



Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee  
Budget Estimates 2020-21  
Monday, 26 October 2020  
Daily summary

Here is the summary of today's proceedings in the Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee estimates hearing.

The committee met from 9.00am until 11.00pm.

The committee called:

Naval Shipbuilding Advisory Board

- Future Frigate Program schedule; and
- Future Submarine Program schedule.

Department of Defence

- Future Submarine Program including timeline, milestones, basis and sequence of costs, battery tender process, Australian industry content, manufacturing and workforce;
- self-propelled Howitzer project;
- Hawkei project;
- Future Frigate Program;
- decision on location of full cycle docking for the Collins Class submarines;
- defence capital program;
- Industry Capability Life Cycle Manual latest version;
- capital project budget movements;
- changing categorisation of defence expenditure (operating, sustainment, capital), including definitions of each category in the budget papers; and
- audit program – independent AICE plan program.

Defence Housing Australia

- Mt Lofty project including development application processes; and
- DHA projects across the country.

Australian War Memorial

- new Director's vision for Memorial;
- guidelines for financial contributions from military and defence firms;
- redevelopment project and additional exhibition space, including public consultation process; and
- collections process.

Department of Veterans' Affairs

- fees for occupational therapists;
- hearing devices available to veterans;
- access to, and provision of, mental health services;
- budget measure for TPI veterans rent assistance;
- PM's Advisory Council on Veterans' Mental Health meeting on 23 July 2019 and consideration of a Royal Commission;

- National Commissioner for Defence and Veteran Suicide Prevention, including terms of reference to enable access for veterans and families, Defence's and DVA's role in the development of policy options, appointment of Dr Bernadette Boss CSC as the interim Commissioner;
- claims processing times;
- update on the implementation of the recommendations of the inquiry into facts surrounding the management of Jesse Bird's case;
- staffing, including ASL and contractors;
- conclusion of the grant funding for the Centenary of Anzac Centre under Phoenix Australia;
- employees working from home during the COVID response; and
- delay in the release of the Veteran Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy and National Action Plan.

The committee will continue examination of the Defence Portfolio tomorrow, Tuesday 27 October at 9.00am in the Senate Main Committee Room.