

## **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 - Implications of climate change for Australia's national security - 20 March 18 – Q15 – Gallacher

**Question reference number:** 15

**Senator:** Alex Gallacher

**Type of question:** Written

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

#### **Question:**

How is Defence preparing for the physical and mental health burden climate change will place on personnel?

#### **Answer:**

Any potential health effects from climate change are addressed in the same way as any other hazard or threat to the health and wellbeing of Defence members. Defence takes an 'all hazards approach' to preparedness, in keeping with the Australian Government Crisis Management Framework. This approach includes:

- Robust work health and safety practices and procedures in place to deal with environmental hazards, including preventing and managing heat injury during training and operations.
- Processes for assessing environmental hazards and providing appropriate force health protection measures for those deploying overseas on operations or in support of natural disasters and humanitarian assistance.
- Briefing and training to ADF members prior to humanitarian deployments, tailored to the environment they will operate in and designed to assist them in preparing for the psychological threats they may experience.
- Access to health support while on training and deployment operations.
- Post deployment screening for both physical and mental health impacts of the deployment, and access to relevant support, treatment and rehabilitation as required.

Practices and procedures are regularly reviewed and adjusted in the light of emerging evidence regarding environmental threats.