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PORTFOLIO OVERVIEW

FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND TRADE PORTFOLIO OVERVIEW

Ministers and portfolio responsibilities

The objective of Australia's foreign and trade policy is to contribute to improvements in international security, national economic and trade performance and global cooperation to advance Australia's national interest – the security and prosperity of Australians.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs and the Minister for Trade and Competitiveness are the two portfolio ministers. Two Parliamentary Secretaries are responsible for Pacific Island Affairs and Foreign Affairs, and for Trade.

The portfolio consists of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), the Australian Trade Commission (Austrade), the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID), the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR), the Australian Secret Intelligence Service (ASIS) and the Export Finance and Insurance Corporation (EFIC).

In 2012-13, DFAT will seek to advance the national interest by enhancing Australia's relations bilaterally, regionally and multilaterally and extending Australia's influence on global and regional developments. DFAT will continue to promote a clear understanding of the Government's foreign and trade policy priorities and project a positive image of Australia.

DFAT will again contribute to increasing the international competitiveness of the Australian economy and Australian exporters by pursuing trade liberalisation and expanding markets for Australian exports through arrangements that complement and are supportive of the multilateral trading system.

DFAT will continue to protect the interests of Australian citizens abroad through timely and responsive travel advice, consular services and a secure passport system. DFAT will also continue to ensure the security of Australia's network of overseas diplomatic missions and to maintain and protect Australia's secure government communications systems. DFAT will deliver timely and responsive services to the diplomatic and consular corps in Australia.

Austrade will continue to promote Australia's international trade, investment and education interests. Austrade's international activities will again focus on growth and emerging markets that offer commercial potential and provide opportunities aligned with Australian capability (including education) and where there is a clear role for Austrade, as a Government agency, to support Australian firms and education institutions. In established markets, Austrade will focus predominantly on opportunities for inward investment and education services. Austrade will continue to administer the Export Market Development Grants scheme.

Portfolio Overview

Austrade will partner with State and Territory Governments and other Commonwealth Government agencies to attract productive foreign direct investment from target markets. Austrade will lead, on the Government's behalf, the use of the *Australia Unlimited* nation brand, to advance Australia's global reputation in business, science, education, technology, creativity and not-for-profit activity.

Austrade will also deliver consular and passport services in specific locations overseas.

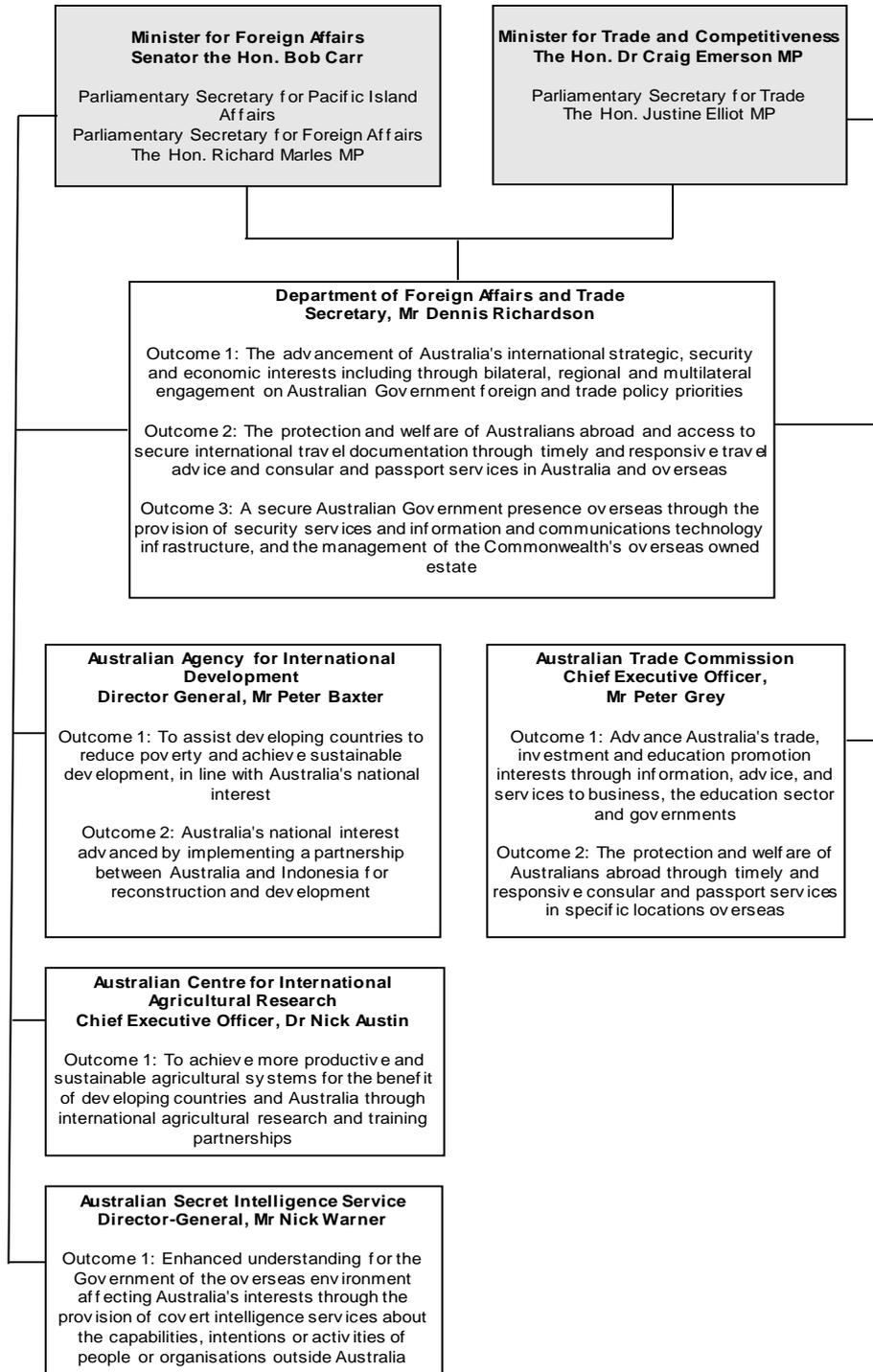
Through AusAID, the Australian aid program helps developing countries reduce the number of people living in poverty in developing countries in the Asia-Pacific region and beyond. By doing so, the aid program also advances our national interest through promoting a more stable and prosperous region and world. The aid program is guided by the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the internationally agreed targets for poverty reduction and human development.

ACIAR will continue to focus Australia's agricultural research expertise on enhancing food security and alleviating poverty in the Asia-Pacific region and Africa, in line with priorities established in Australia's aid policy statement: An effective aid program for Australia. ACIAR will invest in capacity building and training activities for individuals and institutions in developing countries in these regions. ACIAR will continue to administer and manage Australia's increasing investment in multilateral agricultural innovation through the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research.

Through ASIS, the portfolio will continue to enhance government understanding of the overseas environment affecting Australia's vital interests and take appropriate action, consistent with applicable legislation, to protect identified interests.

Through EFIC, the portfolio will help Australian exporters and companies investing in projects overseas to gain access to internationally competitive finance and insurance services. EFIC will continue to provide financial facilities for exporters, including loans, guarantees, medium-term credit insurance, bonds and political risk insurance. It will continue to manage the National Interest Account.

Figure 1: Foreign Affairs and Trade portfolio structure and outcomes



PORTFOLIO RESOURCES

Table 1 shows the total new resources provided to the portfolio in the 2012-13 budget year, by agency.

Table 1: Portfolio Resources 2012-13

	Appropriation			Receipts	Total
	Bill No. 1 \$m	Bill No. 2 \$m	Special \$m	\$m	\$m
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade					
Administered appropriations	275.1	-	0.9	-	276.0
Departmental appropriations	943.0	56.8	-	176.8	1,176.6
Total:	1,218.1	56.8	0.9	176.8	1,452.6
Australian Trade Commission					
Administered appropriations	150.4	-	-	-	150.4
Departmental appropriations	176.5	5.6	-	-	182.1
Total:	326.9	5.6	-	-	332.5
Australian Agency for International Development					
Administered appropriations	4,207.2	507.4	-	-	4,714.6
Departmental appropriations	319.7	15.1	-	-	334.8
Total:	4,526.9	522.5	-	-	5,049.4
Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research					
Administered appropriations	89.9	-	-	34.6	124.5
Departmental appropriations	10.7	0.3	-	-	11.0
Total:	100.6	0.3	-	34.6	135.5
Australian Secret Intelligence Service					
Administered appropriations	-	-	-	-	-
Departmental appropriations	205.4	6.1	-	-	211.5
Total:	205.4	6.1	-	-	211.5
Portfolio total					7,181.5
Less amounts transferred within portfolio					
					Resources available within portfolio: 7,181.5

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