

INQUIRY QUESTION

(Question No. 3)

Senator David Shoebridge asked the Department of Defence the following question, upon notice, on 01 March 2024:

Senator SHOEBRIDGE: It's your understanding that there will only be dozens of additional permits required per annum for the whole of the country?

Mr Nockels: This is based on the exemptions we're talking about, as we lift from basic to fundamental research, the foreign countries list et cetera. There are a range of exemptions within the act that will reduce the volume we would be expecting. I might double-check with Mrs Wright around potential numbers.

Mrs Wright: I think it would be best to come back on notice with the exact numbers, but it is a net reduction in permits for the Australian system when you net the two off together.

The Department of Defence has provided the following answer to the above question:

Australia assesses over 3,000 applications each year to export or supply Defence and Strategic Goods List (DSGL) goods and technology, with around 900 of these related to an export or supply to the United Kingdom (UK) or the United States (US).

The Department of Defence undertook an Impact Analysis, assessed by the Office of Impact Analysis as 'Good Practice', prior to the introduction of the Defence Trade Controls Amendment Bill 2023 into Parliament on 30 November 2023.

The Impact Analysis found that the national exemption for the US and UK from Australia's export control permit requirements, and the addition of exemptions to streamline trade with international partners beyond the US and the UK, would result in a net reduction in regulatory burden for Australian industry, higher education and research sectors.

The Impact Analysis acknowledges that some of the data obtained to inform the analysis cannot be released publicly due to the security classification of the information and the permitted legal reasons for using the data.

Further information is available at: <https://oia.pmc.gov.au/published-impact-analyses-and-reports/defence-trade-controls-amendment-bill-2023>.