



Senator Raff Ciccone, Committee Chair
Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee
Department of the Senate
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600
AUSTRALIA

1 February 2024

Dear Senator Ciccone

UA appreciates the opportunity to continue our engagement on Australia's Defence Trade Controls framework in the context of this inquiry.

We wish to reiterate the constructive feedback that we have already provided through submissions to the Department of Defence with respect to the Exposure Draft of amendments which led to the *Defence Trade Controls Amendment Bill 2023 [Provisions]* (the Bill) ([Attachment A](#)) and the broader 2023 Review of the *Defence Trade Controls Act 2012* ([Attachment B](#)).

We note that it is difficult to delve deeper into the issues relating to this Bill until such time as the promised Exposure Drafts of amendments to the *Defence Trade Controls Regulation 2013* and the *Defence Strategic Goods List 2021* are made available.

As we have flagged in previous engagements, the specific phrasing of a new "Fundamental Research" definition along with details of other exemptions from offences are the most pressing concerns of our membership. Critically, the Bill defers to delegated legislation on these and other important matters.

I reaffirm the commitment of our sector to supporting the development and implementation of an appropriately balanced Defence Trade Controls framework which fulfills national security requirements while supporting ongoing research collaboration with international partners – both within Australia and globally.

Yours sincerely

Renee Hindmarsh
Acting Chief Executive