



Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2018-19
Wednesday, 24 October 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 10.55pm.

The committee called the following departments and agencies of the Defence Portfolio, including Veterans' Affairs.

Topics discussed by the committee included:

Department of Defence

- funding for the redevelopment of the Blackrock Camp in Fiji;
- funding for the upgrade of the PNG Defence Force Lombrum Naval Base in Manus Province;
- naval operations in the South China Sea;
- Defence submission to the review of the *Defence Trade Controls Act 2012*;
- Government announcement to consider re-locating the Australian Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem;
- Australia's relationship with Saudi Arabia;
- Defence cooperation with Myanmar;
- charter letters and division of ministerial responsibilities following the change of Prime Minister;
- naval shipbuilding workforce;
- Future Submarine Program – including Strategic Partnership Agreement negotiations, and progress on meeting program milestones;
- PFAS contamination at defence bases; and
- Auditor-General's report: *Army's Protected Mobility Vehicle – Light*.

Australian Signals Directorate

- Stay Smart Online Week 2018;
- Australian Critical Infrastructure Framework; and
- electronic security of Australia's electoral systems.

Defence Housing Australia

- Ministerial Direction to return the site at Badgerys Creek Road, Bringelly, to Defence;
- DHA Advisory Committee membership and processes; and
- Project Symphony.

Australian War Memorial

- program of events to commemorate the centenary of the Armistice; and
- update on development of the business case for expansion of the exhibition space.

Department of Veterans' Affairs

- cancellation of August Ministerial Round Table;
- changes to process for allied health referrals;
- work towards developing a veterans' covenant;
- increase in expenditure on legal fees;
- DVA engagement in the Invictus Games;
- Honouring Women United by Defence Service 2018;
- Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST); and
- update on progress of ICT reform.

The committee completed examination of the Defence Portfolio.

The committee will commence examination of the Foreign Affairs and Trade Portfolio tomorrow, Thursday, 25 October 2018, at **9.00am**.