

Senate Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade

Parliamentary inquiry – Implications of climate change for Australia's national security – 20 March 2018

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Defence

Topic: SSCFADT - Implication of climate change for Australia's national security - 20 March 18 – Q12 – Gallacher

Question reference number: 12

Senator: Alex Gallacher

Type of question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 6 April 2018

Question:

Does Defence currently undertake any resilience-building or disaster risk reduction activities in Australia or overseas?

Answer:

Under Defence Assistance to the Civil Community arrangements, Defence is able to provide specialist capabilities to respond to the aftermath of natural disasters.

In order to build resilience and contribute to disaster risk reduction activities domestically, Defence is committed to supporting interagency coordinating mechanisms for climate resilience and adaption led by the Department of Environment on Energy (DoEE) and the Department of Home Affairs. This includes participation in the Australian Government Disaster and Climate Resilience Reference Group, co-chaired by the DoEE and the Department of Home Affairs. The Reference Group works to improve the integration of disaster and climate resilience planning, policies and programmes at the national level, to deliver a sustainable and coordinated national approach to natural disasters and climate change.

Defence is supporting the DoEE, the Department of Home Affairs and the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) in developing a range of climate futures and scenario activities, and has partnered with the Australian Strategic Policy Institute in developing an inter-agency executive master-class in risk and resilience.

Defence also works closely with DFAT on preparation for humanitarian disaster response including training and positioning of supplies.

Defence proactively supports countries in the region, as part of our Defence Cooperation Program, in assisting them build their resilience and risk reduction capabilities. This includes:

- funding exercises and operations (such as Exercises LONGREACH, VANUATU ALLIANCE, COASTWATCHERS and the Pacific Patrol Boat operations led by the Forum Fisheries Agency);
- supporting regional participation on ADF-led joint training courses; and
- working with our regional partners to de-conflict and maximise the effectiveness of regional capacity building activities.

Further, through the gifting and support of Pacific Patrol Boats, Defence also supports the capacity of Pacific Island Countries to respond to natural disasters in the region.

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Parliamentary inquiry – Implications of Climate Change for Australia's National Security

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Defence

Topic: SSCFADT - Implications of climate change for Australia's national security -
20 March 18 – Q17 – Gallacher

Question reference number: 17

Senator: Alex Gallacher

Type of question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 6 April 2018

Question:

The 2016 Defence Environmental Policy and Environmental Strategy 2016–2036 do not go into detail about how Defence is reducing its greenhouse gas emissions. Has the 2016-2020 Defence Environmental Plan been endorsed yet? If not, what is driving Defence's emissions reductions?

Answer:

The Defence Environmental Plan has been accepted within Defence and is currently being implemented.

Efforts by Defence to reduce emissions are underpinned by the *2014- 2019 Defence Estate Energy Policy*.

Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade References Committee

Parliamentary inquiry – Implications of Climate Change for Australia's National Security

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Defence

Topic: SSCFADT - Implications of climate change for Australia's national security -
20 March 18 – Q18 – Gallacher

Question reference number: 18

Senator: Alex Gallacher

Type of question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 6 April 2018

Question:

The Defence submission predicted technologies may enable Defence to reduce its energy footprint and potentially produce its own power and fuel in the future. Why would this be useful? What needs to change before Defence bases and activities can be powered by renewable sources?

Answer:

Energy, including electricity and fuel, is a key enabler of Defence's mission, including Australian Defence Force operations. It is critical for Defence to ensure that its energy supply chain is responsive, secure and resilient.

Defence is already committed to implementing programs aimed at building energy resilience, improving energy efficiency, reducing energy costs, and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Under the *Defence Estate Energy Policy and Strategy 2014-2019*, Defence is: transitioning to cleaner, more sustainable and more secure energy sources; maximising energy efficiency in Defence business; and measuring and managing energy consumption and generation more effectively.

Defence has a number of activities which support the above objectives, including renewable energy projects, an ecologically sustainable development program, a national sub-metering program and the Smart Infrastructure Manual.

These activities are currently supporting new and emerging technologies which will assist Defence in reducing its energy footprint.

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Parliamentary inquiry – Implications of Climate Change for Australia's National Security

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Defence

Topic: SSCFADT - Implications of climate change for Australia's national security -
20 March 18 – Q19 – Gallacher

Question reference number: 19

Senator: Alex Gallacher

Type of question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 6 April 2018

Question:

Will the next iteration of the Defence Estate Energy Strategy 2014–2019 include renewable energy targets or emissions reductions targets?

Answer:

Defence estate energy policy is guided by the whole-of Government policy position, which at this time is the Energy Efficiency in Government Operations (EEGO) Policy, led by the Department of Environment and Energy.

The EEGO Policy, like the current *2014-2019 Defence Estate Energy Policy*, recognises the link between reducing energy consumption and reducing associated greenhouse gas emissions.

The EEGO Policy focuses on energy efficiency and does not currently include a whole-of-government emissions reduction or renewable energy target.