



Australian Government

Australian Government response to the
Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence
and Trade report:

Inquiry into the Department of Defence Annual Report
2021-22

January 2025

The Government thanks the Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade (the Committee) for its work on the inquiry into the Department of Defence Annual Report 2021–22.

The Committee's report made 12 recommendations and was tabled on 14 September 2023.

The Government notes the 12 recommendations of the Committee in its Inquiry report.

In the time since the tabling of the report the Government has finalised a number of processes related to the Committee's recommendations, including:

- releasing the 2024 National Defence Strategy and undertaking a complete rebuild and reprioritisation of the Integrated Investment Program;
- releasing the Defence Industry Development Strategy;
- releasing the 2024 Defence Workforce Plan;
- closing out the implementation of the Afghanistan Inquiry Report; and
- releasing the Government's Response to the final report of the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide.

Accordingly, in response to the report's recommendations the Government draws the Committee's attention to the associated documents, and the Deputy Prime Minister's Ministerial Statement in the House of Representatives on 12 September 2024 concerning the closure of the Afghanistan Inquiry Report.

The Committee's recommendations were taken into account throughout these processes.

The Government has also received the Defence Estate Audit and is currently considering its findings. Recommendation 10 will be considered in the context of this process.

The Government has directed Defence to provide briefings to the Committee on the progress of works at the Harold E Holt Naval Communications Station in relation to Recommendation 11.