



Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee
Budget Estimates 2022-23
Wednesday, 6 April 2022
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 4.03pm.

The committee called:

Department of Defence

- Peter Jennings article commenting on Defence response to current strategic environment;
- Greg Sheridan article in *The Australian* on 5 April 2022;
- acquisition of the JAS Missile Extended Range and Naval Strike Missile, including industry partners, timeframe, Congressional approval process;
- accelerated acquisition of the Guided weapons and Explosive Ordnance capability;
- cancellation of SkyGuardian armed drone program;
- budgeted sustainment costs;
- update on the LAND 400 Boxer Combat Reconnaissance Vehicles program;
- AUKUS announcement to cooperate on the development of hypersonic missiles;
- arrangements for briefing the Opposition during election campaign under caretaker conventions;
- updated Naval Shipbuilding Plan;
- Peever Review of Defence's innovation system;
- Joint Strike Fighter program;
- counter-terrorism activities conducted by Defence in the Middle East;
- Global Coalition Against Daesh and Australia's involvement;
- SEA 1180 Arafura class Offshore Patrol Vessels program and the cancellation in June 2021 of the contract for the gun to be fitted to the navy's new fleet of patrol boats;
- missiles to be used on the 8x8 Boxer Combat Reconnaissance Vehicles (CRV);
- Australia's announcement to work with the US and UK in developing hypersonic missiles and its relationship to the already established SCIFire Hypersonics bilateral program with the US;
- AUKUS cooperation on nuclear submarines and engagement with the International Atomic Energy Agency;
- defence briefings with the Opposition in the lead up to the election; and
- details in relation to Defence's procurement of the Pacific Support Vessel.

Australian Signals Directorate

- REDSPICE Program announced in the Budget, including increase in labour force capability, new office accommodation, and funding.

Australian War Memorial

- appointment of Dr Brendan Nelson to the Australian War Memorial Council following Mr Kerry Stokes stepping down as Chair;
- Australian War Memorial Council to elect new Chair in the next couple of days; and
- update on Professor Craig Stockings' work on the Official History of Australian Operations in Iraq, Afghanistan and East Timor.

Department of Veterans' Affairs

- tax treatment of medical discharge benefits lump sum payments.

Defence Housing Australia was released without examination.

The committee completed examination of the Defence Portfolio.