



Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
Budget Estimates 2022-23
Tuesday, 5 April 2022
Daily summary

Here is the summary of today's proceedings in the Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee estimates hearing.

The committee met from 9.10am to 5.33pm.

Topics discussed by the committee included:

ASC Pty Ltd

- Sovereign Shipbuilding Talent Pool, training needed for build, total workforce numbers needed for the SSTP;
- Nuclear Submarine Taskforce study, timeline of study;
- how the ASC has been affected by COVID; and
- expansion of Osborne shipyard, workforce QoN from last estimates about loss of jobs from offshore patrol vessels.

Australian Naval Infrastructure Pty Ltd

- ANI involvement in selection of locations for new east coast port;
- ANI involved in lease negotiations with Nuclear Submarine Taskforce working group, Land expansion and leasing options, ANI involvement in Henderson shipyards;
- requirements for new nuclear submarines;
- ANI staffing;
- financial impact of the shutdown of attack class project on ANI; and
- update on expenditure on ANI facilities, upgrade work on ANI shipyards.

Department of Finance (Outcome 1&2)

- committee offered their commendations to Ms Rosemary Huxtable, congratulating her on her long and successful APS career;
- budget savings, decisions taken but not yet announced and the allocation of funding over the forward estimates against funding already provided (or obtained from existing resources);
- economic outcomes following the COVID response;
- number of and expenditure on current Government advertising campaigns, and reviews of campaigns by the Independent Communications Committee;
- Prime Ministerial guidance to Ministers about conduct during caretaker period; and
- data and measurement of total government expenses.

Future Fund Management Agency

- effect of the Ukrainian-Russian conflict on FFMA investments;
- FFMA investments and sanctions;
- performance of FFMA and release of upcoming updates; and
- diversification of portfolio to address global economic shocks.

Department of Finance (Outcome 3)

- timeline of entitlements payments to non-returning members;
- Finance's facilitation role in the review of the MoPs Act;
- staffing, funding, and Finance's role in developing and delivering the Office for Parliamentary Staff and Culture;
- investigation into Mr Sukkar and Mr Andrews into their use of commonwealth funds; and
- expenditure and timeline of completion of the upgrades to the Parliamentary Expenses Management System.

Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority

- Mr Laming's travel expenses.

Australian Electoral Commission

- outcomes of the AEC's February 2021 compliance review, and distinctions between loans and donations;
- donations to and spending of registered significant third parties;
- issue of multiple voting and voter fraud;
- electoral roll auditing;
- lessons learnt from the recent SA election and managing waiting times, public education campaigns to encourage people to vote in a COVID-safe environment;
- managing the volume of postal votes;
- stress testing of the AEC website to ensure ongoing capacity with high traffic;
- impact of recent South QLD and North NSW floods on regional polling booths; and
- deregistration of the Liberal Democrat party.

The committee will next meet at 9.00am on Friday 8 April in Senate Committee Room 2S1, to begin its examination of the Indigenous agencies and the Department of Health.