



Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Legislation Committee
Budget Estimates 2024–25
Tuesday, 28 May 2024
Daily summary

The committee met from 9.00am until 10.15pm

The committee called:

- the National Emergency Management Agency; and
- the Department of Home Affairs (including the Australian Border Force).

Topics discussed by the committee included:

National Emergency Management Agency:

- Reviews related to NEMA;
- Betterment programs;
- Funding requests from peak bodies and state and territory governments;
- Aerial capabilities in response to natural disasters;
- The National Emergency Management stockpile;
- Engagement with telecommunication companies;
- Funding provided to NEMA under the 2024-2025 Budget;
- Fitzroy River Crossing Bridge project;
- Use of contractors and consultants;
- North Queensland Strata Resilience pilot program;
- The public safety mobile broadband project;
- Pressure on insurance premiums and projects delivered through Hazard Insurance Partnership programs;
- Cyclone, flood and bushfire testing for community hazard resilience in collaboration with JCU;
- Data sharing as household insurance risk mitigation;
- Bushfire resilience rating app;
- Government humanitarian and security assistance for Kaokalam Village in Enga Province in Papua New Guinea;
- Roll-out of projects under the Disaster Ready Fund;
- Insurance Council of Australia and funding for long-term resilience projects;
- Budget funding for infrastructure reconstruction programs;
- Skills development of disaster management public service roles; and
- Cyclone Jasper recovery efforts.

Department of Home Affairs – Cross-portfolio corporate and general matters:

- Management of NZYQ cohort;
- Standard process and guidelines for Senate Estimates answers to questions on notice, including for the provision of documents;
- Parliamentary Liaison Network service standards;
- Culture and governance within the department;

- PMC and PMO documents informing agencies in how to answer questions on notice;
- Measures to promote internal and cross-departmental collaboration, particularly at a sub-leadership level;
- Responses to FOI requests; and
- Departmental liaison officers.

Department of Home Affairs – Outcome 1:

- Investigations into cybercriminal groups;
- Cybersecurity incident response;
- Implementation of the Cyber Security Action Plan;
- Public consultation regarding draft legislation under the Cyber Security Action Plan;
- Cybersecurity legislation relating to standards for 'Internet of Things' devices;
- Limited-use provision legislation for the Cyber-Security Coordinator General;
- Legislation in the United States' requiring ByteDance to divest TikTok;
- Funding for the Cyber Security Strategy;
- Counter-terrorism exercises;
- Counter ransomware initiative;
- MoU between Australia and Israel on cybersecurity;
- Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps;
- Foreign interference;
- Alleged activity of the Chinese Ministry of Public Security in Australia (including Operation Fox Hunt); and
- Democracy taskforce.

Department of Home Affairs – Outcome 2:

- Ministerial Direction 99;
- Registration of migration agents;
- AAT cases appealing the revocation of visas;
- The residual regional processing caseload for Papua New Guinea;
- Skilled migration program;
- Legacy caseload of the Fast Track TPV and SHEV refugee determination system;
- Applications for travel visas from individuals in Gaza; and
- Student visa program.

The committee will next meet at 9.00am on Wednesday, 29 May in the Main Committee Room (MCR), for an examination of the Home Affairs Portfolio and Attorney-General's Portfolio.