

**Senate Foreign Affairs Defence and Trade Legislation Committee**

**Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade**

**Secretary Jan Adams AO PSM**

**Supplementary Budget Estimates**

**10 October 2025**

**Opening Statement**

Good morning Senators – thank you for the opportunity to make an opening statement.

Since our last Estimates hearing, global events have had high significance for Australia.

We are confronted with a deteriorating strategic environment and a more contested world.

Countries are using unconstrained power more often, putting internationally agreed rules and norms under pressure.

The normalisation of conflict as a tool of statecraft risks setting dangerous precedents.

Increased threats from cyberspace, climate impacts, pandemics and transnational crime make the challenges multi-dimensional.

As the international system is being reshaped, DFAT is prioritising our region, relationships and rules.

Our foreign, development and trade policies focus firstly on our region, which is central to our security and economic future.

In Southeast Asia, we have deepened two-way trade and investment through *Invested: Australia's Southeast Asia Economic Strategy to 2040*.

I am pleased to say that data from 2024 shows a \$6 billion increase in two-way goods and services trade to the region, and an increase to Australia's total investment stock of almost \$2 billion taking it to a total stock of over A\$100 billion Australian dollars.

And this week the Prime Ministers of Australia and Singapore launched our enhanced Comprehensive Strategic Partnership 2.0, deepening further our longstanding economic, defence and security cooperation.

In the Pacific, we have progressed key initiatives that are building a stronger Pacific family and contributing to the region's prosperity, security and resilience. We have:

- signed the mutual Defence Treaty with Papua New Guinea  
elevating the relationship to an Alliance
- we have progressed discussions with Vanuatu on finalising the  
Nakamal Agreement

- we have enabled the entry into force of the Nauru-Australia Treaty and
- we have opened the mobility pathway for the groundbreaking Falepili Union Treaty with Tuvalu.

Together with Pacific Islands Forum Leaders and Foreign Ministers, we signed the Pacific Resilience Facility treaty, endorsed the Blue Pacific Ocean of Peace declaration and received strong backing for the bid for a Pacific COP.

As a reliable partner in our region, we have reprioritised our development investments in the Indo-Pacific, to ensure we respond to our region's most acute needs, including in health, climate and economic security.

Senators, we have leveraged our connections, influence, and active diplomacy, to strengthen our fundamentally important alliance with the United States, and our relationships with other key partners.

Since our last Committee hearings, the Government held foreign and defence minister 2+2 meetings with Japan, the United Kingdom, and Indonesia.

In July, the Foreign Minister travelled to Washington for the second Quad Foreign Ministers meeting under the Trump Administration.

The Prime Minister also visited the United States twice – in June and September, and China in July.

My department has supported more than 25 other visits by our portfolio ministers which have deepened and strengthened our key relationships,

and advanced our interests with ASEAN, the Indian Ocean Rim Association, with the EU, in the G20, the WTO and OECD.

We have worked to diversify Australia's trade and investment relationships to grow opportunities for Australian businesses.

Our free trade agreement with United Arab Emirates entered into force on the 1st of October, which will enable Australian exporters to expand into the Middle East, a market of around 58 million consumers and a combined GDP of \$1.4 trillion.

Even as we focus our diplomacy on our region and reinforcing our relationships, events in the Middle East and Ukraine have also been priorities.

We have consistently called for peace in the region – for a ceasefire in Gaza, and for and the release of hostages taken by Hamas 2 years and 3 days ago. As the Minister has said, we have welcomed the ceasefire agreement.

In response to Iran's connection to antisemitic attacks in Australia, the Government has expelled the Iranian ambassador and three diplomats, and suspended the Australian embassy's operation in Tehran.

We remain steadfast in working with partners to support Ukraine to achieve a comprehensive, just and lasting peace, and maintain pressure on Russia to end its illegal invasion.

Since last Estimates, we have imposed 213 additional sanctions on Russia bringing it to over 1600 sanctions imposed since Russia's

invasion, including two rounds of sanctions on 155 vessels linked to Russia's Shadow Fleet.

We also lowered the Oil Price Cap on Russian oil and we continue to work with partners to look at what further action can be taken to increase economic pressure on Russia.

Senators, Australia used the United Nations High Level Week two weeks ago to reinforce global rules and norms that have underpinned Australia's post-war security and prosperity.

Australia led global efforts to launch the Declaration for the Protection of Humanitarian Personnel, which was joined, as the Foreign Minister mentioned, by one hundred and ten countries – more than half of the United Nations.



Australia also showcased on the world stage our leadership on children's online safety, sharing our experience on world-leading under-16 social media laws.

Senators, as more Australians head overseas for work or travel, the Department continues to protect their welfare abroad and help them return safely.

The Department is supporting around 1,400 active consular cases at any given time.

We have provided crisis support to Australians and families in their times of great need, including by coordinating the assisted departure of 323 Australians, permanent residents and their immediate family members from Israel and Iran during the conflict earlier this year.

Australian passports remain some of the safest and most reliable in the

world. The Australian Passport Office is undertaking reforms to further improve the application process for Australians.

DFAT's consular and passport services continue to be ranked the highest among Commonwealth government agencies in levels of public trust and satisfaction, as evidenced by the forthcoming Survey of Trust in Australian public services.

In conclusion, I continue to be extremely proud of the extraordinary work done by officers in my department, across the international network and here in Australia, engaging with Australians and the world with confidence and with purpose, to advance our national interests.

Thank you, Chair and members for your indulgence.