



Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee
Budget Estimates 2022-23
Thursday, 31 March 2022
Daily summary

Here is the summary of today's proceedings in the Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee estimates hearing.

The committee met from 9.02am until 9.12pm.

The committee called:

- Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications; and
- Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment.

Topics discussed by the committee included:

- selection process for regional hubs;
- building of a new defence port in Darwin;
- projects under the northern Tasmanian roads package;
- business case for the extension of the Sydney metro to include Western Sydney Airport;
- progress on the Milton-Ulladulla highway bypass;
- funding for upgrades to the Outback Way;
- regional Australia level-crossing safety program;
- advertising budget for DITRDC;
- agriculture workforce shortages;
- agricultural visa and MOU with Vietnam;
- commitment to plant one billion plantation trees;
- sustainability of the south-east trawl fisheries;
- development of a national fisheries plan;
- funding for management of the Japanese encephalitis virus and lumpy skin disease;
- trialling of biosecurity robots; and
- indigenous biosecurity rangers.

The committee will next meet at 9.00am on Monday, 4 April in Committee Room 2R1, for examination of the Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications portfolio.