



Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
Budget Estimates 2018-19
Wednesday, 23 May 2018
Daily summary

Here is the summary of today's proceedings in the Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee estimates hearing.

The committee met from 9.00am to 9.36pm.

The committee called:

- ASC Pty Ltd;
- Australian Naval Infrastructure Pty Ltd (ANI);
- Future Fund Management Agency;
- Commonwealth Superannuation Corporation (CSC); and
- Department of Finance.

Topics discussed by the committee included:

- announcement of ASC job losses and additional funding indicated in the Mid-Year Economic and Fiscal Outlook 2017–18 for new positions and scholarships;
- draft discussion paper provided to the Department of Defence in relation to the potential relocation of full cycle docking from South Australia to Western Australia;
- negotiations between ASC and the Naval Group Australia (formerly DCNS) in relation to the SEA 1000 Submarine Program;
- negotiations between ASC and Lurssen in relation to the construction of Offshore Patrol Vessels;
- update from ANI on the progress of the Maritime Technical College in WA;
- Land Account Fund benchmarks during 2014–15 financial year and the mandate for the proposed Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Land and Sea Future Fund;
- organisational changes within the Future Fund;
- role of the Future Fund Board in the risk management framework;
- update on the CSC rates of return for members and fee determinations of schemes;
- unlegislated savings measures announced in the Budget;
- Budget 2018–19 expense measures which bring funding forward to the 2017-18 financial year, including National Research Infrastructure Investment Plan;
- Commonwealth grants policy framework and processes, particularly in relation to the Great Barrier Reef 2050 Partnership Program which provides for \$444 million in grant funding to the Great Barrier Reef Foundation;
- budget repair measures that have been legislated;
- update on the Department's implementation of the Australian Government Guidelines on the Recognition of Sex and Gender;
- update on the Department's processes leading to the next enterprise bargaining period;
- application of Policy Costing Guidelines and the implementation of costs in the forward Estimates;
- commentary by government members in relation to the forecast Budget surplus in 2020–21;
- budget measures such as the Infrastructure Investment Program (Victorian infrastructure investments) and funding for the ABC;
- announcement of additional funding for the Indigenous Rangers Program;
- changes to the NBN cost structure and information provided to the Minister under the PGPA Act; and
- disaggregation of data on consultants and contractors in the Commonwealth public service.

The committee will next meet at 9.00am on Thursday 24 May 2018 in Senate Committee room 2S1 calling Department of Finance, Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority and the Australian Electoral Commission.