



Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee
Budget Estimates 2018-19
Friday, 1 June 2018
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 5.00pm.

The committee called the following department and agencies of the Foreign Affairs and Trade Portfolio (topics discussed by the committee included):

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

(Non-trade programs continued)

- Australia's response to recent violence in Sri Lanka;
- China's attendance at Kimberley Process meetings;
- rates of religious persecution internationally;
- payment of compensation to victims of child abuse;
- update on North Korea;
- anti-government protests in Iran;
- payment of bonuses to DFAT staff;
- code of conduct surrounding participation in political activities by DFAT staff;
- update on the humanitarian situation in Yemen;
- Modern Slavery Act; and
- supply of pharmaceuticals in PNG.

(Trade programs)

- barriers to wine exports to China;
- initiatives arising from the Foreign Policy White Paper;
- ISDS provisions for future trade agreements;
- TPP-11; and
- tariffs applied to Australian steel entering the United States.

Tourism Australia

- domestic and international advertising budgets;
- report on regional airports;
- impact of foreign exchange fluctuations on the Tourism Australia budget;
- bilateral air services agreements;
- wine tourism in Australia;
- tourism in Tasmania;
- tourism infrastructure development;
- marketing to youth and working holiday-makers;
- update on the Beyond 2020 program;
- update on the response to the launch of direct QANTAS flights from Perth to London; and
- overview of the state of tourism in Western Australia.

Australian Trade and Investment Commission

- Tasmanian trade figures;
- Australia Week in China;
- reductions in Austrade funding;
- Start-up Landing Pads;
- Australian mining in Ecuador; and
- implementation of recommendations arising from the 2008 Mortimer Review.

Export Finance and Insurance Corporation

- end-of-year functions hosted by Efic;
- remuneration of Efic executive staff;
- risk to Efic from deferred Nyrstar loan repayment;
- overseas direct investment;
- Efic engagement with Adani;
- loan to ExxonMobil for Papua New Guinea LNG project;
- Efic funding for lithium and rare earth mineral projects;
- Efic administration of the Defence Export Facility; and
- current role of Efic, and export credit agencies more broadly.

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