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**SENATE LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS**

**ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES**

**2 MARCH 2020**

**DIRECTOR-GENERAL OPENING STATEMENT**

- Good afternoon. Thank you for the opportunity to offer some brief opening remarks.
- Our Organisation has an important mandate; to protect Australia and Australians from serious threats to security. The mission **to protect**, drives the focus of our work, and has a direct impact on both community safety and the integrity of our democracy.
- Last Monday I presented my first annual threat assessment, outlining the threats to security ASIO is dealing with so I won't provide additional detail now, other than to say in summary, the threat of terrorism at home remains **PROBABLE**.
- This means that there is **credible** assessed intelligence that indicates there are groups and individuals with the capability and intent to conduct an attack onshore.

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- Australia is also the target of **sophisticated** and **persistent** espionage and foreign interference activities, from a range of hostile foreign intelligence services.
- This activity is occurring at scale and the level of threat is **unprecedented**.
- Given the evolving nature of the threats we face, ASIO continues to review our capabilities and powers to ensure they are appropriate and proportionate to the threats.
- Thank you, Chair.