



Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee  
Additional Estimates 2018-19  
Wednesday, 20 February 2019  
Daily summary

Here is the summary of today's proceedings in the Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee estimates hearing.

The committee met from 9.00am until 10.58pm.

The committee called the following departments and agencies of the Defence Portfolio, including Veterans' Affairs. Topics discussed by the committee included:

*Department of Defence*

- operations in the South China Sea;
- timeline for the withdrawal of the US from Syria;
- announcement to build a large-hulled humanitarian and disaster relief vessel for service in the Pacific;
- Future Submarine Program Strategic Partnership Agreement, including publication, and requirements for Australian content;
- submarine capability gap and the need for a life of type extension for the Collins class until replacement vessels are ready;
- naval shipbuilding workforce;
- export of weapon systems to Saudi Arabia;
- assistance provided by Defence in response to the Townsville floods;
- Comprehensive Partnership Agreement with Singapore, including Shoalwater Bay development and land acquisition program;
- PFAS contamination at Defence bases;
- Hawkei project for armoured vehicles; and
- Larrakeyah Barracks Redevelopment Project.

*Australian Signals Directorate*

- compliance of Commonwealth agencies with Top 4 Mitigation Strategies, particularly in relation to the Australian Electoral Commission and Department of Parliamentary Services.

*Defence Housing Australia*

- board membership;
- recruitment process for new Managing Director;
- disposal of land at Badgerys Creek Road, Bringelly, to Defence; and
- impact of the Townsville floods on Defence housing.

*Australian War Memorial*

- redevelopment project to expand exhibition space and enhance facilities; and
- public donations of items for the collection.

*Department of Veterans' Affairs*

- Australian Veterans' Covenant;
- introduction of the new Veterans' Card and Veteran Lapel Pin;
- level of TPI compensation payments and adjustment sought by the TPI Federation;
- changes to process for allied health referrals;
- Productivity Commission Draft Report on Compensation and Rehabilitation for Veterans;
- Prime Minister's Veterans' Employment Program;
- recommendations of the Committee's report *Use of the Quinoline anti-malarial drugs Mefloquine and Tafenoquine in the Australian Defence Force*; and
- DVA transport bookings complaints.

The committee completed examination of the Defence Portfolio.

The committee will commence examination of the Foreign Affairs and Trade Portfolio tomorrow, Thursday, 21 February, at 9.00am.