

1. Why did the military coup in Myanmar occur?
  - a. The military coup in Myanmar occurred as a result of long-standing tensions between the civilian government and the military government. The military government has alleged widespread electoral fraud following the landslide victory of the NLD. Some news reports have attributed the personal ambition of General Min Aung Hlaing to extend his own power for another year after reaching the retirement age of 65. In any case, the political issues are complex and rooted in the country's military history, the unparalleled popularity and support for the NLD and the last decade of relative loosening of military power.
2. How long is military rule in Myanmar likely to last?
  - a. In February, the military government announced a state of emergency for one year. However, it is uncertain what, if any, plans are in place for ceasefire. The situation is currently escalating with more deaths being reported and does not appear to be close to resolving.
3. What are the implications for Australians in Myanmar?
  - a. Australians living in Myanmar would face the same difficulties as civilians in Myanmar. The country is currently in a state of emergency and most civilians are in lock down. Internet and telecommunications services are shut down and monies deposited in banks are inaccessible.
4. What is the impact on bilateral cooperation, such as military, human rights and international development support?
  - a. The Australian government should reconsider its bilateral ties to Myanmar and carry out an assessment of whether the Australian government through any of its actions is either directly or indirectly supporting the military government.
  - b. The Australian government should cease all military support to the Burmese military, particularly if this support is going to be used against civilian protesters.
  - c. The Australian government should also consider appropriate action to take in terms of its human rights and international development support, to ensure that it does not end up with the military government in Myanmar.
5. What can or should Australia do to support the return to stability and democracy?
  - a. Make firm statements of condemnation against the ongoing attacks on innocent civilians
  - b. Cease any bilateral support that would directly or indirectly benefit the military government and its business relations
  - c. Provide support for any Burmese internationals in Australia who are fearful of returning to Myanmar
  - d. Enact sanctions that support businesses that support the Burmese military
  - e. Target visa bans against members of the Burmese military and their family and friends
  - f. Provide aid to those affected by the protests in Myanmar