

## OFFICIAL

### Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade References Committee

Topic: FADT References Committee – Democracy and Human Rights in Myanmar – Spoken QoN - Public Hearing  
13Feb26

Senator David Shoebridge

#### Question

Senator SHOEBRIDGE: Thank you for the submission. I note the statement on 1 February about the election said: They did not meet the conditions for free, fair and inclusive elections. But we've heard a unanimous call from witnesses before here to make it very clear not only that the process was not free and fair but also that the outcomes are illegitimate and for the Australian government to clearly say they do not accept the outcomes of the election nor do they accept the legitimacy of the government that's formed after the election. Will the Australian government clearly make that statement?

Ms Smith: The Australian government's position that the elections process did not meet the conditions for free, fair or inclusive elections is clear, for the reasons that we've outlined. It would not be appropriate for me to speculate on further positions that the government might take.

Senator SHOEBRIDGE: Will you take on notice **whether or not**, given the elections were not free or fair, **the government will take the obvious conclusion from that and that the outcome is an illegitimate government?**

Ms Smith: **I can take your question on notice.**

#### Answer

On 1 February 2026, the Foreign Minister issued a statement that said recent regime elections were held amid ongoing violence and repression, without meaningful participation from opposition parties and did not meet the conditions for free, fair and inclusive elections.

Australia will continue to urge a genuine transition of power to a democratic civilian government that reflects the will of the people.