



Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee  
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2025–26  
Thursday, 9 October 2025  
Daily summary

The committee met from 9.03am until 10.06pm.

The committee called the Defence portfolio, discussing the following topics:

Department of Defence

- Growing contestation and decline in strategic position in the pacific region;
- Defence export permits;
- Sovereign manufacturing and small arms munitions;
- Australian Defence Force (ADF) personnel recruitment including from Five Eyes countries;
- Upgrades to Defence Minister's office and associated staffing levels;
- Cost variations in contract notices;
- Defence state audit and associated implementation plan;
- Leasing of naval patrol ships from National Australia Bank;
- Vaccine mandates;
- Defence export permits including Radar Intercept Officer contracts signed for Australian made missiles and guided weapons;
- Henderson Defence Precinct;
- The Mutual Defence Treaty with Papua New Guinea;
- US Government review of the AUKUS security pact;
- Update on the life-of-type extension program;
- AUKUS related nuclear waste disposal;
- Defence protocols for the provision of Sexual Assault Investigation Kit (SAIK);
- The Instrument Landing System at Townsville Airport; and
- Defence climate targets.

Australian Submarine Agency

- Housing for Rotational Force West;
- Boston Consulting Group review into agency culture and consulting contracts;
- ASC training and recruitment;
- US Naval Shipbuilding capacity to deliver AUKUS submarines; and
- Long term cost of storing AUKUS related nuclear waste.

Australian Signals Directorate (ASD)

- Pine Gap;
- Update on REDSPICE funding; and
- ASD advice regarding Chinese made vehicles.

Inspector-General of the Australian Defence Force (IGADF)

- IGADF staff including association with Major General Brereton.

Defence Housing Australia

- Housing for Henderson and Garden Island for US and UK personnel.

Australian Strategic Policy Institute

- Current strategic environment.

The committee agreed to release the Department of Veterans' Affairs, the Australian War Memorial and the Veteran Family Advocate Commissioner from the hearing.

The committee will next meet at 9.00am on 10 October 2025 in the Main Committee Room (1R0), for examination of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and portfolio agencies.

Please contact the secretariat on (02) 6277 3535 or [FADT.sen@aph.gov.au](mailto:FADT.sen@aph.gov.au) if you have any questions.