



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA

Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade
Defence Sub-Committee

Chair: Senator David Fawcett
Deputy: Senator Deborah O'Neill

MEDIA RELEASE
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State perspectives on defence industry exports

Expansion opportunities for Australia's multi-million dollar defence industry exports will be examined from the perspective of different states in a public hearing in Melbourne on Friday, 31 October 2014.

The Defence Sub-Committee of the federal parliament's Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade will hear from the Victorian and Tasmanian State Governments on their experiences with defence industry exports. The Sub-Committee will also hear from organisations representing a wide variety of Australian defence companies across the country. These organisations include the Export Council of Australia and the Australian Industry and Defence Network.

The hearing will provide an opportunity for state representatives to highlight their issues of concern to the Sub-Committee as well as highlighting strengths within their region. The industry bodies will also elaborate on the experiences of their member organisations.

Chair of the Defence Sub-Committee, Senator David Fawcett (SA), said the inquiry provides an excellent opportunity to identify ways for the State and Federal Governments to work collaboratively to enhance export opportunities.

"Defence industry has a limited market within Australia so it must look to exports to grasp opportunities for future growth. By working together, the State and Federal Governments can facilitate and expand potential international sales to appropriate countries" Senator Fawcett said.

The inquiry's terms of reference include identifying barriers and impediments to the growth of Australia's defence exports; how Government can better engage and assist Australian defence industry to export its products; the operation of the Defence Export Control Office; and assessment of the export support given to defence industry by governments of comparable nations.

Public hearing

- Date/Time:** Friday, 31 October 2014, 9.00 am
- Location:** Legislative Council Committee Room, Victorian Parliament House, Spring Street East Melbourne VIC 3002
- Organisations:** Tasmanian Government, Victorian Government, Supacat, Hawker Pacific, Export Council of Australia and the Australian Industry and Defence Network

The hearing will be audio broadcast live at www.aph.gov.au/live.

For media comment: please contact the Sub-Committee Chair, Senator David Fawcett, on (08) 8205 1040 (Electorate Office) or (02) 6277 3418 (Parliament House)

For further information: please contact the Committee secretariat on (02) 6277 2313, via email at jscfadt@aph.gov.au or visit the inquiry website at: <http://www.aph.gov.au/jfadt>