

Senate Standing Committee Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade

Opportunities for Strengthening Australia's Relations with the Republic of
France – 26 June 2020

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Defence

Topic: SSCFADT - Public Hearing - Opportunities for Strengthening Australia's Relations with the Republic of France - 26 June 2020 - Q1 – Agreements with French Indo-Pacific Bases - Fawcett

Question reference number: 1

Senator/Member: David Fawcett

Type of question: Spoken

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 10 July 2020

Question:

Senator FAWCETT: At a practical level, obviously there are a lot of nations with whom we have logistic support agreements between our militaries. Do we have those agreements in place with France for both their Indian Ocean and Pacific Ocean bases, whether for aircraft or ships?

Mr Tesch: I might need to take part of that on notice. I don't have detailed information to hand, but my clear understanding is that certainly in the case of navy we would have such understandings. But I don't have chapter and verse before me, and I wouldn't want to inadvertently mislead you or commit anybody else. So, if I may, I'll come back to you with a little more detail about that.

Answer:

Australia has agreements in place with France which govern mutual logistics support and broader defence cooperation:

- The 2018 *Agreement between the Government of Australia and the Government of the French Republic Regarding the Provision of Mutual Logistics Support Between the Australian Defence Force and the French Armed Forces*; and
- The 2009 *Agreement between the Government of Australia and the Government of the French Republic Regarding Defence Cooperation and Status of Forces*.

Basing arrangements are not covered by those agreements.