**Universal Periodic Review Working Group – 25th Session**

**Universal Periodic Review of Thailand**

**Statement by Australia**

Australia welcomes Thailand’s UPR engagement as a demonstration of its commitment to universal human rights and fundamental freedoms.

We also welcome Thailand’s progress on addressing human-trafficking, and encourage continued effort to reduce impunity and protect the rights of victims and vulnerable communities.

Australia is concerned about the deterioration of human rights in Thailand. Measures introduced since the coup, including limitations on freedom of expression and assembly, extension of law enforcement powers to military personnel and using military courts to try civilians, are inconsistent with Thailand’s international commitments. **Australia recommends Thailand repeal all orders of the National Council for Peace and Order that are inconsistent with its international human rights obligations.**

**Australia further recommends Thailand reform its National Human Rights Commission to regain Status A and promote and protect human rights.**

Detention without due process and widespread use of criminal laws and other measures including “attitude adjustment” sessions to suppress freedom of expression, combined with excessive sentences, are of particular concern.

Australia recognises Thailand faces political challenges. We urge Thailand to allow greater freedom of expression, supporting a return to sustainable democracy.

We urge Thailand to continue dialogue and investigate allegations of abuse in conflict-affected southern provinces.

**Australia recommends Thailand establish a formal moratorium on the death penalty with a view to ratifying the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.**