



Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee  
Budget Estimates 2021-22  
Friday, 4 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 9.03am until 8.57pm.

The committee called the following department and agencies (some areas of interest by the committee are listed)

**Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (non-trade programs)**

- security contract for Jakarta embassy;
- repatriation flights from India;
- Diplomatic support for Mr Assange;
- Ethiopia conflict;
- Australians in IDP camps in Syria;
- Chechnya and LGBTIQ rights;
- COVID-19 vaccinations for Australian consular staff;
- Australian contributions to COVAX and other regional vaccination efforts;
- Official development assistance (ODA) Budget allocations over the forward estimates;
- COVID-19 situation in PNG and Australian assistance;
- Timor-Leste, including COVID-19 situation and recent floods;
- representations regarding activities of mining company OceanaGold;
- Sri Lanka country report;
- representations on human rights issues in India, particularly Kashmir;
- human rights in Cambodia;
- Pacific Islands Forum;
- Blue Dot Networks;
- modern slavery, human trafficking and forced labour (funding for various programs);
- Kiribati (infrastructure funding);
- incursion into Malaysian airspace of 16 Chinese military transport planes;
- unaccompanied minors ('single traveller minor') – global figures;
- Pacific Labour Scheme and Seasonal Worker Programme;
- Generation Equality Forum;
- Huawei/5G;
- Cyber security;
- Customs Amendment (Banning Goods Produced By Uyghur Forced Labour) Bill 2020, Access to the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region, and Uyghur forced labour;
- modern slavery and international supply chains; and
- reported (in *The Australian*) US prohibition/limitations on investing in China.

**Export Finance Australia**

- fossil fuel/resource projects that have been financed by federal government; and
- activities of foreign export credit agencies.

### **DFAT (Trade Programs)**

- comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership;
- Australia-UK Free Trade Agreement;
- trade with China , decline in exports and impact on jobs;
- animal welfare in the meat export industry;
- potential for carbon tariffs on Australian exports with the European Union;
- European Union's trademarking of various foods, spirits and other productions;
- progress of Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership;
- Australia-EU Free Trade Agreement;
- climate change and commitments to emissions reduction;
- 26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26);
- foreign export credit agencies investing in fossil fuels/resources in Australia;
- Prime Minister's trip to the upcoming Group of Seven, with regard to discussions around carbon tariffs;
- European Union's carbon border adjustment mechanism (CBAM);
- DFAT's feasibility study on strengthening trade and investment with Israel;
- World Trade Organization's Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) Agreement waiver, particularly re COVID-19 vaccines; and
- trademarking of Manuka honey.

### **Australian Trade and Investment Commission**

- skill and labour shortages in the visitor economy;
- COVID-19 Consumer Travel Support Program;
- Business Events Grants Program;
- Tourism and Aviation Network Support Program, including the methodology and datasets for basis of the selection of destinations;
- impact of COVID lockdowns on tourism; and
- reforms to the Export Market Development Grant Program.

### **Tourism Australia**

- CHE Proximity contract to provide retail campaign to support the TANS program;
- BDA Marketing Planning contract;
- Keep Australia Front of Mind campaign;
- current domestic tourism campaigns; and
- percentage of total tourism from a domestic audience.

The committee completed examination of the Foreign Affairs and Trade Portfolio.