



Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee  
Budget Estimates 2021-22  
Tuesday, 1 June 2021  
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 10.53pm.

The committee called:

Naval Shipbuilding Expert Advisory Panel (NSEAP)

- Future Submarine Program, including functional systems review and integrated master schedule; and
- remuneration for panel members.

Department of Defence

- withdrawal of troops from Afghanistan and Defence involvement in decision to close Embassy in Kabul;
- 34th squadron/VIP operations, including Prime Minister's use of Special Purpose aircraft and the protocols for VIP visitor arrivals;
- work of Dr Crompvoets and her upcoming book;
- costs of transportation of armoured vehicles to Shoalwater Bay Training Area;
- Future Submarine Program, including acquisition costs update, updates to PBS, timeframes, workforce planning, capability enhancement review;
- Director-General of Submarine Capability, including role and attendance at the estimates hearing;
- Australian assistance in search for missing Indonesian submarine;
- Naval Shipbuilding Plan update;
- decision on location for full cycle docking;
- Life of Type Extension schedule;
- criteria for appointment of Judge Advocates;
- Exercise Talisman Sabre 2021;
- visa pathways for Afghan interpreters;
- future frigates;
- helicopters, including MHR-60, remediation of MHR-90 helicopters and the leasing of two Leonardo AW139 helicopters to fill capability gap;
- Defence investment in Northern Australia;
- safety incident of Hawkei vehicles at Puckapunyal;
- Boxer combat reconnaissance vehicles;
- Fat Ladies Arms drinking establishment;
- CDF's comments on potential conflict in the Taiwan Straits;
- enhancements to the Australian Industrial Capability contractual framework;
- projects of concern framework;
- F-35A Joint Strike Fighter project, including numbers, schedule and final operating capability, delays due to COVID-19 impacts, sustainment costs;
- Defence payment of legal fees for Naval Group Australia in relation to an appeal to the Administrative Appeals Tribunal;

- Cape Class patrol boats schedule, including delay due to defective aluminium;
- offshore patrol vessels;
- Battlespace Communications Systems Project;
- procurement of custom made wetsuits for Special Forces from S2;
- Jindalee Operational Radar Network upgrade schedule;
- update on the delivery of the Pacific Support Vessel; and
- establishment of the Sovereign Guided Weapons Enterprise.

The committee will continue examination of the Defence Portfolio tomorrow, Wednesday 2 June 2021, at 9.00am.