



Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee
Budget Estimates 2019-20
Friday, 5 April 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 9.04pm.

The committee called:

- Department of Defence;
- Department of Veterans' Affairs; and
- Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

Topics discussed by the committee included:

Department of Defence

- budget in relation to the management and remediation of PFAS contamination at Defence bases;
- Future Submarine Program, including requirement for Australian content in the contracts entered into under the Strategic Partnering Agreement, and progress on the development of pump jet design;
- submarine capability and the estimated costing and contract arrangements for the life of type extension for the Collins class;
- incident concerning HMAS Adelaide breaking from its moorings during a storm in Townsville;
- project to develop a flotation system for the Tiger Helicopter;
- infrastructure spending in the Northern Territory;
- sustainment arrangements for the fleet of eight ANZAC class frigates; and
- ADF support provided to Operation Sovereign Borders through Operation Resolute.

Department of Veterans' Affairs

- changes to process for allied health referrals;
- funding for ICT reforms; and
- Australian Veterans' Card.

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Non-trade programs

- disclosure of interests by the Hon Joseph Hockey;
- implementation of sharia law in Brunei and impact on the LGBTIQ community;
- representations by Australia regarding the treatment of Uighurs in China;
- aid funding cuts in the Budget;
- Australia's decision not to sign the United Nations International Women's Day Statement;
- arms export sales to Saudi Arabia;
- DFAT assistance provided to the Member for Dawson during visits to the Philippines; and
- family planning aid funding.

Trade programs

- coal exports to China;
- geographical indications in the Australia-European Union Free Trade Agreement negotiations; and
- Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership negotiations.

The committee is scheduled to continue examination of the Defence Portfolio on 10 April 2019 and the Foreign Affairs and Trade Portfolio on 11 April 2019.