

Protest

27

MAY
7:22 UTC

Australia Tactical: Anti-lockdown protest to take place at Flinders Street Station in Melbourne from 19:00 (local time) on May 27; maintain vigilance

Please be advised:

- An anti-lockdown protest is slated to take place at Flinders Street Station in Melbourne from 19:00 (local time) on May 27.
- The protest is in response to the lockdown announced in Victoria state from 23:59 on May 27 until 23:59 on June 3 amid reports of a fast-spreading COVID-19 variant.



Assessments:

1. The planned event comes after public threats of rallying against a now confirmed lockdown in response to a series of new infections in the state. Turnout at the event is expected to be high, with numbers likely to reach the mid-to-high hundreds. This is evidenced by social media interest surrounding the event, coupled with the widespread dissatisfaction with the reimposition of pandemic-related restrictions.

2. Security precautions are likely to be bolstered in the vicinity of the event, particularly should the event continue past 23:59 as such gatherings are prohibited, which cannot be ruled out. While security forces are unlikely to resort to crowd dispersal measures, the distribution of fines carries a risk of outbreaks of unrest. Further, given the central location of the event near a major transportation artery, disruptions to traffic are expected throughout the evening hours.

Recommendations:

Those operating or residing in Melbourne on May 27 are advised to maintain vigilance in the aforementioned location due to the slated protest and potential for unrest.