



PARLIAMENT of AUSTRALIA

MEDIA RELEASE

Joint Standing Committee on the National Capital and External Territories
Inquiry into Australia's Antarctic Territory

Issue date: 18 October 2017

Antarctic logistics under the spotlight

The **Department of Defence's** role in providing support to the Australian Antarctic Program will be examined as the Parliamentary [inquiry into Australia's Antarctic Territory](#) continues its hearings on Thursday 19 October in Canberra.

The Department's submission to the inquiry highlighted the fact that Defence's role in assisting operations in Antarctica is limited by the Antarctic Treaties constraints on military activities in Antarctica. However, the Department provides personnel, assets and logistical support that enables scientific research in an extreme climate.

Committee Chair, [Mr Ben Morton MP](#), noted that "recently Australian logistics in Antarctica have received significant attention with Defence providing heavy-lift cargo capabilities, and assisting in the first Australian air-to-air refuelling over the sub-Antarctic region. These developments have the potential to extend the reach of the Australian Antarctic Program and allow for the year-round delivery of supplies to its bases and improve accessibility."

Mr Morton said, "Thursday's public hearing will provide the Committee with an opportunity to better understand how advancements in logistics will support both the operational requirements of the Antarctic Program and provide Australia with opportunities for international engagement."

Further information, including submissions made to the inquiry, and the details of upcoming public hearings may be found on the Committee's [website](#).

**Public hearing details: 10:00 am (approx.) – 11:00 am (approx.), Thursday, 19 October 2017,
Committee Room 1R2, Parliament House, Canberra**

The hearings will be broadcast live at aph.gov.au/live

Media enquiries:

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