



Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee
Budget Estimates 2021-22
Wednesday, 2 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 10.58pm.

The committee called:

Department of Defence

- LAND 200 digitisation program pause, battle management system – ICT security accreditation;
- role of Commodore Timothy Brown on force structure requirements for undersea warfare;
- Future Submarine Program, including contingency planning, engagement with other countries and Australian industry content provisions in the Strategic Partnering Agreement;
- lease of the Port of Newcastle;
- Cockatoo Island, WA;
- Howitzers program;
- security breaches in the Ministers' offices across the Defence Portfolio;
- International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia, Interphobia and Transphobia (IDAHOBIT) morning tea;
- cessation of Australia's defence cooperation with Myanmar;
- Defence cooperation with the Philippines, Indonesia, Sri Lanka and Israel;
- Maribyrnong Defence site;
- termination of staff member from office of former Defence Industry Minister, Senator the Hon Linda Reynolds;
- cultural reform, implementation of the *Pathway to Change* strategy, and ANAO Report No. 38 2020-21 *Defence's Implementation of Cultural Reform*;
- Dr Cromptvoets' work for Defence and her forthcoming book;
- Fat Lady's Arms;
- treatment of women in the ADF;
- S2 and Neptune wetsuits;
- AW139 helicopter cost of lease v purchase;
- Joint strike fighter engine maintenance facility in Ipswich;
- Super Hornet ejection issue investigation;
- Loyal Wingman project cost, IP;
- Hunter class frigates, including grey water tanks;
- strategic workforce planning;
- global switch data centre;
- Port of Darwin;
- Defence workforce, including women; and
- Williamstown red carpet.

Australian Signals Directorate

- cyber attacks on various Australian businesses, including health and aged care providers;
- cyber attack on JBS meatworks;
- preventative cyber defences; and
- auditing of AEC systems.

Australian War Memorial

- redevelopment progress, contingency planning and public consultation;
- possibility of changes or additions to display on conflict in Afghanistan;
- suitability of Kerry Stokes as chair of AWM Council given his support for Ben Roberts-Smith; and
- AWM Indigenous Liaison Officer.

Department of Veterans' Affairs

- psychiatric assistance dog program;
- Austin Hospital psychiatric program;
- veteran suicide royal commission, including DVA taskforce, development of terms of reference, consultation period;
- activities of interim national commissioner;
- DVA investigations into suspected veteran suicides;
- veteran family advocate remuneration and capacity;
- claim processing wait times;
- DVA staffing;
- mishandling of personal documents;
- homelessness among recently transitioned ADF members; and
- advocates.

Defence Housing Australia was released without examination.

The committee completed examination of the Defence Portfolio.