

# Released under FOI

Siddiq, Ayesha

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**From:** Sims, Rod  
**Sent:** Friday, 1 November 2019 8:00 PM  
**To:** Killackey, Francis; !Commissioner/Executive Staff; Munyard, Parnos; Greiss, Rami; Bezzi, Marcus; Gregson, Scott; Grimwade, Timothy; Lin, Jane; Ayres, Lisa Anne  
**Cc:** !EO\_Parliamentary&GovernmentLiaison; !Media  
**Subject:** RE: Political Alert - Prime Minister - Secondary boycott - '...this is not something my government intends to allow to go unchecked...' [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

One to watch closely, thanks Francis. Keen to understand all I can as this develops.

**From:** Killackey, Francis <Francis.Killackey@accg.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Friday, 1 November 2019 3:23 PM  
**To:** !Commissioner/Executive Staff <compas@accg.gov.au>; Munyard, Parnos <parnos.munyard@accg.gov.au>; Greiss, Rami <rami.greiss@accg.gov.au>; Bezzi, Marcus <marcus.bezzi@accg.gov.au>; Gregson, Scott <scott.gregson@accg.gov.au>; Grimwade, Timothy <timothy.grimwade@accg.gov.au>; Lin, Jane <jane.lin@accg.gov.au>; Ayres, Lisa Anne <LisaAnne.Ayres@accg.gov.au>  
**Cc:** !EO\_Parliamentary&GovernmentLiaison <!EO\_Parliamentary&GovernmentLiaison@accg.gov.au>; !Media <!Media@accg.gov.au>  
**Subject:** Political Alert - Prime Minister - Secondary boycott - '...this is not something my government intends to allow to go unchecked...' [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

This afternoon (1 November 2019) at 230pm the Prime delivered a speech to Queensland Resource Council on the Coalition Governments approach to mining issues and specifically 'secondary boycotts'.

The speech had been [flagged in interviews earlier today as covering the Government's proposed efforts to address secondary boycotts facilitated by environmental groups against resource businesses.](#)

Some commentators have suggested this could be achieved by amendments to the CCA.

## Key Points relevant to the ACCC

- The Prime Minister asserts that new threats to the resources sector have emerged. The Prime Minister referred to this threat as 'radical activists'.
  - '...But there is a third and even more worrying development. An escalating trend towards a new form of secondary boycotts in this country. This is a trend with potentially serious consequences for our economy, and particularly our regional economies. Environmental groups are targeting businesses and firms who provide goods or services to firms they don't like. Especially in the resources sector...It is a potentially more insidious threat to the Queensland economy and jobs and living standards than a street protest...'
  - '...Some of Australia's largest businesses are now refusing to provide banking, insurance and consulting services to an increasing number of firms who just support through contracted services to the mining sack tore and the coal sector in particular. Which is the nation's second largest export sector.'
- The Prime Minister stated the Coalition Government will address the secondary boycotts and further announcements will be forthcoming in the near future.
  - '...Let me assure you, this is not something my government intends to allow to go unchecked. Together with the Attorney-General, Christian Porter, we are working to identify serious mechanisms that account successfully outlaw these indulgent and selfish practices that threaten the livelihoods of fellow Australians, especially in our rural and regional areas and especially here in Queensland. Now, we will take our time to get this right. We will do the homework and we're doing that right now. But we must protect our economy from this great threat. This isn't about democracy. People have the right to protest...So, be assured - we are on the job on this. I look forward to making further announcements on this as we progress further...'

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Reactions include the following statements from stakeholders.

## 2) Australian Forest Products Association

TIME IS RIGHT TO REFORM SECONDARY BOYCOTT LAW TO STOP ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVISTS (FED)

The time is now right for the Coalition Government to reform the Competition and Consumer Act 2010 to prevent environmental and other activists from targeting Australian companies who provide services and work for other businesses involved in forestry, resource and other primary industries. Chief Executive Officer of the Australian Forest Products Association Ross Hampton said he welcomed the comments reported today by the Prime Minister that he understood the challenges posed by extreme environmental activists targeting lawful, legitimate businesses who employed hundreds of thousands of Australians, many in regional and rural Australia. "Forest industries across Australia have been the subject of secondary protest activity by environmental activists for many, many years and while we have no desire to prevent or stop lawful protests, some protection must be given to legitimate businesses who are targeted by these extreme activists," Mr Hampton said.

## 3) Climate Activists Statement

CLIMATE ACTIVISTS RESPOND TO SCOTT MORRISON WITH MORE CONTRACTOR PROTESTS (QLD)

Climate activists have gathered at the Townsville office of Adani contractor BMD, responding to today's comments by Scott Morrison about political boycotts. A group of 30 people demonstrated at the front of the construction company's office, after yesterday stopping work for two hours at BMD's worksite at Haughton River. They responded to Scott Morrison's promise to the Queensland Resources Council today to outlaw secondary political boycotts. Spokesperson Andy Paine said "Scott Morrison dining with his mates in the mining industry and promising them he will stamp out protest says everything you need to know about our government's priorities in the face of a climate emergency. If we had a Prime Minister who actually cared for the wellbeing of Australian people and ecosystems, we wouldn't need to be lobbying individual businesses to refuse work on Adani's destructive mine."

## 4) TRANSCRIPT OF INTERVIEW, RADIO 3AW (FED)

MITCHELL: Would you like to make secondary boycotts or bans like that illegal?

PRIME MINISTER: Well, these are things we're looking very carefully at. I'm flagging that today. I mean, we need to progress, I think, cautiously. But if it's not okay to have secondary boycotts being run by unions and we get rid of those a long time ago, it's not okay for environmental... well they're not environmental, they're activist groups. That's what they are. And to be able to disrupt people's jobs, their livelihoods and to harass in the way that we've seen down in Melbourne, it's just... it's ugly. And I don't think it's good for our country.

Prime Minister, Scott Morrison, discusses climate protesters and environmental activism, secondary boycotts, Aged Care Royal Commission, mental health, budget surplus, drought, China, Belt and Road agreement, Scott Cam, apprenticeships, press freedom, and Melbourne Cup.