



Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2018-19
Thursday, 25 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 10.24pm.

The committee called the following department and agencies of the Foreign Affairs and Trade Portfolio, including Foreign Affairs and Trade, Australian Trade and Investment Commission, Export Finance and Insurance Corporation and Tourism Australia

Topics discussed by the committee included:

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Non-trade programs

- Government announcement to consider moving the Australian Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, and a review of Australia's approach to the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action as set out in the joint media release of the Prime Minister and the Minister for Foreign Affairs of 16 October 2018;
- Myanmar, including the imposition of sanctions, funding for refugee assistance, and condition of camps in Cox's Bazar following the monsoon season;
- Cambodia, including representations about concerns with electoral processes in the 2018 national election and human rights issues;
- China, including Human rights issues in Xinjiang Province regarding the Uyghur minority; forced organ harvesting; representations in regard to the persecution of Christians; current status of the relationship between Australia and China;
- ASEAN-China Single Draft South China Sea Code of Conduct negotiations;
- representations to the Philippines on human rights issues particularly in regard to extrajudicial killings;
- impact of a new agricultural visa on the Pacific Labour Scheme and Seasonal Workers Scheme;
- Pacific Islands Forum 2018;
- progress on the development of the DFAT Climate Change Strategy;
- funding for the PNG undersea telecommunications cable;
- Pacific Islands Forum 2018;
- *An India Economic Strategy to 2035: Navigating from Potential to Delivery* by Mr Peter Varghese AO; and
- passport cancellations under the *Overseas Travel by Child Sex Offenders Act 2017*.

Trade programs

- Peru-Australia Free Trade Agreement;
- negotiations for an Australia-Indonesia free trade agreement;
- *An India Economic Strategy to 2035: Navigating from Potential to Delivery* by Mr Peter Varghese AO, including cost;
- progress on the process for Australia to join the Agreement on Government Procurement;

- China International Import Expo;
- negotiations for an Australia-European Union free trade agreement;
- Australia's position on a free trade agreement with Taiwan;
- TPP-11; and
- trade with Indonesia.

Australian Trade and Investment Commission

- exports to Iran;
- Brand Australia;
- staffing;
- code of conduct investigations;
- Australian Export Awards; and
- external legal advice.

Export Finance and Insurance Corporation

- Board recommendation on the payment of a dividend;
- Defence export facility; and
- size of Efic's commercial account and national interest account.

Tourism Australia

- Crocodile Dundee Super Bowl advertisement;
- Chinese visitor market;
- future opportunities for growth, including China, India and Indonesia;
- accommodation and international visitor surveys;
- regional dispersal; and
- Tourism Access Working Group.

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