



PARLIAMENT
OF AUSTRALIA

Australian Parliamentary Delegation

Sweden and United Kingdom
31 October – 9 November 2023

REPORT | FEBRUARY 2024



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Members of the Delegation

Leader of the Delegation

Ms Anne Stanley MP
Member for Werriwa

Delegates

The Hon Karen Andrews MP
Member for McPherson

The Hon Scott Buchholz MP
Member for Wright

The Hon Shayne Neumann MP
Member for Blair

Delegation Secretary

Mr Peter Banson
Deputy Clerk of the House

Introduction

From 31 October to 9 November 2023, an Australian parliamentary delegation travelled to Sweden and the United Kingdom (England and Scotland). The delegation comprised four Members of the House of Representatives, led by Ms Anne Stanley MP.

The aims and objectives of the delegation were to:

- build and strengthen important parliamentary links with Sweden and the United Kingdom;
- discuss issues of common interest and concern, including AUKUS and defence cooperation, and the international response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine and the Israel/Hamas conflict; and
- consider trade and investment relationships, including the negotiations on the Australia-EU Free Trade Agreement (FTA), and opportunities for further trade and investment cooperation.

This report details the delegation's activities and meetings in each country. A detailed delegation program is included at the end of this report.

Acknowledgements

The delegation wishes to record its appreciation of the work that went into preparing for the visit, including the briefing provided by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. The delegation also wishes to thank the staff of the International and Parliamentary Relations Office for their assistance with arrangements.

The delegation acknowledges and thanks His Excellency Mr Pontus Melander, Ambassador of Sweden to Australia for his time and the briefing provided, which provided insightful information before the delegation's arrival in Sweden.

The delegation would also like to thank Her Excellency Ms Frances Sagala, Australian Ambassador to Sweden, and His Excellency the Hon Stephen Smith, Australian High Commissioner to the United Kingdom for the valuable briefings and support they provided to the delegation.

During its visit, the delegation met with and was accompanied by officials from the Australian Embassy in Sweden and the Australian High Commission in London. The delegation particularly wishes to thank:

- Ms Melissa Halldorf, Deputy Head of Mission, Sweden
- Mr Samuel Kwon, Second Secretary and Consul, Sweden
- Ms Pippa Barnes, Policy and Research Officer, Sweden
- Mr Simon Gunn, Austrade Investment Director, Sweden
- Ms Kerstin Toivesdotter, Austrade Investment Director, Sweden
- Ms Elisabeth Bowes, Deputy High Commissioner, United Kingdom
- Ms Elizabeth Petrovic, Counsellor – Political, United Kingdom
- Mr Timothy Stafford, Political and Research Officer, United Kingdom
- Mr Andrew West, Visits and Client Services Manager, United Kingdom
- Mr Andrew Sainsbury, Counsellor – Economic, United Kingdom
- Lt Col Anthony Birch, Australian Army Liaison Officer, United Kingdom

Finally, the delegation thanks all the individuals and organisations that graciously gave time to meet with the delegation and expresses appreciation for the warm welcomes and hospitality received.

Report of activities

Sweden

The delegation visited Sweden between 31 October and 3 November 2023. The delegation met with Ambassador Designate HE Ms Frances Sagala and Australian Embassy staff and received a briefing on Australia's bilateral relationship with Sweden, and current events and issues likely to be discussed during the delegation's visit. The details of other meetings and activities in Sweden follow.

Meeting with State Secretary for Defence

The delegation met with Mr Peter Sandwall, Sweden's State Secretary for Defence, and held discussions on the following topics:

- Sweden's approach to veterans' policy;
- recruitment and retention of defence personnel, including Sweden's conscription arrangements;
- Sweden's expected NATO membership;
- the Russian invasion of Ukraine and other conflicts, including in the Middle East;
- the upcoming intelligence review in Sweden in light of increased terrorism threat; and
- the history of cooperation between Sweden and Australia, and areas of potential further cooperation, including in relation to submarines, artificial intelligence and cyber-security.



Delegates with Mr Peter Sandwall, Swedish State Secretary for Defence

Briefing by DFAT and Austrade

The delegation received a warm welcome at the residence of the Australian Ambassador, and received briefings from Her Excellency Ms Frances Sagala, and officials from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and Austrade. Briefings and discussion covered the following topics:

- the strong links and commonalities between Australia and Sweden, and the importance of the delegation's visit (the first by an Australian parliamentary delegation since 1999);
- the unprecedented time in Sweden's history, with security concerns resulting from conflict in the region leading to Sweden seeking for the first time to join NATO – until Sweden decided to join NATO it had been a neutral country for more than 200 years, and this change will take some time to work through politically, personally and economically;
- the heightened security threat level in Sweden, with increasing likelihood of terrorist attacks and the impact of organised crime being experienced in Stockholm and elsewhere – there were concerns raised about the increased violent crime experienced in cities and suburban areas which has not been seen before in Sweden; and
- Swedish trade and industry, including the strong investment relationship with Australia.



Delegates with Her Excellency Ms Frances Sagala and Embassy officials

Working lunch with former Prime Minister Mr Carl Bildt

The delegation held a working lunch at the Australian Residence with Mr Carl Bildt, former Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Sweden, at which the following key topics were discussed:

- conflicts in Ukraine and the Middle East, and their implications for other countries;
- military capability in Sweden;
- Sweden's progress towards NATO membership;
- Swedish national politics; and
- cyber security.



Delegates with Mr Carl Bildt, Former Swedish Prime Minister

Meeting with Ericsson Executives and tour of the Ericsson Experience Centre

The delegation visited Ericsson's headquarters in Stockholm and received a briefing from Mr Rene Summer, Director Government and Policy Advocacy, and a tour of the Ericsson Experience Centre. During the briefing and tour, the following topics were discussed:

- 50th anniversary of the mobile phone in April 2023;
- success factors in telecommunication, such as standardisation, scalability and interconnectivity;
- Ericsson's offerings of network infrastructure to other companies, including 5G transport, private networks such as mining operations, network automation and artificial intelligence;
- Ericsson's commitment to a net zero value chain by 2040, requiring the decarbonisation of value chain by 90% from 2020; and
- Ericsson's commitment to Australia for over 130 years.



Delegates at the Ericsson Experience Centre with Mr Rene Summer, Director Government and Policy Advocacy

Visit to the Swedish Parliament

The delegation visited the Swedish Parliament (Riksdag) and received a guided tour of the buildings and a briefing on the Swedish Parliamentary system.

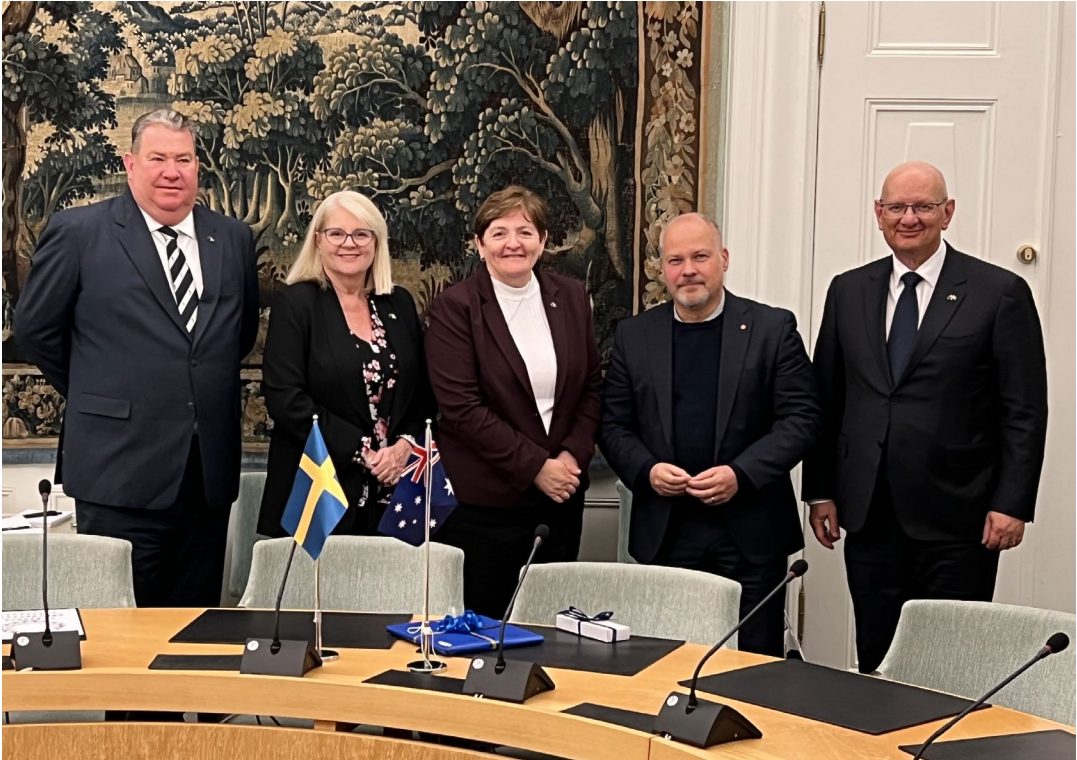


Delegates at the Swedish Parliament

Meeting with the Foreign Affairs Committee

The delegation met with Mr Morgan Johansson, Deputy Chair of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and Mr Martin Brothen, Head of the Secretariat to the Committee, and discussed the following topics:

- changes in Sweden due to the war in Ukraine, including the decision to supply weapons to another country at war for the first time since 1939;
- expansion of defence expenditures and deepened cooperation with Finland;
- Sweden's application for NATO membership;
- the Hamas attack on Israel, and Israel's responsibility in defending itself to follow international law and avoid civilian casualties;
- Sweden's role in the military operation in Afghanistan for 20 years;
- Qu'ran burnings in Sweden, harming Sweden's reputation;
- the threat posed by Russia, and the ongoing impact of sanctions on Russia and on individual Russians; and
- Pandemic and the realisation of the need for strong supply chains and capacity in the Swedish economy to supply its citizens during crisis.



Delegates with Mr Morgan Johansson, Deputy Chair of the Committee on Foreign Affairs

Meeting with Martin & Severa

The delegation visited the premises of Martin & Severa, Sweden's largest restaurant delivery supplier, and received a briefing from Mr Håkan Ekmyr, Head of Transport, and a tour of the facilities. During the briefing and tour, the following topics were discussed:

- the use of electric trucks run on many delivery routes, and resulting benefits such as enabling night and early morning deliveries due to low noise;
- improvements in efficiency of deliveries outside peak traffic times for other road users and deliveries provided at times that ensure businesses are better able to prepare for their day;
- sharing of charging infrastructure with competitors in the market;
- improved working environment for staff (quieter and easier to drive –less physical effort, automatic gearboxes);
- positive impact on the environment, and ability to operate in parts of Stockholm where new regulations will soon not permit fossil fuel vehicle movements;

- initial maintenance issues, with truck manufacturers not having enough trained technicians near where the vehicles were being operated; and
- subsidies available from the Swedish Government to purchase an electric truck or to replace a diesel truck with an electric one.



Delegates at Martin & Severa with Mr Håkan Ekmyr, Head of Transport, and an electric truck

Meeting with State Secretary for Trade

The delegation met with Mr Håkan Jevrell, Sweden's State Secretary for Trade, and held discussions on the following topics:

- negotiations on the Australia-EU Free Trade Agreement, and appreciation of Sweden's efforts to promote the FTA within the EU;
- countries like Australia and Sweden sticking together and maintaining the values we share;
- geopolitical challenges in the Asia-Pacific region;
- disruption to supply chains resulting from regional conflicts, and the importance of supply chain diversification; and
- discussions within the EU on what sort of manufacturing and supply chains are crucial to have control over to make the region less vulnerable, either by manufacturing within EU or relying on trusted partners.



Delegates with Mr Håkan Jevrell, State Secretary for Trade

Meeting with the National Board of Trade

The delegation visited the National Board of Trade, Sweden's Government agency for trade and the EU internal market, and met with Mr Michael Koch, Head of the International Trade Development Unit, and senior staff. Discussions covered the following topics:

- the need for enhanced EU cooperation with the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP);
- a new system for investment screening to address security threats to be in place soon in Sweden;
- modelling of geopolitical scenarios and their impact on trade in the EU;
- the EU's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism, a tariff-like levy based on production emissions, aimed at preventing carbon leakage;
- promotion of trade in environmental goods and services, and the substantial trade between Australia and the EU in environmental goods; and

- desirability of a mutually beneficial Australia-EU Free Trade Agreement as soon as possible, and the current sticking points hindering the finalisation of the deal, particularly in relation to agriculture.

Working lunch with the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and Trade

The Ministry for Foreign Affairs and Trade hosted a working lunch for the delegation, led by Mr Dag Juhlin-Dannfelt, Director-General for Global Affairs. Discussions covered the following areas:

- Sweden's strong support for Australia-EU Free Trade Agreement;
- continuing provision of support to Ukraine, including military hardware;
- the Russian disinformation campaign, and the need to focus on maintaining an accurate narrative regarding Russia's invasion of Ukraine; and
- the Hamas/ Israel conflict and the changing nature of war.



Delegates at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and Trade

Meeting with the Confederation of Swedish Enterprise

The delegation met with Mr Henrik Isaksson, Director of Trade Policy at the Confederation of Swedish Enterprise, and discussed the following topics:

- the Swedish model of a less regulated labour market, where the Government doesn't get very involved in wage setting, and unions strongly support free trade;
- the Australia-EU Free Trade Agreement negotiations, and how the current disagreements might be addressed;
- the green transition for trade policy, inside a security overlay;
- inward and outbound investment screening in Sweden; and
- Swedish companies' interest in preserving the market economy, letting them organise supply chains themselves.

Meeting with Volvo Trucks International

The delegation met with Mr Johan Selvén, Vice President Sales & Marketing at Volvo Trucks International, and discussed the following topics:

- Volvo's production of trucks for over 50 years in Australia, with Australia continuing to be a good cultural and strategic fit for Volvo;
- transformation of the trucking industry towards fossil fuel free;
- axle load restrictions in Australia, particularly front axle maximum weight and drive axle pressures for B-doubles, which would need to increase to enable usage of heavy duty electric trucks;
- the need to come to a solution eventually for operators where it can be shown that overall ownership of electric trucks is comparable to diesels;
- different technologies for powering trucks, including fuel cell electric (which uses hydrogen to produce electricity for the motor), and use of hydrogen, liquified natural gas (LNG), liquified biogas (LBG) and hydro-treated vegetable oil (HVO) in diesel combustion engines;
- total cost of ownership of electric trucks, weighing high battery costs against cheaper servicing and maintenance;
- future charging infrastructure requirements for electric trucks, and battery reuse and recycling solutions;
- the welcome increase to the acceptable width of trucks to 2.55m in Australia; and
- Volvo Autonomous Solutions, operating particularly in Western Australian mining applications and looking into some interesting concepts.

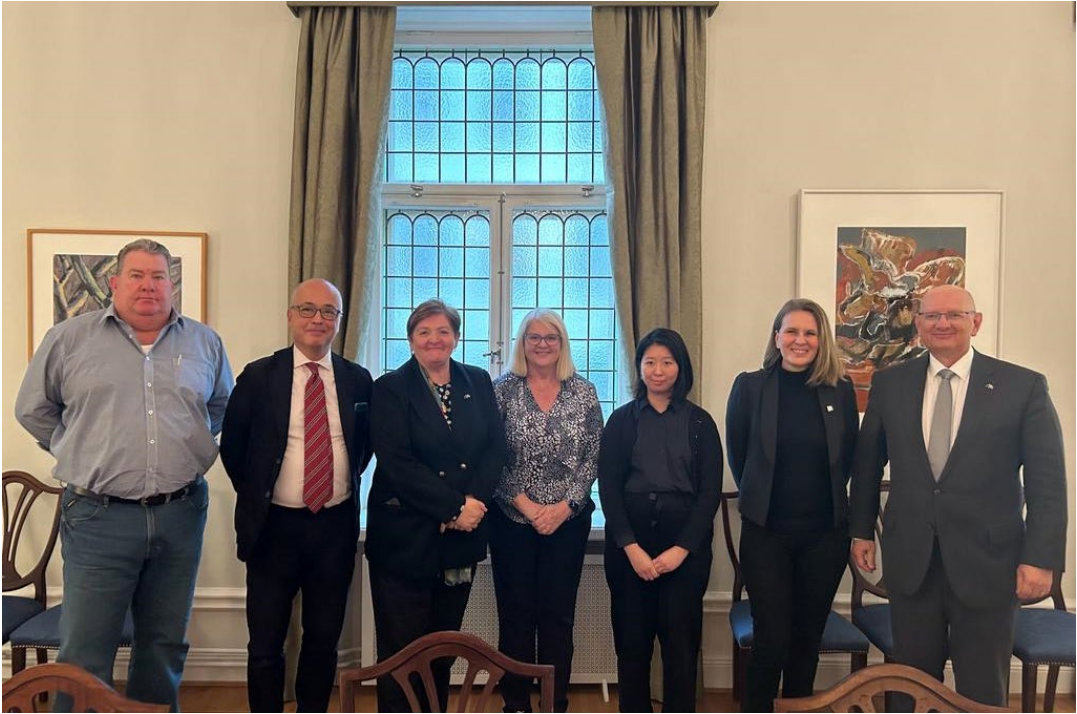


Delegates with Mr Johan Selvén, Vice President Sales & Marketing at Volvo Trucks International

Working lunch on Australian and Swedish perspectives on the Indo-Pacific

The delegation held a working lunch at the Australian Residence with Ms Malin Oud, Director of the Stockholm Office and China Programme Director at the Raoul Wallenberg Institute, Mr Frédéric Cho, Advisor and Vice Chairman at the Sweden China Trade Council and Ms Lisa Zhang, Analyst at the Swedish National China Centre. The focus of the working lunch was the Indo-Pacific, and the following issues were discussed:

- diplomacy with China, including trade embargoes, human rights issues and security risks;
- the detention of a Swedish citizen in China for 8 years;
- the strong business relationship between Gutenberg and Shanghai;
- China's Belt & Road investments in other countries;
- the population of about 45-50 thousand ethnic Chinese people in Sweden; and
- views in Australia and Sweden on the treatment of Uighur people and other minorities by China.



Delegates with Ms Malin Oud, Mr Frédéric Cho and Ms Lisa Zhang

Meeting with the Swedish Defence Research Agency

The delegation met with Mr Mike Winnerstig, Head of Security Policy and Ms Cecilia Sommell, Coordination of International Affairs at the Swedish Defence Research Agency and discussed the following topics:

- the Agency's security policy focus, including Russia in particular, also Africa, the Middle East and Asia;
- the 1970s view in Sweden as being morally superior to be neutral than to side with Russia or the US;
- significance of the Social Democrats changing their position on NATO after Russia's invasion of Ukraine, with the major factor being Finland changing its position and Sweden subsequently deciding that it couldn't defend itself alone anymore;
- major defence cuts in Sweden in 2004, resulting in about 10% of the troop numbers of the 1990s; and
- pending NATO membership requiring the Swedish armed forces to change their strategic outlook, to not only defend Sweden but to cooperate with NATO partners nearby, which will include reaching 2% of GDP spending on defence as required by NATO.



Delegates with Mr Mike Winnerstig and Ms Cecilia Sommell of the Swedish Defence Research Agency

Meeting with Swedish Steel AB (SSAB)

The delegation met with Mr Karl-Petter Thorwaldsson, Senior Advisor at SSAB, former Chair of the Swedish Trade Union Confederation and former Minister for Business, Industry and Innovation, and discussed the following topics:

- technology to take oxygen out of iron ore using hydrogen, and SSAB's plan to remove all blast furnaces and coking plants by 2030 and replace with hydrogen technology;
- demand from customers for fossil free steel, currently much higher than can be supplied;
- training centres near the plants to retrain workers with the new skills needed – agreement in place between employers, unions and government to enable workers to receive 80% of their salary to do re-skilling for a year, which has been very popular;
- optimism in Sweden about the green transition, which is a job creator;
- specialised steels made by SSAB, with electricity largely sourced from pumped hydro, which works hand in hand with wind power generation; and
- plans to build three large hydrogen storage facilities in the north of Sweden.



Delegates with Mr Karl-Petter Thorwaldsson, Senior Advisor at Swedish Steel AB

Working lunch on European security

The delegation held a working lunch at the Australian Residence with Mr Hans Wallmark, Member of Parliament, Chair of the Defence Commission, Chair of the Delegation to the NATO Parliamentary Assembly & Chair of the EU Affairs Committee, and Mr Tommy Akesson, Secretary General, Defence Commission. The focus of the working lunch was European Security, and the following issues were discussed:

- the need to understand Finland in order to understand Sweden, and vice versa – as soon as Finland decided to join NATO, it was obvious for Sweden to follow;
- objectives of Sweden as a NATO member, and the need to ramp up military personnel and equipment, whether joining NATO or not;
- likely need to contain and deter Russia for decades to come;
- American perspective that the Pacific is more important than Europe, which can't necessarily count on US help when needed;
- the economic importance of Germany to Sweden, and potential consequences of the election of a far right leader in Germany;

- similar views in Australia and Sweden on Russia as the aggressor, and strong support for Ukraine; and
- misalignment of integration policy and immigration policy, leading to significant law and order and violence in parts of Sweden, especially the major cities.

United Kingdom

The delegation visited the United Kingdom between 4 and 9 November 2023. Most of the delegation's meetings and activities were based in London, with visits to the Salisbury Plains and Fovant Badges, Wiltshire, and a day spent in Edinburgh, Scotland. The delegation met with High Commissioner HE Hon Stephen Smith and Australian Embassy staff in London and received briefings on Australia's bilateral relationship with the United Kingdom and current issues of mutual interest. The details of the delegation's meetings and activities in the United Kingdom follow.

Briefing with Australian High Commissioner

The delegation received a warm welcome at Australia House, and a briefing from His Excellency the Hon Stephen Smith, Australian High Commissioner to the United Kingdom, and Deputy High Commissioner Ms Elisabeth Bowes. Briefings and discussion covered the following topics:

- UK politics over recent years, including the close alignment of Brexit politics with voting for political parties in the UK;
- ascension of King Charles to the throne;
- need to reform the House of Lords, with increasing perception of corruption, and appointments becoming very political and seen as less deserving;
- UK looking to Australia as a partner of choice, with our currency having increased following Brexit;
- 6 month review of High Commission, looking to be more strategic with our relationship with the UK, for example with AUKUS, advanced technologies and the Australia-EU Free Trade Agreement;
- change to the work being done at the High Commission to focus strongly on key objectives, with several strategic policy working groups deliberately aimed at whole of Government collaboration;
- collaboration with State agent generals and trade and investment commissioners, including trips to other economic centres, for example taking advantage of significant economic opportunities in Edinburgh;

- extension to Australia's working holiday visa rules to allow up to 35-year-olds, and three years' duration, up from two – expecting more established professionals to apply; and
- institutionalisation of multiculturalism in the UK.



Delegates with HE the Hon Stephen Smith, Australian High Commissioner to the United Kingdom, and Deputy High Commissioner Ms Elisabeth Bowes.

Roundtable meeting on economic and trade opportunities

The delegation met with Mr Andrew Sainsbury, Counsellor Economic, DFAT, Ms Ana Nishnianidze, Counsellor, Austrade, Mr Paul Webster, NSW Trade and Investment Commissioner, UK and Europe, Mr Warren Bartlett, Deputy Agent General for Queensland and Mr Richard Basil-Jones, Executive Director, Australia-UK Chamber of Commerce. The focus of the roundtable meeting was economic and trade opportunities, and the following issues were discussed:

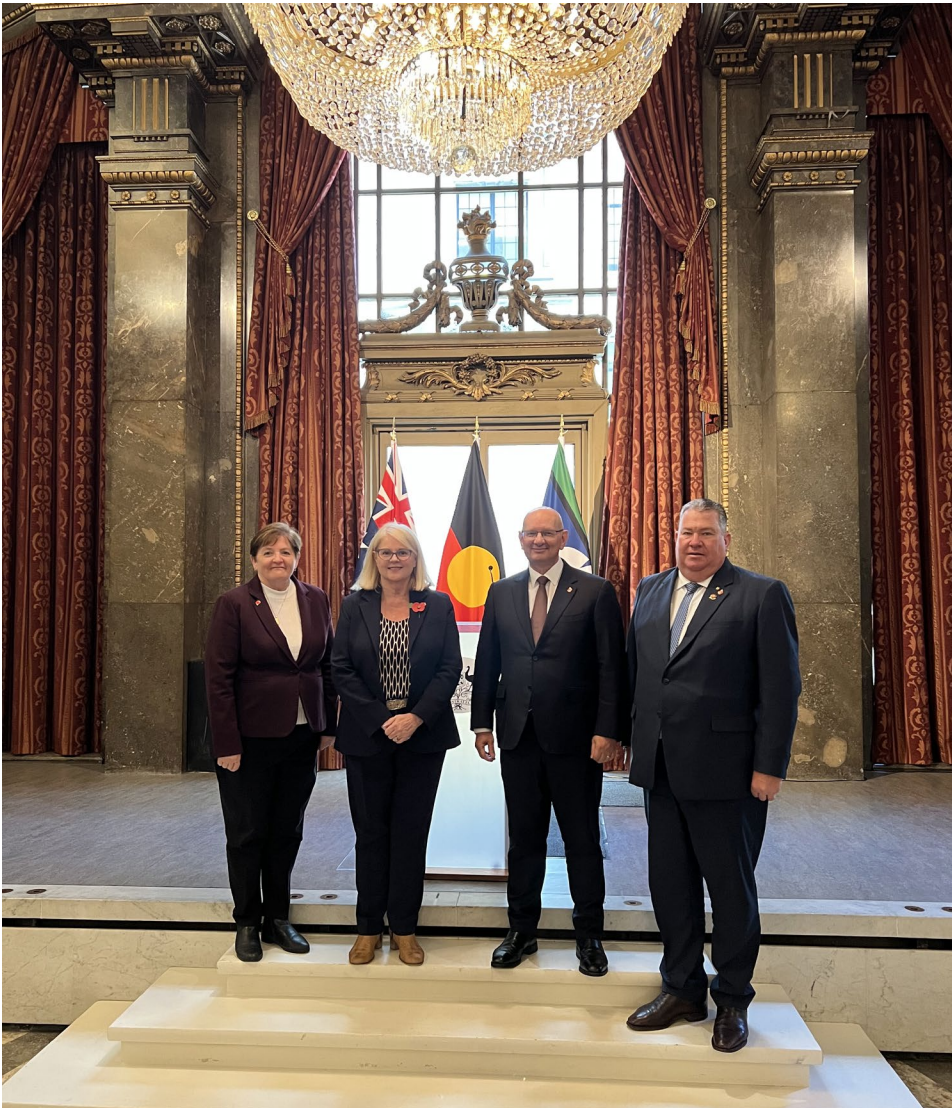
- the Australia-UK Free Trade Agreement, considered a very liberalising agreement and a great outcome for Australia in terms of goods, services, technology, investment, labour mobility and recognition of qualifications;

- the opening up of opportunities for Australian exporters, with tariffs removed on 99% of goods, and UK buyers wanting to diversify their supply chains and conduct more business with secure partners;
- Australia's offerings in the green energy transition, including critical minerals and modern solutions for wind, solar and hydrogen, and the identification of gaps that exist in energy transition, such as supply chains;
- the 2032 Brisbane Olympics and opportunities this offers for tourism and investment; and
- continued promotion of Sydney as the centre of business in the Asia Pacific region, with Western Sydney and elsewhere in NSW offering space for businesses to grow.

Roundtable meeting on defence and AUKUS

The delegation met with Ms Faye Murray, Minister-Counsellor, Australian Submarines Agency, Mr Grant Mason, Head of Australian Defence Staff, London, and Mr Christian Hirst, Minister-Counsellor, DFAT. The focus of the roundtable meeting was defence and the AUKUS alliance, and the following issues were discussed:

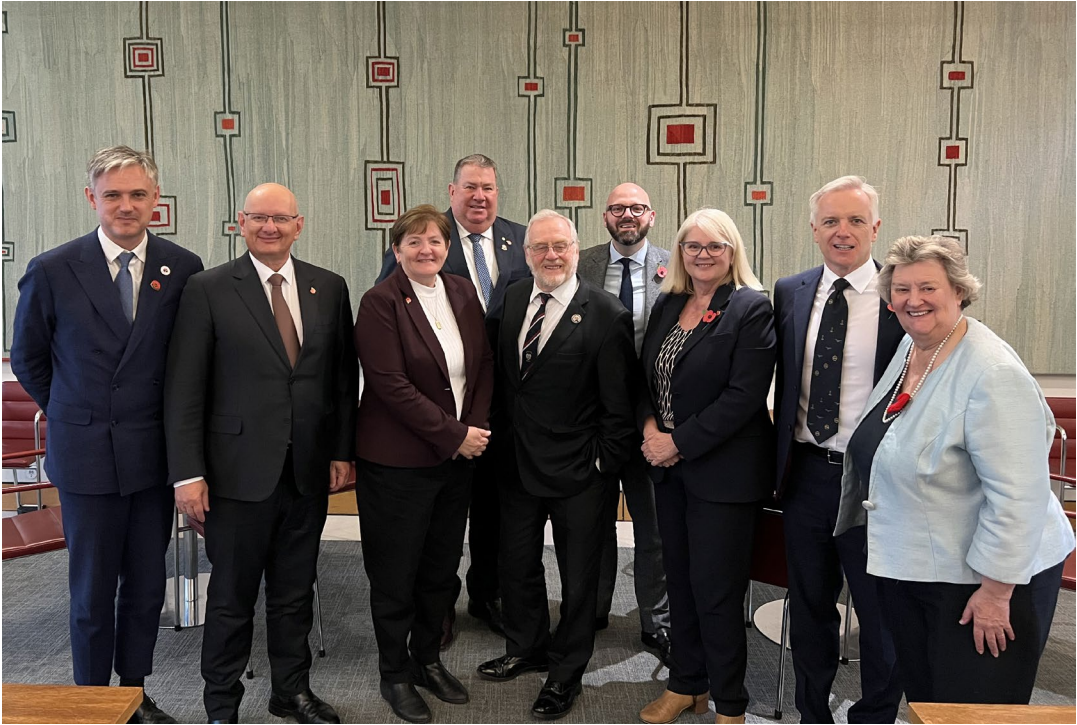
- need to ensure continuity of bilateral support for AUKUS, by explaining what it is, reinforcing to the UK that this is an essential part of their Indo-Pacific tilt, and is a whole of nation effort from Australia;
- significance of the UK commitment, being the first time they've shared their nuclear technology with another country, and the need to continue breaking down patterns of behaviour that prevent sharing of information.
- development of the Rolls-Royce reactor 'engines' in Derby and construction of the submarines in Barrow-in-Furness, with parts being constructed right now that will end up in an Australian submarine; and
- the benefits of AUKUS in the skills transfer that will occur, with people learning in other countries and bringing their skills back home.



Delegates at Australia House

Working lunch with the AUKUS All Party Political Group

Members of the AUKUS All Party Political Group hosted a working lunch for the delegation at Portcullis House, with Mr John Spellar MP, Mr Simon Fell MP, Ms Heather Wheeler MP, Mr Rob Butler MP and Lord Walney in attendance. The group discussed the significance and importance of the AUKUS alliance, and ways to build and maintain momentum within the member countries to ensure the success of the submarine project.



Delegates with members of the AUKUS All Party Political Group

Meeting with Members of the Scottish Parliament (Edinburgh)

The delegation met with Mr Neil Bibby MSP, Mr Jim Fairlie MSP and Mr Brian Whittle MSP at the Scottish Parliament, and discussed the following topics:

- Scottish politics, particularly underemployment, the clean energy transition, health and the shortage of GP hours;
- the relationship between Australia and the UK, including the Australia-UK Free Trade Agreement and AUKUS;
- Russia's invasion of Ukraine, and the solidarity of the Scottish people with Ukrainians;
- the Israel/Hamas conflict;
- concerns in Scotland about Australian agricultural products decimating farmers, due to the different rules and regulations in respective agriculture industries; and
- the disastrous implications of Brexit for Scotland.

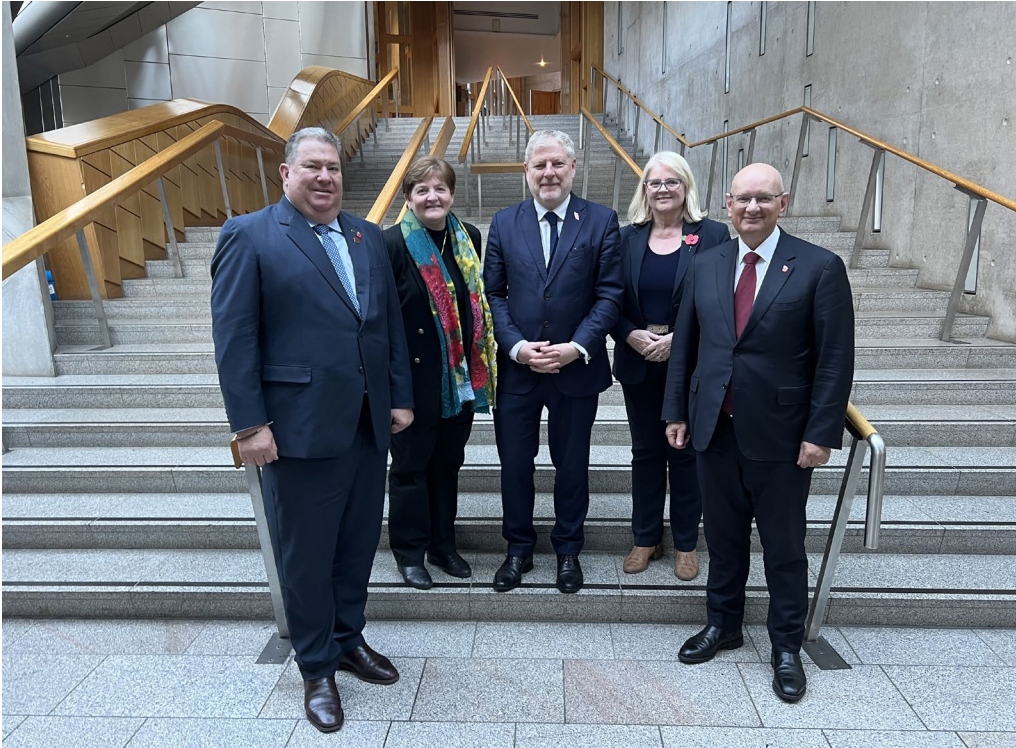


Delegates with members of the Scottish Parliament

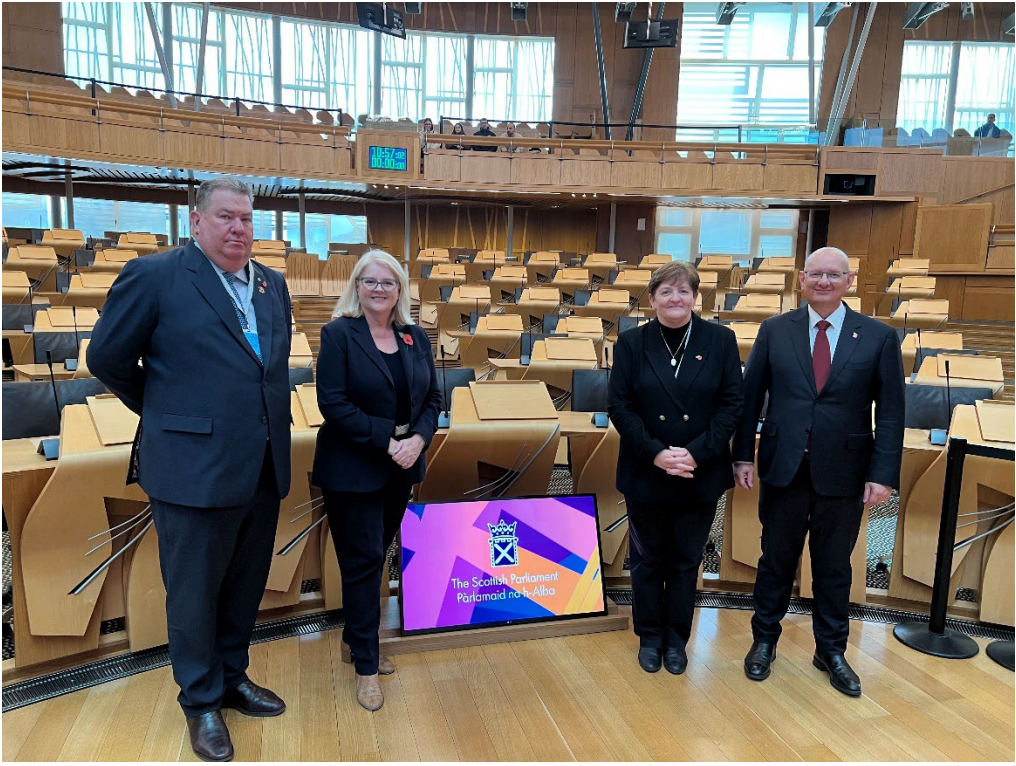
Meeting with Minister for the Constitution, Europe, External Affairs and Culture (Edinburgh)

The delegation met with Mr Angus Robertson MSP, Minister for the Constitution, Europe, External Affairs and Culture, and discussed the following topics:

- Scotland's wish to be back in the EU, but as an independent, sovereign nation;
- concerns that the UK Government wants to lower agricultural standards;
- the need for defence cooperation with like-minded allies;
- the unsatisfactory working relationship between the UK and Scottish governments;
- the Scottish independence movement, and unwillingness of the UK to allow another referendum;
- the need for differentiated immigration policies across the UK, so Scotland could bring in more people; and
- building better connections with Scotland's diaspora communities overseas.



Delegates with Mr Angus Robertson, Minister for the Constitution, Europe, External Affairs and Culture



Delegates in the Chamber of the Scottish Parliament

Roundtable meetings on UK/Australia trade and shared security interests

The delegation held roundtable meetings with Members of the House of Commons and the House of Lords at Westminster Hall. The following issues were discussed:

- the Australia-UK Free Trade Agreement, considered by some MPs & Lords as an opaque process and currently a better deal for Australia, especially relating to agriculture and animal welfare issues;
- mutual recognition of skills between Australia and the United Kingdom;
- Australia's long history of exporting meat and other products to the UK, and optimism about the capacity of UK farmers to compete and adapt;
- the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP);
- the commitment of the UK Labour Party to the Asia-Pacific, which will continue if in Government following the election next year, likewise the strong relationship with Australia;
- Russia's invasion of Ukraine and the Israel/Hamas conflict, and their implications for other countries; and
- diplomacy in the Indo-Pacific region.

Meeting with Professor Anand Menon and Ms Sophia Gaston

The delegation met with Professor Anand Menon, Professor of European Politics and Foreign Affairs at King's College London and Director of the UK in a Changing Europe initiative, and Ms Sophia Gaston, Head of Foreign Policy and UK Resilience at the Policy Exchange. The following topics were discussed:

- British politics, including budget problems, Brexit and NATO;
- changing public opinion in the UK on Brexit, with people thinking it was the wrong decision, or the Government implementation is resulting in adverse outcomes for the people of Britain;
- cost of living crisis leading to a falling public appetite for dealing with geopolitical issues that might result in further financial disruption – discussions about the defence of 'values' is seen as a luxury to voters when they cannot pay their everyday bills; and
- the Israel/Hamas conflict, and the need to focus on the humanitarian corridor at the moment with what is a humanitarian disaster, and the potential for Hezbollah to enter the conflict more openly.

Visit to Operation Kudu

The delegation visited Operation Kudu on the Salisbury Plains, the Australian Defence Force contingent training Ukrainian defence recruits in the United Kingdom. During the trip to Operation Kudu, the delegation participated in the following:

- a briefing on the operation with the Contingent Commander and other officers;
- a visit to the training area to observe Ukrainian recruits undergoing weapons and tactical training and engage with Australian and Ukrainian soldiers;
- a visit to the Compton Chamberlayne Cemetery in Wiltshire; and
- viewing of the Fovant Regimental Badges.

The delegation members recognise the professionalism, care and expertise of the Australian soldiers taking part in the training of the Ukrainian citizens. Delegates especially appreciated the conversations and hospitality shown to them during their visit.

Ms Anne Stanley MP
Delegation Leader

Delegation Program

Monday 30 October 2023

- 12.40 Arrive Arlanda Airport, Stockholm
- 14.30 Check in at hotel
- 15:00 Australia-based business

Tuesday 31 October 2023

- 08.40 Travel to the Ministry of Defence
- 09.00 Meeting with State Secretary for Defence
- 09.30 Travel to the Australian Residence
- 10.00 Briefing by DFAT and Austrade
- 11.00 Working lunch with Mr Carl Bildt, former Prime Minister and Foreign Minister
- 12.30 Travel to Ericsson HQ
- 13.00 Meeting with Ericsson Executives and tour of the Ericsson Experience Centre
- 14.30 Travel to the Riksdag (Swedish Parliament)
- 15.00 Tour of the Swedish Parliament
- 16.00 Meeting with the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Swedish Parliament
- 17.00 Travel to hotel

Wednesday 1 November 2023

- 08.00 Travel to Martin & Servera
 - 08.30 Meeting with Martin & Servera and opportunity to view Scania and Volvo electric truck fleet
 - 09.30 Travel to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade
 - 10.00 Meeting with State Secretary for Trade
-

- 11.00 Travel to the National Board of Trade
- 11.15 Meeting with the National Board of Trade
- 12.15 Travel to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade
- 12.30 Lunch hosted by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and Trade
- 14.45 Travel to the Confederation of Swedish Enterprise
- 15.00 Meeting with the Confederation of Swedish Enterprise
- 16.00 Travel to Vasa Museum
- 16.15 Tour of Vasa Museum: Sweden's formative history
- 17.00 Travel to hotel

Thursday 2 November 2023

- 09.00 Travel to the ABBA Museum
- 09.15 Visit to the ABBA Museum
- 10.00 Travel to the Australian Residence
- 10.30 Meeting with Volvo Trucks International
- 12.15 Roundtable lunch: Australian & Swedish perspectives on the Indo-Pacific
- 14.15 Travel to hotel
- 15.20 Walk to Australian Embassy
- 15.30 Briefing on the Swedish Defence Research Agency
- 17.00 Travel to hotel

Friday 3 November 2023

- 09.50 Walk to Swedish Steel AB
- 10.00 Meeting with Swedish Steel AB
- 11.30 Travel to the Australian Residence

- 12.00 Working lunch with Hans Wallmark MP, Chair of the Swedish Defence Commission
- 13.45 Travel to the Nobel Prize Museum
- 14.00 Visit to the Nobel Prize Museum
- 15.00 Travel to hotel

Saturday 4 November 2023

- 08.45 Transfer to Stockholm Arlanda Airport
- 09.35 Arrive at Stockholm Arlanda Airport
- 11.35 Depart Stockholm
- 13.20 Arrive London Heathrow Airport
- 15.00 Arrive at hotel, meeting with High Commission staff and briefing on UK program

Monday 6 November 2023

- 08.40 Travel to Australia House
- 09.00 Briefing with Australian High Commissioner, HE Stephen Smith
- 09.45 Roundtable on Economic and Trade Opportunities
- 10.45 Roundtable on Defence and AUKUS
- 12.15 Tour of Australia House
- 13.00 Travel to Portcullis House
- 13.30 Lunch with All Party Parliamentary Group on AUKUS
- 15.00 Travel to Kings Cross Station
- 16.00 Travel to Scotland by train
- 20.20 Arrive Edinburgh Waverly
- 20.30 Check in to hotel

Tuesday 7 November 2023

- 09.30 Walk to Scottish Parliament
- 10.00 Tour of Scottish Parliament
- 11.00 Meeting with Members of the Scottish Parliament
- 12.30 Meeting with Angus Robertson MSP, Minister for Constitution, External Affairs and Culture
- 14.00 View proceedings of Scottish Parliament from public gallery
- 15.30 Return to hotel and travel to Edinburgh Waverly Station
- 16.30 Travel to London Kings Cross by train
- 20.55 Arrive London Kings Cross
- 21.00 Travel to hotel

Wednesday 8 November 2023

- 08.45 Walk to Downing Street
- 09.00 Opportunity to view 10 Downing Street
- 09.45 Visit Churchill War Rooms
- 11.30 Walk to Westminster
- 12.00 Visit to the House of Commons Education Centre
- 12.45 Tour of the Palace of Westminster
- 13.15 Working lunch with Parliamentarians and discussion on UK-Australia Trade
- 14.30 Roundtable on UK-Australia shared security interests
- 15.15 View proceedings of House of Commons from public gallery
- 15.30 Walk to hotel
- 16.00 Roundtable with Professor Anand Menon and Sofia Gaston

Thursday 9 November 2023

- 08.45 Depart hotel for Salisbury Plains accompanied by AHC ADF Defence Liaison Officer
- 10.30 Visit to Operation Kudu: Australian Defence Contingent training Ukrainian forces in the UK
- 13.30 Depart for Wiltshire
- 14.30 Lunch
- 15.30 Visit to Compton Chamberlayne War Graves
- 16.15 View Fovant Badges, Wiltshire
- 16.30 Travel to Heathrow Airport
- 20.20 Depart UK