

06 MARCH 2018



Australian Government
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY INTO AUSTRALIA'S ANTARCTIC TERRITORY – DFAT PUBLIC HEARING - 15 FEBRUARY 2018

Q: Ms Gai Brodtmann MP asked what countries Australia has bilateral Memorandums of Understanding on Antarctic cooperation with.

1. Australia has Memorandums of Understanding and other bilateral arrangements and agreements on Antarctic cooperation with nine countries. The countries are China, France Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, New Zealand, Russia, the United Kingdom and the United States.

Q: The Committee Chair, Mr Ben Morton MP, asked what role Austrade takes in promoting Antarctic industry to other nations.

1. Austrade provided the following advice on its role in promoting Antarctic industry to other nations.
2. Austrade promotes Australian companies that are part of the Antarctic industry to other nations. Austrade often does this through its engagement with the Tasmanian Polar Network, a group of businesses and scientific organisations that have a common focus on serving commercial and scientific activity in the Antarctic.
3. The members of the Tasmanian Polar Network that Austrade has assisted do not exclusively supply their products and services to the Antarctic region. As a result, Austrade has assisted in promoting the non-Antarctic application of these companies' products and services in Austrade's areas of sectoral focus – for example, advanced manufacturing.
4. Austrade has also assisted the Tasmanian State Government on trade missions consistent with the Tasmanian Antarctic Gateway Strategy, particularly Action 2.2, which states

'Develop new market opportunities through Tasmanian Government trade missions and by promoting Antarctic capability at international forums.'

5. Austrade has not assisted Australian companies to supply goods and services to Antarctic programmes. While Austrade does assist organisations that supply goods and services into highly specialised fields such as the Antarctic, there has not been any demand by Australian organisations or other nations for such assistance. The sector is well understood by both buyers and sellers, particularly the Tasmanian Polar Network, which has a long history of serving commercial and scientific activity in the Antarctic.