



Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee Supplementary Budget Estimates 2019-20 Thursday, 24 October 2019 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 9.01am until 8.54pm.

The committee called the following departments (some areas of interest by the committee are listed):

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Non-trade programs

- Hong Kong situation;
- China bilateral relationship;
- briefings on Foreign Affairs matters provided to non-government senators and members;
- situation of Uighur people in Xinjiang province;
- surveillance of Chinese citizens, including through the social credit system, and potential extension of this to Australian citizens (including dual Chinese-Australian citizens);
- Dr Yang Hengjun;
- Barr Inquiry (consular assistance and meetings);
- use of public resources in preparing IT services for a potential change of government;
- Julian Assange extradition process and consular support;
- Timor-Leste economic outlook;
- Australian Government representations on political and human rights issues in Kashmir;
- recent violent protests in West Papua and representations to the Indonesian Government;
- Australian representations to the Bangladesh Government regarding human rights issues;
- consideration of a Magnitsky Act and current Australian sanctions regime;
- China's social credit system;
- Prime Minister's speech to the Lowy Institute on 3 October 2019;
- role of DFAT in the Prime Minister's trip to the US;
- Pacific Step Up; and
- Official Development Assistance budget.

Trade programs

- negotiations regarding geographical indications in the Australia-European Union Free Trade Agreement;
- WTO Appellate Body crisis;
- Indonesia-Australia Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement; and
- Government approach on economic modelling of free trade agreements.

Australian Trade and Investment Commission

- Beyond 2030 round tables.

Tourism Australia

- US market; and
- working holiday makers.

Export Finance Australia

- expansion to mandate and progress on development of infrastructure projects in Pacific region.

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