



Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee
Additional Estimates 2018-19
Thursday, 21 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 10.36pm.

The committee called the following department and agencies of the Foreign Affairs and Trade Portfolio:

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Non-trade programs

- detention of Mr Hakeem al-Araibi in Thailand, and current operation of Interpol's red notice system;
- DFAT Code of Conduct for Overseas Service and requirement for disclosure of financial interests, particularly in relation to a meeting between Ambassador Hockey, Washington embassy staff and Russell Carstensen in 2017, and subsequent DFAT tender process for provision of travel services to the Washington embassy;
- decision to provide funding to broadcast Australian television content into the Pacific in partnership with FreeTV Australia;
- Australian Infrastructure Financing Facility for the Pacific;
- South China Sea Code of Conduct negotiations;
- 2019 North Korea–United States Hanoi Summit Vietnam;
- passport cancellations under the *(Overseas Travel by Child Sex Offenders) Act 2017*;
- suspension of obligations under the INF Treaty by Russia and US;
- DFAT engagement and processes in relation to Defence exports;
- current situation in Yemen and provision of aid;
- Australian representations to Saudi Arabia regarding human rights violations; and
- Rohingya repatriation.

Trade programs

- Government approach to economic modelling of free trade agreements;
- update on the progress to finalise the Indonesia-Australia Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement;
- current status of Australian coal exports to China following unconfirmed reports of a ban on Australian coal;
- selection process for the trade delegation to the National Governors Association 2018 Winter Meeting Bilateral with Australian State Premiers and Chief Ministers and Business Leaders, which included Mr Andrew Burnes, CEO of Helloworld;
- proposed geographical indications in the Australia-European Union Free Trade Agreement negotiations; and
- Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership negotiations.

Australian Trade and Investment Commission

- Austrade interactions with Mr Andrew Burnes, CEO of Helloworld;
- role of Austrade in the trade delegation to the National Governors Association 2018 Winter Meeting Bilateral with Australian State Premiers and Chief Ministers and Business Leaders;
- Austrade role in Washington;
- travel and accommodation expenditure;
- Brand Australia;
- senior investment specialists in Austrade;
- Beyond Tourism 2020 Steering Committee;
- Chinese visitor market; and
- code of conduct investigations.

Export Finance and Insurance Corporation

- Defence export facility;
- Australian Infrastructure Financing Facility for the Pacific; and
- proposed changes to Efic's mandate to support infrastructure development in the Pacific.

Tourism Australia

- Chinese visitor market;
- results from the latest international visitor survey;
- regional dispersal;
- Tourism Australia contribution to the Beyond Tourism 2020 strategy;
- Tourism Access Working Group; and
- Australian Tourism Ambassador.

The committee completed examination of the Foreign Affairs and Trade Portfolio.