



Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee  
Budget Estimates 2024–25  
Thursday, 6 June 2024  
Daily summary

The Committee met from 9:02am until 9.08pm.

The committee called: Department of Defence, Australian Submarine Agency, Australian Signals Directorate, Inspector-General of the Australian Defence Force, Defence Housing Australia and Australian War Memorial.

The Department of Veterans' Affairs was released from the hearing.

Topics discussed by the committee included:

Department of Defence

- Hunter Class Frigate procurement, Investment in infrastructure or capabilities at Henderson;
- HMS Supply repair and inactivity;
- Integrated Investment Program (IIP);
- Glide Path statistics;
- Military Justice Proceedings;
- PsiQuantum funding and advisory capacity;
- ASCA – Drone Fly Off;
- Humanitarian aid to Gaza;
- Recruitment and retention;
- Australian operations in the Red Sea;
- Australian assistance to Ukraine;
- Climate Change affecting Department of Defence;
- Security of ADF and DOD facilities under external contractors;
- Air Force Deliverables Flying Out;
- Wellbeing and Mental Health Strategy;
- Afghanistan inquiry;
- Recruits in training accommodation, housing requirements for Australian and AUKUS personnel;
- Taipan investigation;
- Culture of civil aviation;
- Surface Class Collins, Virginia class;
- Optronics masking program;
- Tomahawks installation costs;
- Divide in Defence/ASA responsibilities;
- Rockingham infrastructure;
- US Submarine radioactive waste leak near Japan;
- Low level waste disposal; and
- Offshore Wind farms and Turbines.

#### Australian Submarine Agency

- Infrastructure works at HMAS Stirling;
- Submarine Rotational Force-West;
- Consultation with ASA regarding offshore windfarms south of Garden Island;
- Management of high-level nuclear waste from the AUKUS submarines;
- Consultation with First Nations peoples on the location of nuclear waste facilities;
- Australian Naval Nuclear Power Safety Bill 2023 [Provisions] and Australian Naval Nuclear Power Safety (Transitional Provisions) Bill 2023 [Provisions]; and
- Status of the joint venture between ASC Pty Ltd and BAE Systems.

#### Australian Signals Directorate

- REDSPICE;
- Cyberattack targeting Northern Minerals; and
- Attempted spearfishing incident targeting Parliamentarians.

#### Inspector-General of the Australian Defence Force

- FOI 577, Kathryn Wallace;
- Central databases - fact finding, IGADF cases;
- Royal Commission into Defence and Veterans' Suicide; and
- Selection of witnesses to give evidence to IGADF.

#### Defence Housing Australia

- Housing support for AUKUS.

#### Australian War Memorial

- Tenures of Council members; and
- War Memorial Council - expressions of interest.