

The Senate

BUSINESS OF COMMITTEES

This document is issued as a guide to Senators
Business listed is subject to change

It should be noted that times allocated for the consideration of outcomes, items and agencies within portfolios are indicative only.

Senators, staff and departments should liaise with secretariats on the progress of portfolios during the estimates process.

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS, DEFENCE AND TRADE

Public Hearings: BUDGET ESTIMATES 2006–07 SUPPLEMENTARY HEARINGS

**Wednesday, 1 November and Thursday, 2 November
2006**

**Main Committee Room
Parliament House
Canberra ACT**

To be televised on Channel10/radio92.7

<http://webcast.aph.gov.au>

AGENDA

WEDNESDAY, 1 NOVEMBER 2006

Defence portfolio

9.00am–6.30pm

Department of Defence

Portfolio overview and major corporate issues

Portfolio overview

Topics Senators Bishop & Nettle–Afghanistan and Iraq. **Sen Bishop**–East Timor, update on defence reviews, Kovco case.

Budget summary (financial statements, capital investment budget and improvement initiatives).

Topic **Sen Bishop**–external consultants and professional service providers

Capability development

Topic **Sen Bishop**–Air combat capability.

Defence Materiel Organisation

Outcome 1: Defence capabilities are supported through efficient and effective acquisition and through–life support of materiel

Output 1.1: Management of capability acquisition (including major capital equipment projects)

Output 1.2: Capability sustainment

Output 1.3: Policy advice and management services

Topics Sen Bishop–Tiger armed reconnaissance helicopter project, MRH90 helicopter project, Wedgetail project, Mulwala/Benalla leasing, air warfare destroyer project, Seasprites.

Major capability facilities projects

Topics Sen Carr–major capital facilities project; **Sen Bishop**–HQJOC

Defence outcomes

Outcome 1: Command of operations in defence of Australia and its interests

Output 1.1: Command of operations

Output 1.2: Defence Force military operations and exercises

Output 1.3: Contribution to national support tasks

Topic Sen Nettle–Exercise Tandem Thrust

Outcome 2: Navy capability for the defence of Australia and its interests

Output 2.1: Capability for major surface combatant operations

Output 2.2: Capability for naval aviation operations

Output 2.3: Capability for patrol boat operations

Output 2.4: Capability for submarine operations

Output 2.5: Capability for afloat support

Output 2.6: Capability for mine warfare

Output 2.7: Capability for amphibious lift

Output 2.8: Capability for hydrographic, meteorological and oceanographic operations.

Topic Sen Bishop–LCDR Fahey

Outcome 3: Army capability for the defence of Australia and its interests

Output 3.1: Capability for special operations

Output 3.2: Capability for medium combined arms operations

Output 3.3: Capability for light combined arms operations

Output 3.4: Capability for army aviation operations

Output 3.5: Capability for ground based air defence

Output 3.6: Capability for combat support operations

Output 3.7: Capability for regional surveillance

Output 3.8: Capability for operational logistic support to land forces

Output 3.9: Capability for motorised combined arms operations

Output 3.10: Capability for protective operations

Topics Sen Bishop–M1A1 Abrams capability, interrogation methods

Outcome 4: Air Force capability for the defence of Australia and its interests

Output 4.1: Capability for air combat operations

Output 4.2: Capability for combat support of air operations

Output 4.3: Capability for surveillance and response operations

Output 4.4: Capability for airlift operations

Topic Sen Johnston–deseal/reseal

Outcome 5: Strategic policy for the defence of Australia and its interests

Output 5.1: International policy, activities and engagement

Output 5.2: Strategic policy and military strategy

Topics Sen Nettle—defence cooperation including Thailand, Burma, Philippines, Indonesia; defence exports

Outcome 6: Intelligence for the defence of Australia and its interests

Output 6.1: Intelligence

Business processes

Chief Information Officer

Topic Sen Bishop—IT services and cyber attack protection

Defence support

Topics Sen Bishop—Serco Sedexho; Russell Vance and Susan Campbell. **Sen Nettle**—'Hill 60'.

People

Defence Personnel

Topics Sen Bishop—recruitment and retention; John Coochey.

7.30pm–11.00pm

Department of Veterans' Affairs

Portfolio overview

Corporate and general matters

Outcome 1: Eligible persons (including veterans, serving and former defence force members, war widows and widowers, certain Australian Federal Police personnel with overseas service) and their dependents have access to appropriate income support and compensation in recognition of the effects of their service.

1.1: Means tested income support, pension and allowances

1.2: Compensation pensions, allowances etc

1.3: Veterans' Review Board

1.4: Defence Home Loans Scheme

1.5: Incapacity payments, non-economic lump sums ... through SRCA

1.6: Administer individual merit reviews of SRCA decisions

1.7: Incapacity payments, non-economic lump sums through MRCA

1.8: Administer individual merit reviews of MRCA decisions.

Topics Sen Johnston—deseal/reseal compensation; **Sen Hurley**—indexation of disability pensions, T&PI Association interest-free loan, claims administration and processing.

Outcome 2: Eligible persons (including veterans, serving and former defence force members, war widows and widowers, certain Australian Federal Police personnel with overseas service) and their dependents have access to health and other care services that promote and maintain self-sufficiency, wellbeing and quality of life

2.1: Arrangement for delivery of services

2.2: Counselling and referral services

2.3: Deliver medical, rehabilitation ... under SRCA and related legislation

2.4: Deliver medical, rehabilitation ... under MRCA.

Topics Sen Hurley—recent gold card budget allocation, general administration, mental health, health studies and research, advisory panel on the inter-generational effects of military service on the children of veterans, community nursing, aged care.

Outcome 3: The service and sacrifice of the men and women who served Australia and its allies in wars, conflicts and peace operations are acknowledged and commemorated.

3.1: Develop and implement commemorative initiatives

3.2: Maintain, construct and refurbish war graves and post war commemorations

3.3: Coordinate and manage the delivery of commemorative and related activities at Gallipoli.

Topics Sen Hurley—2006–07 budget initiatives—commemorations, maintenance of war cemeteries and memorials, archaeological and historical surveys.

Outcome 4: The veteran and defence and certain Australian Federal Police communities have access to advice and information about benefits, entitlements and services.

4.1: Communication, community support to the veteran community and providers, including veterans' local support groups.

4.2: Advice and information to members of the defence force community ... under the SRCA

4.3: Advice and information to members of the defence force community ... under the MRCA.

Topics Sen Hurley—consultation and communication with the veterans' community.

Outcome 5: Serving and former defence force members and dependents have access to support services provided through joint arrangements between DVA and Defence.

5.1: Joint Defence/DVA projects.

Topics Sen Hurley—Centre for Veterans and Military Health, transitional issues.

Output group 6: Provision of services to the Parliament, Ministerial services and the development of policy and internal operating regulations—attributed to outcomes 1 to 5.

Topics Sen Hurley—review processes, reform initiatives, business procedures, corporate and legal services, service delivery processes.

THURSDAY, 2 NOVEMBER 2006

9.00am–11.00pm

Foreign Affairs and Trade portfolio

9.00am–5.00pm:
general issues.

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

8.30pm–11.00pm:
* trade programs
1.1.5 and 1.1.6

Topics Opposition senators have indicated that they wish to examine all matters contained in the portfolio overview, outcomes 1 to 4 and Enabling services. **Sen Ray**—portfolio overview, outputs 1.1.1–1.1.4,

1.1.7, 1.1.8, 1.3.1, 1.4.1, 2.1.1 and 2.1.2.

Output 1.1: Protection and advocacy of Australia's international interests through the provision of policy advice to ministers and overseas diplomatic activity.

1.1.1: North Asia

1.1.2: South and South-East Asia

Topic Sen Nettle–Relations with Burma and Thailand

1.1.3: Americas and Europe

1.1.4: South Pacific, Middle East and Africa

Topic Sen Nettle–RAMSI/relations with Solomons

*1.1.5: Bilateral, regional and multi-lateral trade negotiations

*1.1.6: Trade development/policy coordination and Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation

1.1.7: International organisations, legal and environment

Topic Sen Nettle–Conventions against Torture

1.1.8: Security, nuclear, disarmament and non-proliferation

Output 1.2: Secure government communications and security of overseas missions.

Output 1.3: Services to other agencies in Australia and overseas (including Parliament, state representatives, business and other organisations).

1.3.1: Parliament in Australia

1.3.2: Services to attached agencies

1.3.3: Services to business

1.3.4: Services to state governments and other agencies overseas and in Australia

Output 1.4: Services to diplomatic and consular representatives in Australia.

1.4.1: Services to diplomatic and consular corps

1.4.2: Provision of protection advice through liaison with the Protective Security Coordination Centre

Topic Sen Carr–Mr Mark McBurney

Output 2.1: Consular and passport services.

2.1.1: Consular services

2.1.2: Passport services

Output 3.1: Public information services and public diplomacy

3.1.1: Public information and media services on Australia's foreign and trade policy

3.1.2: Projecting a positive image of Australia internationally

3.1.3: Freedom of information and archival research and clearance.

Output 4.1: Property management

Output 4.2: Contract management

Enabling services.

THURSDAY, 2 NOVEMBER 2006

5.00pm–6.30pm

AusAID

Topics Opposition senators have indicated that they wish to examine all matters contained in outcomes 1 and 2. **Sen Nettle**–Questions on

various projects; update on expenditure and projects; **Sen Ray**–
outcome 1 and outcome 2.

Outcome 1: Australia's national interest advanced by assistance to developing countries to reduce poverty and achieve sustainable development.

1.1: Policy

1.2: Program management

Administered items: Australia's development cooperation program

Outcome 2: Australia's national interest advanced by implementing a partnership between Australia and Indonesia for reconstruction and development

2.1: Australia–Indonesia partnership for reconstruction and development management

Administered items: Australia–Indonesia partnership program

THURSDAY, 2NOVEMBER 2006

7.30pm–8.30pm

Australian Trade Commission (Austrade)

Topics Opposition senators have indicated that they wish to examine all matters contained in outcomes 1 and 2.

Outcome 1: Australians succeeding in international business with widespread community support.

1.1: Awareness raising

1.2: Government advice and coordination

1.3: Services and opportunities

1.4: Austrade administered: EMDGs for small to medium sized businesses and ITES loans and advances.

Outcome 2: Australians informed about and provided access to consular, passport and immigration services in specific locations overseas.

2.1: Consular, passport and immigration services.

Proposed breaks

These times are approximate and will depend on hearing proceedings

Start 9.00am

10.30am–10.45am

Morning tea

12.30pm–1.30pm

Lunch

3.30pm–3.45pm

Afternoon tea

6.30pm–7.30pm

Dinner

9.00pm–9.15pm

Tea break, as required

Adjourn 11.00pm approx