



Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2024–25
Thursday, 7 November 2024
Daily summary

The Committee met from 9:00am until 9.55pm.

The Committee called: Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Export Finance Australia, Australian Trade and Investment Commission and Tourism Australia.

Key topics discussed by the Committee included:

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (non-trade programs):

- Contact between Prime Minister Albanese and President Trump, Ambassador Kevin Rudd's previous public statements regarding President Trump and the Australia-US alliance;
- Middle East conflict including banning of UNWRA by Israel in occupied Palestinian territories and funding to UNWRA;
- Australian Passport Office procurement matters;
- Child custody disputes resulting from children being taken to Japan;
- Regional security in the Pacific and Pacific Policing Initiative;
- Chinese People's Liberation Army and Chinese propaganda video potentially implicating Australia;
- Australian ambassador's meetings with the exiled government of Tibet;
- Establishment of a loss and damage fund at COP 29;
- First Nations Ambassador;
- Awarding overseas aid contracts and development assistance;
- Suppression of media freedoms in Hong Kong;
- Japan and South Korea's influence in the Indo-Pacific and a strategic assessment of Australia's bilateral relations with Japan and South Korea;
- Iranian ambassador's social media posts and public statements;
- Two state solution to Israel/Palestine conflict;
- Australian embassy in Ukraine;
- Intercountry adoptions and falsification of paperwork; and
- Australians in custody overseas.

Trade programs

- Liquefied Natural Gas exports to Japan;
- Live sheep exports;
- Indo-Pacific Economic Framework - including critical minerals and supply chains; and
- Scaling back the Chinese ban on Australian lobster.

Export Finance Australia

- Future Made in Australia - domestic investment, economic resilience and the security stream; and
- PsiQuantum loans.

Australian Trade and Investment Commission

- Vacant CEO position and vacancies in the agency;
- Simplified trade systems;
- Tourism Research Australia;
- Live sheep exports; and
- Market development grants.

Tourism Australia

- Current tourism numbers and pricing as a deterrent for international visitors; and
- New routes.

This concludes the examination of the 2024-25 Supplementary Budget Estimates for the Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation committee.