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Senate Foreign Affairs Defence and Trade Legislation Committee

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Secretary Jan Adams AO PSM

Supplementary Budget Estimates

4 December 2025

Opening Statement

Thank you Chair, – thank you for the opportunity to make opening remarks.

Last Estimates I spoke to you about the deteriorating strategic environment, and how the department was strengthening Australia's security and prosperity, not only to respond to but to find opportunity for Australia in these challenging circumstances.

By strengthening our relationships with key partners across the Indo-Pacific.

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And by protecting Australia's interests in relation to the impact of conflicts, and promoting rules in global institutions, and in new trade agreements that benefit Australians.

Over the two months since we last convened here, our department has continued this work in the face of ongoing challenges in our strategic environment.

We have signed transformational treaties with our closest neighbours, and in doing so strengthened what the Foreign Minister has described as architecture that will "secure Australia in our region".

The Prime Minister signed the Australia-Papua New Guinea Mutual Defence Treaty with Prime Minister Marape on 6 October – a very tangible representation of the level of strategic trust and respect we share in every aspect of our relationship.

In quick succession, at the 31st Australia–PNG Ministerial Forum 10 Australian Ministers and 11 Ministers from PNG agreed outcomes to implement the Treaty, and expanded our cooperation in education, skills and humanitarian assistance.

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In November, during Indonesian President Prabowo's first official visit to Australia since taking office, our leaders announced our countries had substantively concluded negotiations on a new Treaty on Common Security.

This watershed treaty represents a significant extension of our defence and security collaboration and signals a shared commitment to regional peace and stability.

At the same time, we've been working hard to advance our relationship with the United States, our principal ally, in ways that strengthen our security and our prosperity.

The meeting between Prime Minister Albanese and President Trump in October resulted in strong outcomes for Australia.

This included the signing of the Critical Minerals Framework and President Trump's articulation of his support for the AUKUS arrangements.

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The Framework promises to promote greater investment in new critical mineral supply chains – particularly in those essential for defence and advanced technology manufacturing.

We are also deepening our engagement with Japan, our key strategic partner in the region. The Prime Minister met new Prime Minister Takaichi, the Foreign Minister met Foreign Minister Motegi and we are working closely together at all levels on our shared security and economic interests. Our cooperation has never been closer.

Senators, we also remain focussed on diversifying our relationships and embedding our prosperity and security in our region and rules.

At the recent ASEAN related meetings in October, the Prime Minister announced two major investments under the \$2 billion Southeast Asia Investment Financing Facility to support the growth in Southeast Asia of major Australian companies IFM and Plenary. These investments are embedding Australian investors, including our super funds, in the economic growth of the region.

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Australia's role as 2025 Chair of the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership could hardly have come at a more consequential time. As chair, we have successfully worked with Parties to inject new momentum into the Agreement which remains the standard bearer for high-quality trade rules. Trade Ministers, when they met in Melbourne last month, agreed to deepen the Agreement through the first General Review and broaden the Agreement by making progress on the accessions agenda.

Australia and the Pacific will have unprecedented influence over the global climate change agenda in 2026 after we agreed with Türkiye on the hosting arrangements for COP31. Our goal has always been to elevate the climate concerns of the Pacific. And this is the goal we've achieved – a pre-COP Leaders meeting hosted in a Pacific island country, and a session at COP31 focused on the climate finance needs of Small Island Developing States, particularly the Pacific.

Chair, as the Foreign Minister has said over recent weeks our region has experienced the impacts of multiple devastating concurrent disasters -

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typhoons, flooding and landslides. So many hundreds of lives have been lost, communities devastated and very significant impact on local economies. Australia has responded to requests for international assistance now providing \$14 million to support Sri Lanka, Vietnam and other partners in Southeast Asia. We stand ready continue to working with countries and communities in the region to support them, as a steadfast and reliable partner, during good times and bad.

Over the last two months Australian diplomats around the world have also supported 10 further outwards visits by our portfolio ministers – all with the aim of delivering outcomes for Australia.

This is on top of the Prime Minister's engagements in Malaysia for the East Asia Summit, Republic of Korea for APEC and South Africa for the G20, where he met more than 25 global leaders.

And while we've been delivering these priorities for government, we've also been working hard to keep Australians safe abroad.

On 10 September we launched the Partying Safely Hub, a dedicated online resource that helps young Australians stay safe overseas.

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For their delivery of all of these outcomes throughout 2025, I offer my sincere thanks to our people – both here in Australia and across our overseas network – for their hard work, their dedication, and their commitment to working with integrity and achieving results.

Thank you Chair and Senators.