



Headquarters
New Zealand Defence Force
Defence House
Private Bag 39997
Wellington Mail Centre
Lower Hutt 5045
New Zealand

OIA-2026-5706

 April 2026

 thomsonreuters.com

Dear 

I refer to your email of 10 March 2026 requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA):

Can you supply any reports on HMNZS Aotearoa's transit through the Taiwan Strait and its anchoring in or near Penghu Harbour?

Summary information generated for HMNZS Aotearoa's 2024 and 2025 transits of the Taiwan Strait is enclosed. Where indicated, information concerning specific capability is withheld in accordance with section 6(a) of the OIA, to avoid prejudice to the security or defence of New Zealand.

You have the right, under section 28(3) of the OIA, to ask an Ombudsman to review this response to your request. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Please note that responses to official information requests are proactively released where possible. This response to your request will be published shortly on the NZDF website, with your personal information removed.

Yours sincerely

GA Motley
Brigadier
Chief of Staff HQNZDF

Enclosures:

1. HMNZS AOTEAROA Taiwan Strait Transit September 2024
2. HMNZS AOTEAROA Taiwan Strait Transit November 2025

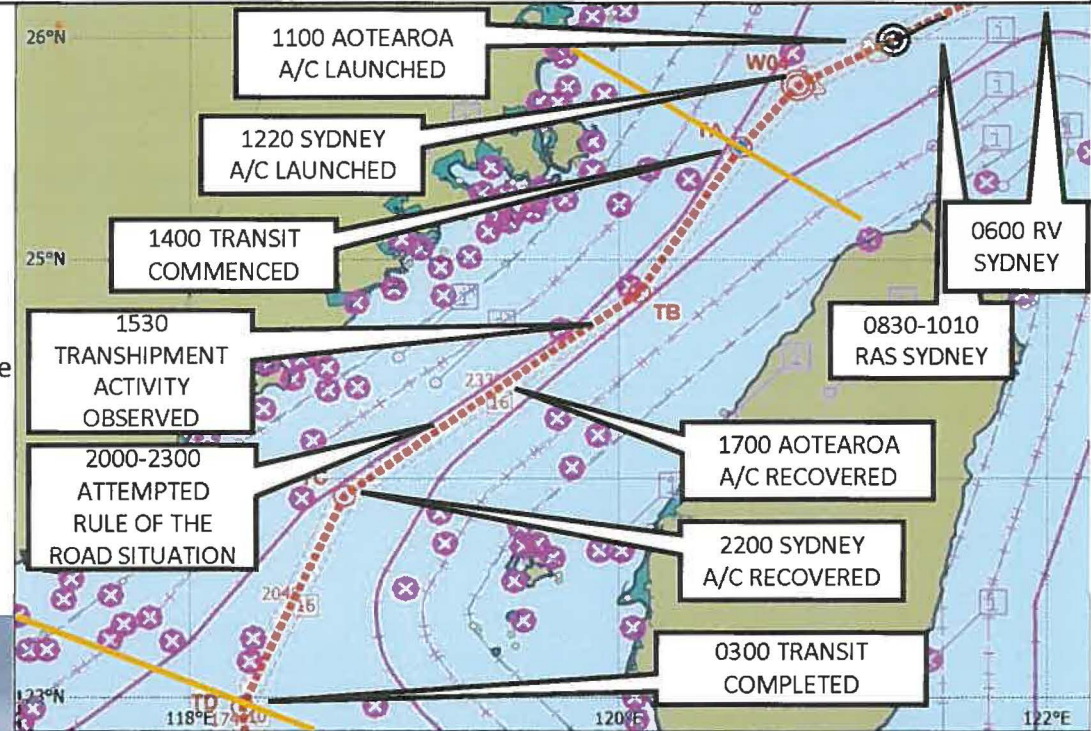


HMNZS AOTEAROA: Combined RNZN – RAN Taiwan Straits Transit

25 - 26 Sep 2024 (All Times in H)



- 0600 AOTEAROA RV with SYDNEY north of Taiwan Strait with 3 PLA(N) vessels shadowing.
- 0830-1010 AOTEAROA replenishes SYDNEY while transiting towards Taiwan Strait.
- 1100 AOTEAROA aircraft launched for surface search. PLA(N) aircraft launched to match like for like.
- 1220 SYDNEY aircraft launched for surface search.
- 1400 SYDNEY and AOTEAROA enter Taiwan Strait, now with 4 PLA(N) and 2 ROCN vessels in attendance.
- 1530 AOTEAROA aircraft detected two Pacific Security Maritime Exchange (PSMX) Enforcement Coordination Centre (ECC) Vessels of Interest (VOI) and a probable illicit Ship To Ship transfer in progress.
- 1700 AOTEAROA aircraft recovered onboard.
- 2000-2300 persistent attempt to force AOTEAROA and SYDNEY towards Taiwanese side of the channel using 'rule of the road' situation.
- 0300 Transit completed.



AOTEAROA conducts Replenishment at Sea with HMAS SYDNEY



SYDNEY (left) AOTEAROA (right) and conduct Taiwan Strait Transit with four PLA(N) (one centre) and two ROCN units in attendance



HMNZS AOTEAROA: Combined RNZN – RAN Taiwan Straits Transit

25 - 26 Sep 2024 (All Times in H)



SYDNEY (foreground) and two PLA(N) in attendance



PLA(N) Jiangkai frigate shadows AOTEAROA and SYDNEY



Probable illicit Ship To Ship transfer at sea



PLA(N) Luyang II destroyer with aircraft on deck



TE OPE KĀTUA O AOTEAROA
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**HEI MANA MŌ AOTEAROA
A FORCE FOR NEW ZEALAND**



HMNZS AOTEAROA: Combined RNZN – RAN Taiwan Strait Transit

25 - 26 Sep 2024 (All Times in H)



AOTEAROA and SYDNEY conduct Taiwan Strait Transit monitored by a PLA(N) frigate



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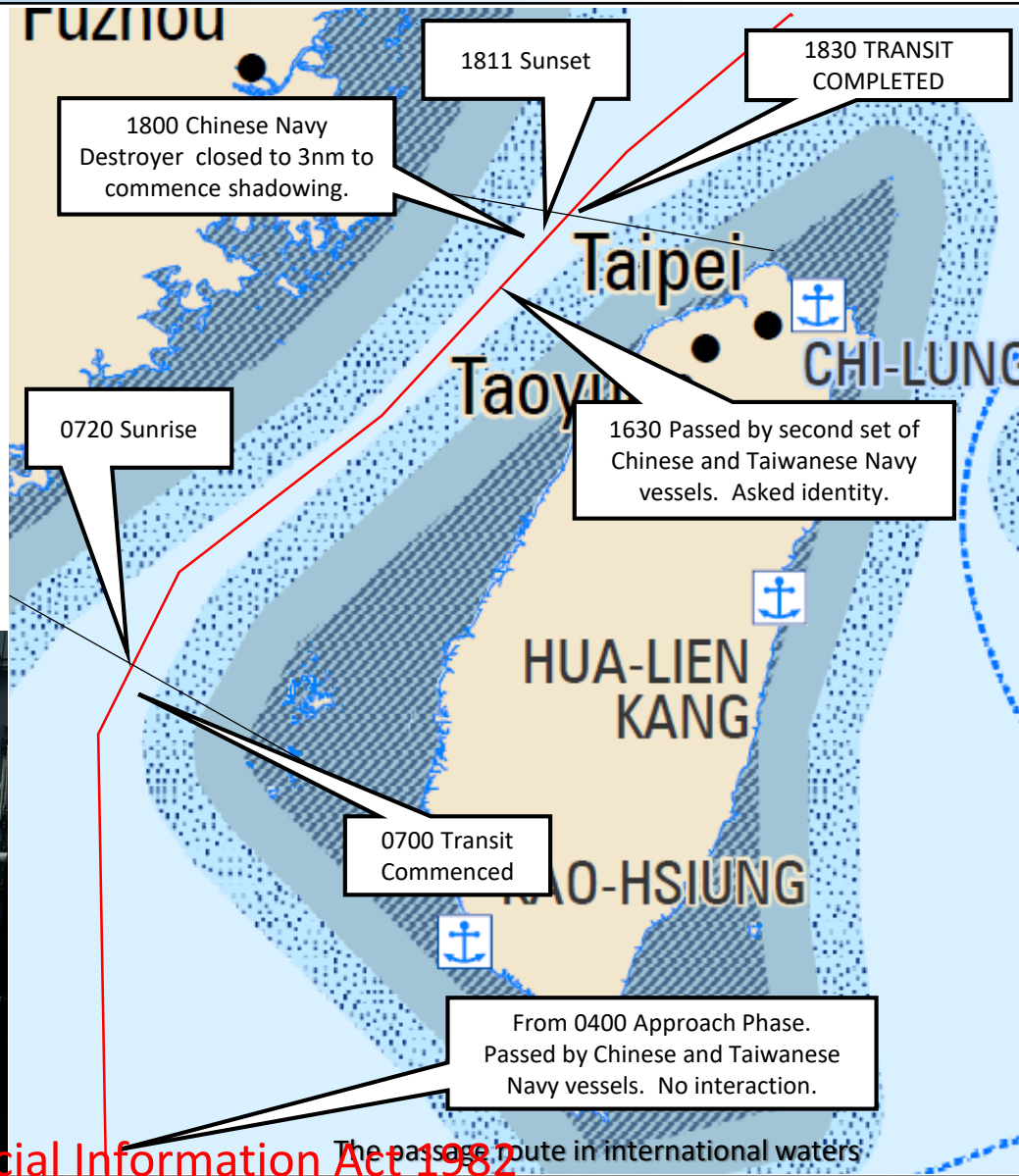
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A FORCE FOR NEW ZEALAND**



HMNZS AOTEAROA: OPERATION CRUCIBLE 2025

Taiwan Strait Transit 5 Nov 25

- On 5 November 25, between 0400 and 1830 local time (approx), HMNZS AOTEAROA made a south to north transit of the Taiwan Strait to demonstrate New Zealand's commitment to the International Rules Based Order and the freedoms of navigation enshrined in the United Nations Convention on the Law Of the Sea (UNCLOS).
- The passage was dominated by the weather with 40kn plus (75km/h) winds causing 4m waves (Sea State 5). s. 6(a)
- Attention from the People's Republic of China, and Taiwan, was lower level than expected. A warship from each passed during the approach phase, and in the late afternoon another from each navy passed us, with the Taiwanese calling by radio to confirm our identity. At the very end of the transit a Chinese Destroyer closed to 3nm to shadow AOTEAROA into the East China Sea (all interactions were Safe and Professional).
- The transit was safely executed and the objective was achieved.



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Making way through Sea State 5



A FORCE FOR NEW ZEALAND



HMNZS AOTEAROA: OPERATION CRUCIBLE 2025

Taiwan Strait Transit 5 Nov 25



A passing Merchant Vessel



The bridge team keep a sharp lookout

Taiwanese Frigate (foreground) and Chinese Destroyer pass by



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