahlin Place, Gungahlin ACT 2601 | GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601 | [act.gov.au](http://act.gov.au)

**From:** [@dfat.gov.au](mailto:dfat.gov.au)

**Sent:** Thursday, 13 April 2023 5:42 PM

**To:** Tanton, Graham <[Graham.Tanton@act.gov.au](mailto:Graham.Tanton@act.gov.au)>; [@nca.gov.au](mailto:nca.gov.au); Keppell, Cassandra <[Cassandra.Keppell@act.gov.au](mailto:Cassandra.Keppell@act.gov.au)>; Shaw, Tania <[Tania.Shaw@act.gov.au](mailto:Tania.Shaw@act.gov.au)>; [hamid.heydarion@nca.gov.au](mailto:hamid.heydarion@nca.gov.au)

**Subject:** RE: Sikh Flag [SEC=OFFICIAL]

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OFFICIAL

Dear Mr Tanton and

Sch 2 s 2.2(a)(ii), Sch2 S 2.2(a)(x)

Many thanks and kind regards

\_\_\_\_\_  
a/g Assistant Secretary

India Branch  
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

P | M +

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**From:** Tanton, Graham <[Graham.Tanton@act.gov.au](mailto:Graham.Tanton@act.gov.au)>

**Sent:** Thursday, 13 April 2023 5:07 PM

**To:** [@dfat.gov.au](mailto:@dfat.gov.au); [@nca.gov.au](mailto:@nca.gov.au); Keppell, Cassandra <[Kassandra.Keppell@act.gov.au](mailto:Kassandra.Keppell@act.gov.au)>; Shaw, Tania <[Tania.Shaw@act.gov.au](mailto:Tania.Shaw@act.gov.au)>; [hamid.heydarion@nca.gov.au](mailto:hamid.heydarion@nca.gov.au)

**Subject:** Sikh Flag

**Importance:** High

### OFFICIAL

Good afternoon , as you are aware ACTPG met with the CSA this afternoon, based on discussions the CSA has proposed the flag be amended to remove the text. I believe they have sent you a photo of what the flag would look like. Basically the bottom 250mm will be removed with the edges re hemmed.

## Sch 2.2(a)(x)

Happy to discuss

Graham

Graham Tanton | Executive Group Manager ACT Property Group

Phone: 02 6207 5757 | Mobile: | Email: [graham.tanton@act.gov.au](mailto:graham.tanton@act.gov.au)

Office of Industrial Relations and Workforce Strategy | Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate | ACT Government

Level 3, Winyu House, 125 Gungahlin Place, Gungahlin ACT 2601 | GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601 | [act.gov.au](http://act.gov.au)

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**From:** "Tanton, Graham"  
**Sent:** 14/04/2023 9:54 AM  
**To:** "Dezman, Adam" <Adam.Dezman@act.gov.au>; "Shaw, Tania" <Tania.Shaw@act.gov.au>; "Read, Marilynne" <Marilynne.Read@act.gov.au>; "Keppell, Cassandra" <Cassandra.Keppell@act.gov.au>; "Thomas, Mikayla" <Mikayla.Thomas@act.gov.au>  
**Subject:** FW: Sikh flag DRAFT talking points

OFFICIAL

# Sch 2 s 2.2(a)(ii), Sch2 S 2.2(a)(x)

Regards

Graham

---

**From:** Read, Marilynne <Marilynne.Read@act.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Friday, 14 April 2023 9:30 AM  
**To:** Sch 2 s 2.2(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au; Polglase, David <David.Polglase@act.gov.au>; Tanton, Graham <Graham.Tanton@act.gov.au>  
**Subject:** Sikh flag DRAFT talking points

OFFICIAL

Hello

Graham has asked me to draft talking points for our Minister's Offices regarding the flags, should they receive any calls. Can you please review them?

- The Canberra Sikh Association is hosting Vaisakhi, which is a significant religious and cultural festival for the Sikh community and is celebrated worldwide.
- The Nishan Sahib is an important symbol of the Sikh religion and is usually installed outside Gurdwaras (temples) during religious and cultural celebrations.
- The Canberra Sikh Association booked the installation of the Nishan Sahib flags at various locations in Canberra to mark Vaisakhi from 3 April to 28 April 2023.
- Following discussions with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) and the National Capital Authority (NCA), their advice is the flags can be raised.
- The Indian diaspora\*, including Canberra's Sikh community, are valued and important contributors to Australian society, to our vibrant and resilient multicultural society. We will continue to work with other agencies to foster greater social cohesion, greater understanding and inclusion of diaspora communities.

For information, there is a distinction between the Nishan Sahib and Khalistan flags:

- The Nishan Sahib flag is traditionally a triangle shape with no writing, and represents the Sikh religion and its values.
- The Khalistan flag is rectangular and represents a political movement seeking a separate Sikh state.
- The Nishan Sahib flag but the ACT Government prefers rectangular flags for use on our flagpoles.



\*dispersed community

Can you please advise if I have mis-represented anything and that you are comfortable for these to be sent to Minister's Offices?

Kind regards  
Marilynne

**Marilynne Read** | Executive Officer

**Office of the Executive Group Manager, Graham Tanton**

**ACT Property Group, Office of Industrial Relations and Workforce Strategy**

**Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate | ACT Government**

Level 3, Winyu House, 125 Gungahlin Place, Gungahlin ACT 2912 | GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601 | [act.gov.au](http://act.gov.au)

Phone: MS Teams (preferred) or [Sch 2 s 2.2\(a\)\(ii\)](#) | Email: [Marilynne.Read@act.gov.au](mailto:Marilynne.Read@act.gov.au)

*I acknowledge the traditional custodians of the ACT. I acknowledge and respect their continuing culture and the contribution they make to the life of this city and this region.*

**From:** "Polglase, David" <David.Polglase@act.gov.au>  
**Sent:** 14/04/2023 10:14 AM  
**To:** "Read, Marilynne" <Marilynne.Read@act.gov.au>; "Tanton, Graham" <Graham.Tanton@act.gov.au>  
**Subject:** FW: Sikh flag DRAFT talking points [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hi Marilynne and Graham,

Just removed Jon from this chain.

Would we not include a talking point on the original flags being removed? And the process undertaken?

Something along the lines of:

- The original flags that were provided and raised on 3 April were removed following concerns raised by members of the community, and following advice from DFAT and the National Capital Authority.

I would propose this would be inserted between the current 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> points.

Cheers

Dave

David Polglase | Acting Executive Branch Manager

Phone: 02 6205 9957 | Mobile: Sch 2 s 2.2(a)(ii) | Email: [david.polglase@act.gov.au](mailto:david.polglase@act.gov.au)

Communications & Engagement | Chief Minister Treasury and Economic Development Directorate | ACT Government  
220 London Circuit, Canberra City | GPO Box 158 Canberra City ACT 2601 | [www.act.gov.au](http://www.act.gov.au)



**From:** Sch 2 s 2.2(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>

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Duplicate

Duplicate



Duplicate

**From:** "Read, Marilynne" <Marilynne.Read@act.gov.au>  
**Sent:** 14/04/2023 10:30 AM  
**To:** "Tanton, Graham" <Graham.Tanton@act.gov.au>  
**Subject:** FW: Sikh flag DRAFT talking points [SEC=OFFICIAL]

**OFFICIAL**

Hi

Revised points below.

- The Canberra Sikh Association (CSA) is hosting Vaisakhi, which is a significant religious and cultural festival for the Sikh community and is celebrated worldwide.
- The Nishan Sahib is an important symbol of the Sikh religion and is usually installed outside Gurdwaras (temples) during religious and cultural celebrations.
- The Canberra Sikh Association booked the installation of the Nishan Sahib flags at various locations in Canberra to mark Vaisakhi from 3 April to 28 April 2023.
- Following discussions with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) and the National Capital Authority (NCA), their advice is the flags can be raised.
- The Indian diaspora\*, including Canberra's Sikh community, are valued and important contributors to Australian society, to our vibrant and resilient multicultural society. We will continue to work with other agencies to foster greater social cohesion, greater understanding and inclusion of diaspora communities.

For information

- There is a distinction between the Nishan Sahib and Khalistan flags:
  - The Nishan Sahib flag is traditionally a saffron colour triangle shape with no writing, and represents the Sikh religion and its values.
  - The Khalistan flag is rectangular and represents a political movement seeking a separate Sikh state.
  - The Nishan Sahib flag but the ACT Government prefers rectangular flags for use on our flagpoles.
- The original flags that were provided and raised on 3 April.
- Following concerns raised by members of the community in relation to the design of the flag, and following advice from DFAT and the National Capital Authority, the flags were lowered.
- Following further consultation on 13 April with the CSA and ACT Property Group, DFAT raised no objection to a revised design proposed by the CSA.

\*dispersed community

Marilynne Read | Executive Officer  
Office of the Executive Group Manager, Graham Tanton  
ACT Property Group, Office of Industrial Relations and Workforce Strategy  
Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate | ACT Government  
Level 3, Winyu House, 125 Gungahlin Place, Gungahlin ACT 2912 | GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601 | [act.gov.au](mailto:act.gov.au)  
Phone: MS Teams (preferred) or [Sch 2 s 2.2\(a\)\(ii\)](#) | Email: [Marilynne.Read@act.gov.au](mailto:Marilynne.Read@act.gov.au)

*I acknowledge the traditional custodians of the ACT. I acknowledge and respect their continuing culture and the contribution they make to the life of this city and this region.*

**From:** Sch 2 s 2.2(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au  
**Sent:** Friday, 14 April 2023 10:04 AM  
**To:** Read, Marilynne <Marilynne.Read@act.gov.au>; Polglase, David <David.Polglase@act.gov.au>; Tanton, Graham <Graham.Tanton@act.gov.au>  
**Subject:** RE: Sikh flag DRAFT talking points [SEC=OFFICIAL]

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**OFFICIAL**

Hello Marilynne

Sch 2 s 2.2(a)(ii), Sch2 S 2.2(a)(x)

Kind regards

Sch 2 s 2.2(a)(ii)

---

a/g AS  
India Branch  
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade  
**P** Sch 2 s 2.2(a)(ii) | **M** Sch 2 s 2.2(a)(ii)  
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---

**From:** Read, Marilynne <Marilynne.Read@act.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Friday, 14 April 2023 9:30 AM  
**To:** Sch 2 s 2.2(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; Polglase, David <David.Polglase@act.gov.au>; Tanton, Graham <Graham.Tanton@act.gov.au>  
**Subject:** Sikh flag DRAFT talking points

**OFFICIAL**

Hello

Graham has asked me to draft talking points for our Minister's Offices regarding the flags, should they receive any calls. Can you please review them?



- The Canberra Sikh Association is hosting Vaisakhi, which is a significant religious and cultural festival for the Sikh community and is celebrated worldwide.
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- The Canberra Sikh Association booked the installation of the Nishan Sahib flags at various locations in Canberra to mark Vaisakhi from 3 April to 28 April 2023.
- Following discussions with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) and the National Capital Authority (NCA), their advice is the flags can be raised.
- The Indian diaspora\*, including Canberra's Sikh community, are valued and important contributors to Australian society, to our vibrant and resilient multicultural society. We will continue to work with other agencies to foster greater social cohesion, greater understanding and inclusion of diaspora communities.

#### For information

- There is a distinction between the Nishan Sahib and Khalistan flags:
  - The Nishan Sahib flag is traditionally a triangle shape with no writing, and represents the Sikh religion and its values.
  - The Khalistan flag is rectangular and represents a political movement seeking a separate Sikh state.
  - The Nishan Sahib flag but the ACT Government prefers rectangular flags for use on our flagpoles.
- The original flags that were provided and raised on 3 April.
- Following concerns raised by members of the community in relation to the design of the flag, and following advice from DFAT and the National Capital Authority, the flags were lowered.
- Subsequent consultation with the Canberra Sikh Association, ACT Property Group, and DFAT, subject to a redesign that would see the removal of any text, DFAT would lift their concerns to the flags being flown.

\*dispersed community

Can you please advise if I have mis-represented anything and that you are comfortable for these to be sent to Minister's Offices?

Kind regards  
Marilynne

Marilynne Read | Executive Officer  
Office of the Executive Group Manager, Graham Tanton  
ACT Property Group, Office of Industrial Relations and Workforce Strategy  
Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate | ACT Government  
Level 3, Winyu House, 125 Gungahlin Place, Gungahlin ACT 2912 | GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601 | [act.gov.au](http://act.gov.au)  
Phone: MS Teams (preferred) or [Sch 2 s 2.2\(a\)\(ii\)](#) | Email: [Marilynne.Read@act.gov.au](mailto:Marilynne.Read@act.gov.au)

*I acknowledge the traditional custodians of the ACT. I acknowledge and respect their continuing culture and the contribution they make to the life of this city and this region.*

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**From:** "Tanton, Graham"  
**Sent:** 14/04/2023 11:34 AM  
**To:** "Dezman, Adam" <Adam.Dezman@act.gov.au>; "Keppell, Cassandra" <Kassandra.Keppell@act.gov.au>; "Shaw, Tania" <Tania.Shaw@act.gov.au>  
**Subject:** RE: Sikh Flag [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Thank you,

Please pass on my thanks to the team.

Graham

---

**From:** Dezman, Adam <Adam.Dezman@act.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Friday, 14 April 2023 11:34 AM  
**To:** Tanton, Graham <Graham.Tanton@act.gov.au>; Keppell, Cassandra <Kassandra.Keppell@act.gov.au>; Shaw, Tania <Tania.Shaw@act.gov.au>  
**Subject:** RE: Sikh Flag [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hi All,

Please be advised that the Sikh flags have been reinstated to all original locations.

Regards

Adam Dezman  
A/g Director, Intake and Property Operations  
ACT Property Group  
Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate | ACT Government  
M: [Sch 2 s 2.2\(a\)\(ii\)](#)  
E: [adam.dezman@act.gov.au](mailto:adam.dezman@act.gov.au)  
255 Canberra Avenue, Fyshwick, ACT 2609

*"If you have any feedback for the ACT Property Group, please email [actpgfeedback@act.gov.au](mailto:actpgfeedback@act.gov.au)"*

***We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the ACT, the Ngunnawal people. We acknowledge and respect their continuing Culture and their contribution they make to the life of this city and this region.***

---

**From:** Tanton, Graham <[Graham.Tanton@act.gov.au](mailto:Graham.Tanton@act.gov.au)>  
**Sent:** Friday, 14 April 2023 9:52 AM  
**To:** Keppell, Cassandra <[Kassandra.Keppell@act.gov.au](mailto:Kassandra.Keppell@act.gov.au)>; Dezman, Adam <[Adam.Dezman@act.gov.au](mailto:Adam.Dezman@act.gov.au)>; Shaw, Tania <[Tania.Shaw@act.gov.au](mailto:Tania.Shaw@act.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** FW: Sikh Flag [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Dear all, just a quick FYI.



Regards

Graham

---

**From:** Tanton, Graham

**Sent:** Friday, 14 April 2023 9:49 AM

**To:** Cook, Michael <[Michael.Cook@act.gov.au](mailto:Michael.Cook@act.gov.au)>; Ferguson, David <[David.Ferguson@act.gov.au](mailto:David.Ferguson@act.gov.au)>; West, Damian <[Damian.West@act.gov.au](mailto:Damian.West@act.gov.au)>; Polglase, David <[David.Polglase@act.gov.au](mailto:David.Polglase@act.gov.au)>

**Cc:** Gallacher, Anton <[Anton.Gallacher@act.gov.au](mailto:Anton.Gallacher@act.gov.au)>

**Subject:** RE: Sikh Flag [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Good morning everyone,

Just a quick flag update, as of 8.30am this morning, ACTPG were just awaiting the CSA to deliver the revised flags, which the ACTPG will check to ensure they have been amended in line with DFAT's guidance. Once checked they will sent out to be raised.

We have drafted some talking points, that I have just sent to DFAT to review, hopefully we will have any comments back shortly.

Ps on flags – the flags the National flags are flying at half must in the ACT only as a respect to the passing and state funeral of the Honourable John Kerin AO, which is scheduled to be held at 2pm today.

Regards

Graham

---

**From:** Tanton, Graham

**Sent:** Thursday, 13 April 2023 7:17 PM

**To:** Cook, Michael <[Michael.Cook@act.gov.au](mailto:Michael.Cook@act.gov.au)>; Ferguson, David <[David.Ferguson@act.gov.au](mailto:David.Ferguson@act.gov.au)>; West, Damian <[Damian.West@act.gov.au](mailto:Damian.West@act.gov.au)>; Polglase, David <[David.Polglase@act.gov.au](mailto:David.Polglase@act.gov.au)>

**Cc:** Gallacher, Anton <[Anton.Gallacher@act.gov.au](mailto:Anton.Gallacher@act.gov.au)>

**Subject:** FW: Sikh Flag [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Sch 2.2(a)(x)

David P. I will touch base tomorrow, it may be worth getting a few talking points together with regards to the flags to assist Ministers answer any questions.

Happy to discuss,

Regards

Graham



**From:** Hamid Heydarian <[Hamid.Heydarian@nca.gov.au](mailto:Hamid.Heydarian@nca.gov.au)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, 13 April 2023 6:36 PM  
**To:** Tanton, Graham <[Graham.Tanton@act.gov.au](mailto:Graham.Tanton@act.gov.au)> Sch 2 s 2.2(a)(ii) [@dfat.gov.au](mailto:dfat.gov.au); Sch 2 s 2.2(a)(ii) [@nca.gov.au](mailto:nca.gov.au); Keppell, Cassandra <[Cassandra.Keppell@act.gov.au](mailto:Cassandra.Keppell@act.gov.au)>; Shaw, Tania <[Tania.Shaw@act.gov.au](mailto:Tania.Shaw@act.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** Re: Sikh Flag [SEC=OFFICIAL]

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Hi Graham,  
Sch 2 s 2.2(a)(ii), Sch 2 s 2.2(a)(ii)

THANKS FOR

Cheers, Hamid

Hamid Heydarian  
 Chief Operating Officer  
 National Capital Authority

---

**From:** Tanton, Graham <[Graham.Tanton@act.gov.au](mailto:Graham.Tanton@act.gov.au)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 13, 2023 6:18 pm  
**To:** Sch 2 s 2.2(a)(ii) [@dfat.gov.au](mailto:dfat.gov.au); Sch 2 s 2.2(a)(ii) [@nca.gov.au](mailto:nca.gov.au); Keppell, Cassandra <[Cassandra.Keppell@act.gov.au](mailto:Cassandra.Keppell@act.gov.au)>; Shaw, Tania <[Tania.Shaw@act.gov.au](mailto:Tania.Shaw@act.gov.au)>; Hamid Heydarian <[Hamid.Heydarian@nca.gov.au](mailto:Hamid.Heydarian@nca.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** RE: Sikh Flag [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Thank you Sch 2 s 2.2(a)(ii),

Sch 2 s 2.2(a)(ii), Sch2 S 2.2(a)(x)

Regards

Graham

Graham Tanton | Executive Group Manager ACT Property Group

Phone: 02 6207 5757 | Mobile: Sch 2 s 2.2(a)(ii) | Email: [graham.tanton@act.gov.au](mailto:graham.tanton@act.gov.au)

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**From:** Sch 2 s 2.2(a)(ii) <[Sch2s2.2\(a\)\(ii\)@dfat.gov.au](mailto:Sch2s2.2(a)(ii)@dfat.gov.au)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, 13 April 2023 5:42 PM  
**To:** Tanton, Graham <[Graham.Tanton@act.gov.au](mailto:Graham.Tanton@act.gov.au)>; Sch 2 s 2.2(a)(ii) <[Sch2s2.2\(a\)\(ii\)@nca.gov.au](mailto:Sch2s2.2(a)(ii)@nca.gov.au)>; Keppell, Cassandra <[Cassandra.Keppell@act.gov.au](mailto:Cassandra.Keppell@act.gov.au)>; Shaw, Tania <[Tania.Shaw@act.gov.au](mailto:Tania.Shaw@act.gov.au)>; [hamid.heydarion@nca.gov.au](mailto:hamid.heydarion@nca.gov.au)  
**Subject:** RE: Sikh Flag [SEC=OFFICIAL]

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**OFFICIAL**

Dear Mr Tanton and Sch 2 s 2.2(a)(ii)

Sch 2 s 2.2(a)(ii), Sch2 S 2.2(a)(x)

Many thanks and kind regards

Sch 2 s 2.2(a)(ii)

\_\_\_\_\_  
a/g Assistant Secretary  
India Branch  
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade  
P Sch 2 s 2.2(a)(ii) | M +Sch 2 s 2.2(a)(ii)  
[dfat.gov.au](http://dfat.gov.au) | [Twitter](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Instagram](#) | [LinkedIn](#)



**From:** Tanton, Graham <[Graham.Tanton@act.gov.au](mailto:Graham.Tanton@act.gov.au)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, 13 April 2023 5:07 PM  
**To:** Sch 2 s 2.2(a)(ii) <[Sch2s2.2\(a\)\(ii\)@dfat.gov.au](mailto:Sch2s2.2(a)(ii)@dfat.gov.au)>; Sch 2 s 2.2(a)(ii) <[Sch2s2.2\(a\)\(ii\)@nca.gov.au](mailto:Sch2s2.2(a)(ii)@nca.gov.au)>; Keppell, Cassandra <[Cassandra.Keppell@act.gov.au](mailto:Cassandra.Keppell@act.gov.au)>; Shaw, Tania <[Tania.Shaw@act.gov.au](mailto:Tania.Shaw@act.gov.au)>; [hamid.heydarion@nca.gov.au](mailto:hamid.heydarion@nca.gov.au)  
**Subject:** Sikh Flag  
**Importance:** High

**OFFICIAL**

Sch 2 s 2.2(a)(ii), Sch2 S 2.2(a)(x)

Happy to discuss

Graham

Graham Tanton | Executive Group Manager ACT Property Group

Phone: 02 6207 5757 | Mobile: Sch 2 s 2.2(a)(ii) | Email: [graham.tanton@act.gov.au](mailto:graham.tanton@act.gov.au)

Office of Industrial Relations and Workforce Strategy | Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate | ACT Government

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-----



**From:** "Tanton, Graham"  
**Sent:** 14/04/2023 11:36 AM  
**To:** "Cook, Michael" <Michael.Cook@act.gov.au>; "Ferguson, David" <David.Ferguson@act.gov.au>; "West, Damian" <Damian.West@act.gov.au>; "Polglase, David" <David.Polglase@act.gov.au>  
**Cc:** "Gallacher, Anton" <Anton.Gallacher@act.gov.au>  
**Subject:** RE: Sikh Flag [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Good morning all,

Just an update, the CSA dropped the revised flags off to ACTPG around after 9. I have received confirmation that the flags have now been raised.

We are just in the process of finalising some talking points.

Regards

Graham

---

**From:** Tanton, Graham  
**Sent:** Friday, 14 April 2023 9:49 AM  
**To:** Cook, Michael <Michael.Cook@act.gov.au>; Ferguson, David <David.Ferguson@act.gov.au>; West, Damian <Damian.West@act.gov.au>; Polglase, David <David.Polglase@act.gov.au>  
**Cc:** Gallacher, Anton <Anton.Gallacher@act.gov.au>  
**Subject:** RE: Sikh Flag [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Good morning everyone,

Just a quick flag update, as of 8.30am this morning, ACTPG were just awaiting the CSA to deliver the revised flags,  
Sch 2.2(a)(x)

Sch 2.2(a)(x)

Ps on flags – the flags the National flags are flying at half must in the ACT only as a respect to the passing and state funeral of the Honourable John Kerin AO, which is scheduled to be held at 2pm today.

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Graham

---

**From:** Tanton, Graham  
**Sent:** Thursday, 13 April 2023 7:17 PM  
**To:** Cook, Michael <Michael.Cook@act.gov.au>; Ferguson, David <David.Ferguson@act.gov.au>; West, Damian <Damian.West@act.gov.au>; Polglase, David <David.Polglase@act.gov.au>  
**Cc:** Gallacher, Anton <Anton.Gallacher@act.gov.au>  
**Subject:** FW: Sikh Flag [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Good evening everyone, based on the email chain below, which references that both NCA and DFAT having no objection to the proposed revised flag being raised. I think if the CSA can provide the revised flag design our position would be consistent with both the NCA and DFAT positions and not object to the raising of the flag.

Michael based on our discussion I have asked ACTPG to contact CSA and advise them that ACTPG will look to raise the flags subject to them getting the revised flags to ACTPG tomorrow morning.

David P. I will touch base tomorrow, it may be worth getting a few talking points together with regards to the flags to assist Ministers answer any questions.

Happy to discuss,

Regards  
Graham

---

**From:** Hamid Heydarian <[Hamid.Heydarian@nca.gov.au](mailto:Hamid.Heydarian@nca.gov.au)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, 13 April 2023 6:36 PM  
**To:** Tanton, Graham <[Graham.Tanton@act.gov.au](mailto:Graham.Tanton@act.gov.au)>; Sch 2 s 2.2(a)(ii) <[REDACTED]@dfat.gov> Sch 2 s 2.2(a)(ii) <[REDACTED]@nca.gov.au>; Keppell, Cassandra <[Kassandra.Keppell@act.gov.au](mailto:Kassandra.Keppell@act.gov.au)>; Shaw, Tania <[Tania.Shaw@act.gov.au](mailto:Tania.Shaw@act.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** Re: Sikh Flag [SEC=OFFICIAL]

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Hamid Heydarian  
Chief Operating Officer  
National Capital Authority

---

**From:** Tanton, Graham <[Graham.Tanton@act.gov.au](mailto:Graham.Tanton@act.gov.au)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 13, 2023 6:18 pm  
**To:** Sch 2 s 2.2(a)(ii) <[REDACTED]@dfat.gov.au> Sch 2 s 2.2(a)(ii) <[REDACTED]@nca.gov.au>; Keppell, Cassandra <[Kassandra.Keppell@act.gov.au](mailto:Kassandra.Keppell@act.gov.au)>; Shaw, Tania <[Tania.Shaw@act.gov.au](mailto:Tania.Shaw@act.gov.au)>; Hamid Heydarian <[Hamid.Heydarian@nca.gov.au](mailto:Hamid.Heydarian@nca.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** RE: Sikh Flag [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL



*Date: 14 April 2023*

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**SUBJECT:** Sikh flag

---

### Talking points

- The Canberra Sikh Association (CSA) is hosting Vaisakhi, which is a significant religious and cultural festival for the Sikh community and is celebrated worldwide.
- The Nishan Sahib is an important symbol of the Sikh religion and is usually installed outside Gurdwaras (temples) during religious and cultural celebrations.
- The Canberra Sikh Association booked the installation of the Nishan Sahib flags at various locations in Canberra to mark Vaisakhi from 3 April to 28 April 2023.
- The original flags provided by the Canberra Sikh Association were raised on 3 April.
- Following advice from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) and the National Capital Authority (NCA), the flags were lowered on the same day.
- Following discussions with the Canberra Sikh Association, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) and the ACT Property Group (ACTPG), it was agreed that subject to a revised design being provided that DFAT, the National Capital Authority (NCA) and the ACTPG would not object to the re-raising of the flags.
- The Indian diaspora\*, including Canberra's Sikh community, are valued and important contributors to Australian society, and to the ACT's vibrant and resilient multicultural society. We will continue to work with other agencies to foster greater social cohesion, greater understanding and inclusion of diaspora communities.

### Background

- There is a distinction between the Nishan Sahib and Khalistan flags:
  - The Nishan Sahib flag is traditionally a saffron colour triangle shape with no writing and represents the Sikh religion and its values.
  - The Khalistan flag is rectangular and represents a political movement seeking a separate Sikh state.
  - The traditional Nishan Sahib flag being triangle could not be accommodated by the ACT Property Group, hence the transition to a rectangular design.
- The NCA originally requested the flags to be removed, as it was determined the original design could be misconstrued.
- Following further consultation on 13 April with the CSA and ACT Property Group, DFAT raised no objection to a revised design proposed by the CSA.

---

**Action Officer: Graham Tanton**  
**Cleared By:**

---



Duplicate

Action Officer: Graham Tanton

Cleared By: Damian West

---

**From:** "Tanton, Graham"  
**Sent:** 14/04/2023 12:27 PM  
**To:** "West, Damian" <Damian.West@act.gov.au>  
**Subject:** FW: Query on flags

OFFICIAL

FYI David's team is working on the response,

Apparently DFAT has been CC into the questions, so David will liaise with them .

Graham

---

**From:** Brent, Freya <Freya.Brent@act.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Friday, 14 April 2023 12:22 PM  
**To:** CMTEDDMedia <CMTEDDMedia@act.gov.au>; Polglase, David <David.Polglase@act.gov.au>  
**Cc:** Tanton, Graham <Graham.Tanton@act.gov.au>  
**Subject:** FW: Query on flags

Hi all,

Please see the enquiry below.

Let me know how you think its best for us to respond.

Thanks,  
Freya

---

**From:** Sch 2.2(a)(ii)  
**Sent:** Friday, 14 April 2023 12:19 PM  
**To:** Brent, Freya <Freya.Brent@act.gov.au>; Media <media@dfat.gov.au>  
**Subject:** Query on flags

You don't often get email from Sch 2.2(a)(ii)

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Hi Freya  
and DFAT  
media  
team,

I thought I might email you both together on this.

I'd like to know why the ACT Government (presumably on the advice of DFAT) took down flags with the Khanda which were put up on Commonwealth Avenue to mark Baisakhi / Vaisakhi, at the request of the Sikh Association of Canberra.

1. Why were flags with the Khanda taken down by the ACT Government? Were they taken down on the advice of DFAT?
2. Did DFAT advise that the flags be taken down because of concerns they could be interpreted as a statement of support for the Khalistan movement?
3. Did DFAT or the ACT Government receive any complaints from any individuals – or from the Indian Government – about the flags?

4. I'm told the flags are now being put back up – are they the same flags which were initially taken down? Or have different flags now been put up?

Sorry for tight turnaround, but I'd appreciate any response on this by 5pm today.

Kind regards,

Sch 2.2(a)(ii)

Sch 2.2(a)(ii)



**From:** "Polglase, David" <David.Polglase@act.gov.au>  
**Sent:** 14/04/2023 12:41 PM  
**To:** "Tanton, Graham" <Graham.Tanton@act.gov.au>  
**Cc:** "CMTEDDMedia" <CMTEDDMedia@act.gov.au>  
**Subject:** FOR CLEARANCE Query on flags  
**Importance:** High

**OFFICIAL**

Hi Graham,

Will call also.

**Enquiry** (Sch 2.2(a)(ii) )

1. Why were flags with the Khanda taken down by the ACT Government? Were they taken down on the advice of DFAT?
2. Did DFAT advise that the flags be taken down because of concerns they could be interpreted as a statement of support for the Khalistan movement?
3. Did DFAT or the ACT Government receive any complaints from any individuals – or from the Indian Government – about the flags?
4. I'm told the flags are now being put back up – are they the same flags which were initially taken down? Or have different flags now been put up?

**Response**

The Canberra Sikh Association booked the installation of the Nishan Sahib flags at various locations in Canberra to mark Vaisakhi from 3 April to 28 April 2023.

The original flags provided by the Canberra Sikh Association were raised on 3 April 2023.

Following advice from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) and the National Capital Authority (NCA), the flags were lowered on the same day.

Following discussions with the Canberra Sikh Association it was agreed that subject to a revised design being provided that DFAT, the National Capital Authority (NCA) and the ACT Property Group would not object to the re-raising of the flags.

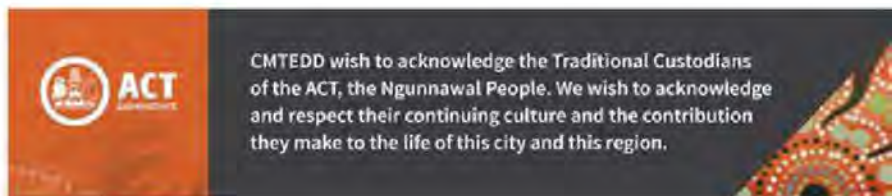
The redesigned flags were raised this morning.

Cheers  
Dave

David Polglase | Acting Executive Branch Manager

Phone: 02 6205 9957 | Mobile: Sch 2 s 2.2(a)(ii) | Email: [david.polglase@act.gov.au](mailto:david.polglase@act.gov.au)

Communications & Engagement | Chief Minister Treasury and Economic Development Directorate | ACT Government  
220 London Circuit, Canberra City | GPO Box 158 Canberra City ACT 2601 | [www.act.gov.au](http://www.act.gov.au)



Artwork: Together, 2019 (detail)  
by Selina Walker

**From:** Brent, Freya <Freya.Brent@act.gov.au>

**Sent:** Friday, 14 April 2023 12:22 PM

**To:** CMTEDDMedia <CMTEDDMedia@act.gov.au>; Polglase, David <David.Polglase@act.gov.au>

**Cc:** Tanton, Graham <Graham.Tanton@act.gov.au>

**Subject:** FW: Query on flags

Hi all,

Please see the enquiry below.

Let me know how you think its best for us to respond.

Thanks,  
Freya

# Duplicate

# Duplicate



**From:** "West, Damian" <Damian.West@act.gov.au>  
**Sent:** 14/04/2023 12:45 PM  
**To:** "Polglase, David" <David.Polglase@act.gov.au>; "Tanton, Graham" <Graham.Tanton@act.gov.au>; "Read, Marilynne" <Marilynne.Read@act.gov.au>; "Tyson, Katelyn" <Katelyn.Tyson@act.gov.au>  
**Cc:** "Ernst, Denise" <Denise.Ernst@act.gov.au>  
**Subject:** RE: DDG Clearance: Sikh flag talking points

OFFICIAL

I think this is fine.

---

**From:** Polglase, David <David.Polglase@act.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Friday, 14 April 2023 12:12 PM  
**To:** Tanton, Graham <Graham.Tanton@act.gov.au>; Read, Marilynne <Marilynne.Read@act.gov.au>; Tyson, Katelyn <Katelyn.Tyson@act.gov.au>  
**Cc:** West, Damian <Damian.West@act.gov.au>; Ernst, Denise <Denise.Ernst@act.gov.au>  
**Subject:** RE: DDG Clearance: Sikh flag talking points

OFFICIAL

Thanks Graham

Pending Damian's sign off – I'll provide those TPs direct to Freya as well.

The questions are from the Federal Bureau of ABC.

Cheers

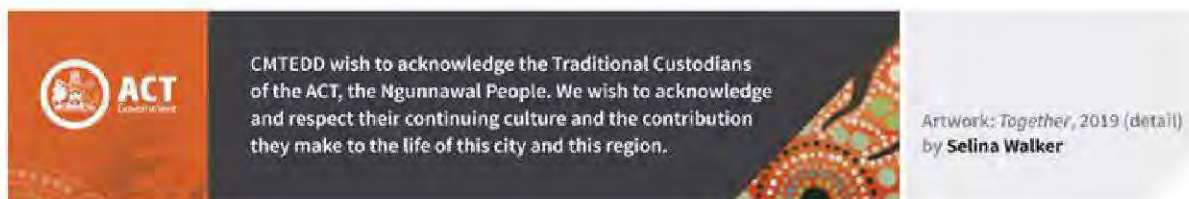
Dave

David Polglase | Acting Executive Branch Manager

Phone: 02 6205 9957 | Mobile [Sch 2.2\(a\)\(ii\)](#) | Email: [david.polglase@act.gov.au](mailto:david.polglase@act.gov.au)

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---

**From:** Tanton, Graham <[Graham.Tanton@act.gov.au](mailto:Graham.Tanton@act.gov.au)>  
**Sent:** Friday, 14 April 2023 12:08 PM  
**To:** Read, Marilynne <[Marilynne.Read@act.gov.au](mailto:Marilynne.Read@act.gov.au)>; Tyson, Katelyn <[Katelyn.Tyson@act.gov.au](mailto:Katelyn.Tyson@act.gov.au)>  
**Cc:** Polglase, David <[David.Polglase@act.gov.au](mailto:David.Polglase@act.gov.au)>; West, Damian <[Damian.West@act.gov.au](mailto:Damian.West@act.gov.au)>; Ernst, Denise <[Denise.Ernst@act.gov.au](mailto:Denise.Ernst@act.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** RE: DDG Clearance: Sikh flag talking points

OFFICIAL

Hi, I just had a call from Freya Brent who is acting as the CM media, comms contact.

The ABC has reached out to them, just asking some questions, I have advised we were just in the process of finalising the talking points.

She has asked if we can include her in any correspondence.

Regards

Graham

---

**From:** Read, Marilynne <[Marilynne.Read@act.gov.au](mailto:Marilynne.Read@act.gov.au)>  
**Sent:** Friday, 14 April 2023 12:01 PM  
**To:** Tyson, Katelyn <[Katelyn.Tyson@act.gov.au](mailto:Katelyn.Tyson@act.gov.au)>  
**Cc:** Tanton, Graham <[Graham.Tanton@act.gov.au](mailto:Graham.Tanton@act.gov.au)>; Polglase, David <[David.Polglase@act.gov.au](mailto:David.Polglase@act.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** DDG Clearance: Sikh flag talking points

OFFICIAL

Hi Katie

Please find attached, MO talking points for Damian's clearance. If these can be cleared as soon as possible, that would be great.

Once cleared, can you please send to DLO, Louise.

Kind regards  
Marilynne

Marilynne Read | Executive Officer  
Office of the Executive Group Manager, Graham Tanton  
ACT Property Group, Office of Industrial Relations and Workforce Strategy  
Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate | ACT Government  
Level 3, Winyu House, 125 Gungahlin Place, Gungahlin ACT 2912 | GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601 | [act.gov.au](http://act.gov.au)  
Phone: MS Teams (preferred) or [REDACTED] | Email: [Marilynne.Read@act.gov.au](mailto:Marilynne.Read@act.gov.au)

*I acknowledge the traditional custodians of the ACT. I acknowledge and respect their continuing culture and the contribution they make to the life of this city and this region.*

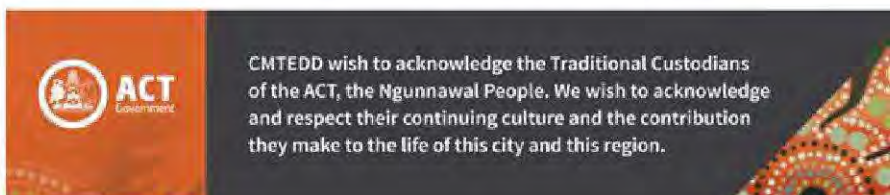
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**From:** Polglase, David <[David.Polglase@act.gov.au](mailto:David.Polglase@act.gov.au)>  
**Sent:** Friday, 14 April 2023 11:41 AM  
**To:** Tanton, Graham <[Graham.Tanton@act.gov.au](mailto:Graham.Tanton@act.gov.au)>  
**Cc:** Read, Marilynne <[Marilynne.Read@act.gov.au](mailto:Marilynne.Read@act.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** RE: Sikh flag DRAFT talking points [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Here we are

David Polglase | Acting Executive Branch Manager  
Phone: 02 6205 9957 | Mobile: [Sch 2.2\(a\)\(ii\)](#) | Email: [david.polglase@act.gov.au](mailto:david.polglase@act.gov.au)  
Communications & Engagement | Chief Minister Treasury and Economic Development Directorate | ACT Government  
220 London Circuit, Canberra City | GPO Box 158 Canberra City ACT 2601 | [www.act.gov.au](http://www.act.gov.au)



Artwork: *Together*, 2019 (detail)  
by Selina Walker



**From:** Tanton, Graham <[Graham.Tanton@act.gov.au](mailto:Graham.Tanton@act.gov.au)>  
**Sent:** Friday, 14 April 2023 11:38 AM  
**To:** Polglase, David <[David.Polglase@act.gov.au](mailto:David.Polglase@act.gov.au)>  
**Cc:** Read, Marilynne <[Marilynne.Read@act.gov.au](mailto:Marilynne.Read@act.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** RE: Sikh flag DRAFT talking points [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Great thank you. Very much appreciated.

Regards

Graham

---

**From:** Polglase, David <[David.Polglase@act.gov.au](mailto:David.Polglase@act.gov.au)>  
**Sent:** Friday, 14 April 2023 11:37 AM  
**To:** Tanton, Graham <[Graham.Tanton@act.gov.au](mailto:Graham.Tanton@act.gov.au)>  
**Cc:** Read, Marilynne <[Marilynne.Read@act.gov.au](mailto:Marilynne.Read@act.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** RE: Sikh flag DRAFT talking points [SEC=OFFICIAL]

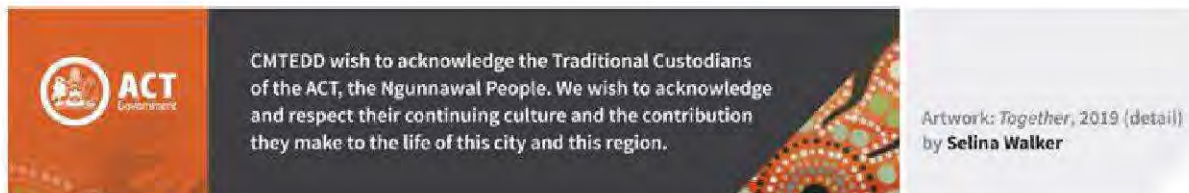
OFFICIAL

I'll pop in a doc and send to you shortly

**David Polglase | Acting Executive Branch Manager**

Phone: 02 6205 9957 | Mobile: [Sch 2.2\(a\)\(ii\)](#) | Email: [david.polglase@act.gov.au](mailto:david.polglase@act.gov.au)

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220 London Circuit, Canberra City | GPO Box 158 Canberra City ACT 2601 | [www.act.gov.au](http://www.act.gov.au)



---

**From:** Tanton, Graham <[Graham.Tanton@act.gov.au](mailto:Graham.Tanton@act.gov.au)>  
**Sent:** Friday, 14 April 2023 11:24 AM  
**To:** Polglase, David <[David.Polglase@act.gov.au](mailto:David.Polglase@act.gov.au)>  
**Cc:** Read, Marilynne <[Marilynne.Read@act.gov.au](mailto:Marilynne.Read@act.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** RE: Sikh flag DRAFT talking points [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Thank you, I am happy with the proposed wording,

Marilynne, can we please send up to Damian for approval. We may just need to check what document template it should go on.

David, thoughts?

Graham



---

**From:** Polglase, David <[David.Polglase@act.gov.au](mailto:David.Polglase@act.gov.au)>  
**Sent:** Friday, 14 April 2023 11:11 AM  
**To:** Tanton, Graham <[Graham.Tanton@act.gov.au](mailto:Graham.Tanton@act.gov.au)>  
**Cc:** Read, Marilynne <[Marilynne.Read@act.gov.au](mailto:Marilynne.Read@act.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** RE: Sikh flag DRAFT talking points [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hi Graham

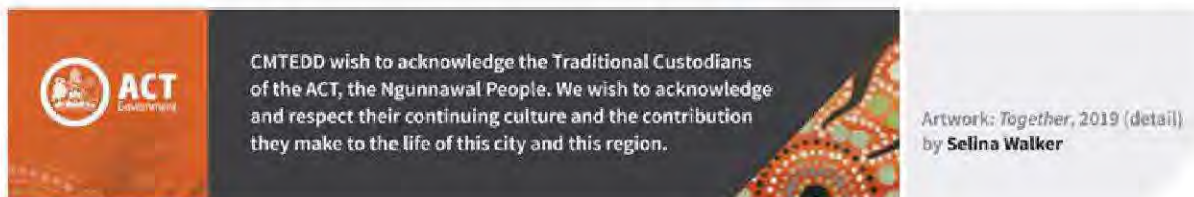
Good from my end with a couple of minor changes in red.

Cheers  
Dave

**David Polglase | Acting Executive Branch Manager**

Phone: 02 6205 9957 | Mobile [Sch 2.2\(a\)\(ii\)](#) | Email: [david.polglase@act.gov.au](mailto:david.polglase@act.gov.au)

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220 London Circuit, Canberra City | GPO Box 158 Canberra City ACT 2601 | [www.act.gov.au](http://www.act.gov.au)



---

**From:** Tanton, Graham <[Graham.Tanton@act.gov.au](mailto:Graham.Tanton@act.gov.au)>  
**Sent:** Friday, 14 April 2023 10:59 AM  
**To:** Polglase, David <[David.Polglase@act.gov.au](mailto:David.Polglase@act.gov.au)>  
**Cc:** Read, Marilynne <[Marilynne.Read@act.gov.au](mailto:Marilynne.Read@act.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** FW: Sikh flag DRAFT talking points [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hi David I have made some further edits. We will need to pass by Damian, once we are comfortable.

Revised points below.

- The Canberra Sikh Association (CSA) is hosting Vaisakhi, which is a significant religious and cultural festival for the Sikh community and is celebrated worldwide.
- The Nishan Sahib is an important symbol of the Sikh religion and is usually installed outside Gurdwaras (temples) during religious and cultural celebrations.
- The Canberra Sikh Association booked the installation of the Nishan Sahib flags at various locations in Canberra to mark Vaisakhi from 3 April to 28 April 2023.
- The original flags provided by the Canberra Sikh Association were raised on 3 April.
- Following advice from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) and the National Capital Authority (NCA), the flags were lowered on the same day.

- Following discussions with the Canberra Sikh Association, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) and the ACT Property Group (ACTPG), it was agreed that subject to a revised design being provided that DFAT, the National Capital Authority (NCA) and the ACTPG would not object to the re-raising of the flags.
- The Indian diaspora\*, including Canberra's Sikh community, are valued and important contributors to Australian society, and to the ACT's vibrant and resilient multicultural society. We will continue to work with other agencies to foster greater social cohesion, greater understanding and inclusion of diaspora communities.

#### For information

- There is a distinction between the Nishan Sahib and Khalistan flags:
  - The Nishan Sahib flag is traditionally a saffron colour triangle shape with no writing, and represents the Sikh religion and its values.
  - The Khalistan flag is rectangular and represents a political movement seeking a separate Sikh state.
  - The traditional Nishan Sahib flag being triangle could not be accommodated by the ACT Property Group, hence the transition to a rectangular design.
- The NCA originally requested the flags to be removed, as it was determined the original design could be misconstrued.
- Following further consultation on 13 April with the CSA and ACT Property Group, DFAT raised no objection to a revised design proposed by the CSA.

\*dispersed community

Marilynne Read | Executive Officer

Office of the Executive Group Manager, Graham Tanton

ACT Property Group, Office of Industrial Relations and Workforce Strategy

Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate | ACT Government

Level 3, Winyu House, 125 Gungahlin Place, Gungahlin ACT 2912 | GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601 | [act.gov.au](http://act.gov.au)

Phone: MS Teams (preferred) or Sch 2.2(a)(ii) | Email: [Marilynne.Read@act.gov.au](mailto:Marilynne.Read@act.gov.au)

*I acknowledge the traditional custodians of the ACT. I acknowledge and respect their continuing culture and the contribution they make to the life of this city and this region.*

**From:** Sch 2.2(a)(ii) <[Sch 2.2\(a\)\(ii\)@dfat.gov.au](mailto:Sch 2.2(a)(ii)@dfat.gov.au)>

**Sent:** Friday, 14 April 2023 10:04 AM

**To:** Read, Marilynne <[Marilynne.Read@act.gov.au](mailto:Marilynne.Read@act.gov.au)>; Polglase, David <[David.Polglase@act.gov.au](mailto:David.Polglase@act.gov.au)>; Tanton, Graham <[Graham.Tanton@act.gov.au](mailto:Graham.Tanton@act.gov.au)>

**Subject:** RE: Sikh flag DRAFT talking points [SEC=OFFICIAL]

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**OFFICIAL**

Hello Marilynne

Thanks for consulting DFAT on these proposed talking points. Please can I suggest the following change to the fourth point?



- On 13 April, the ACT Government consulted the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) and the National Capital Authority (NCA) which raised no objection to a revised design proposed by the CSA

In the first point of background, you could include the traditional saffron colour of the Nishan Sahib:

o The Nishan Sahib flag is traditionally a saffron-colour triangle shape with no writing, and represents the Sikh religion and its values.

Kind regards

Sch 2.2(a)(ii)

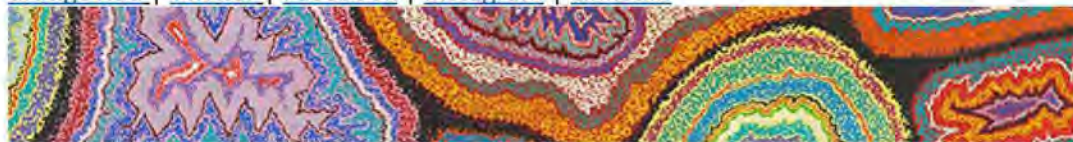
a/g AS

India Branch

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

P Sch 2.2(a)(ii) | M +Sch 2.2(a)(ii)

[dfat.gov.au](http://dfat.gov.au) | [Twitter](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Instagram](#) | [LinkedIn](#)



**From:** Read, Marilynne <[Marilynne.Read@act.gov.au](mailto:Marilynne.Read@act.gov.au)>

**Sent:** Friday, 14 April 2023 9:30 AM

**To:** Sch 2.2(a)(ii) <[Sch 2.2\(a\)\(ii\)@dfat.gov.au](mailto:Sch 2.2(a)(ii)@dfat.gov.au)>; Polglase, David <[David.Polglase@act.gov.au](mailto:David.Polglase@act.gov.au)>; Tanton, Graham <[Graham.Tanton@act.gov.au](mailto:Graham.Tanton@act.gov.au)>

**Subject:** Sikh flag DRAFT talking points

OFFICIAL

Hello

Graham has asked me to draft talking points for our Minister's Offices regarding the flags, should they receive any calls. Can you please review them?

- The Canberra Sikh Association is hosting Vaisakhi, which is a significant religious and cultural festival for the Sikh community and is celebrated worldwide.
- The Nishan Sahib is an important symbol of the Sikh religion and is usually installed outside Gurdwaras (temples) during religious and cultural celebrations.
- The Canberra Sikh Association booked the installation of the Nishan Sahib flags at various locations in Canberra to mark Vaisakhi from 3 April to 28 April 2023.
- Following discussions with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) and the National Capital Authority (NCA), their advice is the flags can be raised.
- The Indian diaspora\*, including Canberra's Sikh community, are valued and important contributors to Australian society, to our vibrant and resilient multicultural society. We will continue to work with other agencies to foster greater social cohesion, greater understanding and inclusion of diaspora communities.

For information

- There is a distinction between the Nishan Sahib and Khalistan flags:

- The Nishan Sahib flag is traditionally a triangle shape with no writing, and represents the Sikh religion and its values.
- The Khalistan flag is rectangular and represents a political movement seeking a separate Sikh state.
- The Nishan Sahib flag but the ACT Government prefers rectangular flags for use on our flagpoles.

- The original flags that were provided and raised on 3 April.
- Following concerns raised by members of the community in relation to the design of the flag, and following advice from DFAT and the National Capital Authority, the flags were lowered.
- Subsequent consultation with the Canberra Sikh Association, ACT Property Group, and DFAT, subject to a redesign that would see the removal of any text, DFAT would lift their concerns to the flags being flown.

\*dispersed community

Can you please advise if I have mis-represented anything and that you are comfortable for these to be sent to Minister's Offices?

Kind regards  
Marilynne

Marilynne Read | Executive Officer

Office of the Executive Group Manager, Graham Tanton

ACT Property Group, Office of Industrial Relations and Workforce Strategy

Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate | ACT Government

Level 3, Winyu House, 125 Gungahlin Place, Gungahlin ACT 2912 | GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601 | [act.gov.au](http://act.gov.au)

Phone: MS Teams (preferred) Sch 2.2(a)(ii) | Email: [Marilynne.Read@act.gov.au](mailto:Marilynne.Read@act.gov.au)

*I acknowledge the traditional custodians of the ACT. I acknowledge and respect their continuing culture and the contribution they make to the life of this city and this region.*

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**From:** "Polglase, David"  
**Sent:** 14/04/2023 1:04 PM  
**To:** "Brent, Freya" <Freya.Brent@act.gov.au>  
**Subject:** cleared TPs  
**Attachments:** Sikh Flag Talking Points.docx

OFFICIAL

Hi there

Here are the cleared TPs as a starting point.

Response will obvs come later and draws from some of this.

These are fine to be circulated to relevant offices.

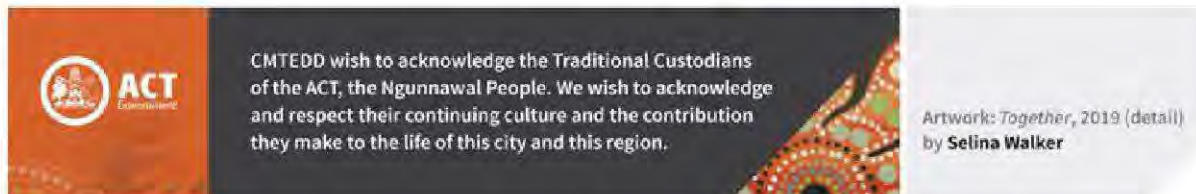
Cheers

Dave

David Polglase | Acting Executive Branch Manager

Phone: 02 6205 9957 | Mobile: [Sch 2.2\(a\)\(ii\)](#) | Email: [david.polglase@act.gov.au](mailto:david.polglase@act.gov.au)

Communications & Engagement | Chief Minister Treasury and Economic Development Directorate | ACT Government  
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**From:** "Polglase, David" <David.Polglase@act.gov.au>  
**Sent:** 14/04/2023 1:48 PM  
**To:** "Sch 2.2(a)(ii)" <[REDACTED]@dfat.gov.au>; "Tanton, Graham" <Graham.Tanton@act.gov.au>  
**Subject:** RE: FOR CLEARANCE Query on flags [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Thanks [REDACTED]

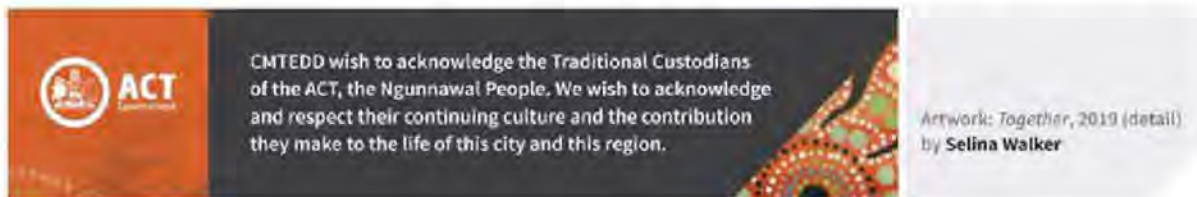
Proposed amendments below following our discussion.

Thanks for the help.

Confirming that while you seek internal approvals, we will consult with NCA, and get internal approvals through here.

Cheers  
David

David Polglase | Acting Executive Branch Manager  
Phone: 02 6205 9957 | Mobile: [REDACTED] | Email: [david.polglase@act.gov.au](mailto:david.polglase@act.gov.au)  
Communications & Engagement | Chief Minister Treasury and Economic Development Directorate | ACT Government  
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**From:** [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@dfat.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Friday, 14 April 2023 1:19 PM  
**To:** Polglase, David <David.Polglase@act.gov.au>; Tanton, Graham <Graham.Tanton@act.gov.au>  
**Subject:** RE: FOR CLEARANCE Query on flags [SEC=OFFICIAL]

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OFFICIAL

Thanks David for this great draft. Please can I propose a few changes? We'll have to consult the NCA also.

The Canberra Sikh Association booked the installation of a flag incorporating the Sikh Khanda at various locations in Canberra to mark Vaisakhi from 3 April to 28 April 2023.

The original flags provided by the Canberra Sikh Association were raised on 3 April 2023.

A concern was raised by a member of the public to the **ACT Property Group** about the flag's design.

Following consultation with the National Capital Authority (NCA) and the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), the flags were lowered on the same day.

Following discussions with the Canberra Sikh Association, the Association submitted a revised design. DFAT advised the NCA and the ACT Property Group it did not object to the revised flag's design.

The redesigned flags were raised this morning (14 April).

Sch 2.2(a)(ii)

a/g Assistant Secretary  
India Branch  
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade  
P Sch 2.2(a)(ii) | M Sch 2.2(a)(ii)  
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**From:** Polglase, David <[David.Polglase@act.gov.au](mailto:David.Polglase@act.gov.au)>  
**Sent:** Friday, 14 April 2023 12:54 PM  
**To:** Tanton, Graham <[Graham.Tanton@act.gov.au](mailto:Graham.Tanton@act.gov.au)>; Sch 2.2(a)(ii) <[Sch 2.2\(a\)\(ii\)@dfat.gov.au](mailto:Sch 2.2(a)(ii)@dfat.gov.au)>  
**Cc:** Media <[media@dfat.gov.au](mailto:media@dfat.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** FOR CLEARANCE Query on flags  
**Importance:** High

OFFICIAL

Hi Graham and Sch 2.2(a)

Just looping all into the same email.

Our proposed response is below (not fully cleared yet) and takes more of a statement approach.

Happy to discuss and work on a combined response with you.

Cheers  
David

**Enquiry** Sch 2.2(a)(ii) )

1. Why were flags with the Khanda taken down by the ACT Government? Were they taken down on the advice of DFAT?
2. Did DFAT advise that the flags be taken down because of concerns they could be interpreted as a statement of support for the Khalistan movement?
3. Did DFAT or the ACT Government receive any complaints from any individuals – or from the Indian Government – about the flags?
4. I'm told the flags are now being put back up – are they the same flags which were initially taken down? Or have different flags now been put up?