

PORTFOLIO OVERVIEW

FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND TRADE PORTFOLIO OVERVIEW

Minister(s) and portfolio responsibilities

The four portfolio ministers are:

- Senator the Hon Marise Payne, Minister for Foreign Affairs;
- Senator the Hon Simon Birmingham, Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment;
- Senator the Hon Anne Ruston, Assistant Minister for International Development and the Pacific; and
- the Hon Mark Coulton MP, Assistant Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment.

The portfolio consists of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT, 'the department'), the Australian Trade and Investment Commission (Austrade), the Australian Secret Intelligence Service (ASIS), the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR), Tourism Australia and the Export Finance and Insurance Corporation (Efic).

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

DFAT's purpose is to make Australia stronger, safer and more prosperous, to provide timely and responsive consular and passport services, and to ensure a secure Australian Government presence overseas.

To achieve this purpose, DFAT has three key outcomes (see *Figure 1: Foreign Affairs and Trade portfolio structure and outcomes*), and seven priority functions as detailed in DFAT's 2018–19 Corporate Plan as follows:

1. promote a stable and prosperous Indo-Pacific;
2. pursue economic, trade and investment opportunities;
3. keep Australia and Australians safe and secure;
4. deliver an innovative development assistance program;
5. advance global cooperation;
6. support Australians overseas; and
7. provide a secure and effective overseas presence.

DFAT's work is guided by the 2017 *Foreign Policy White Paper*, which sets out a comprehensive framework to advance Australia's security and prosperity in accordance with our values.

DFAT and its portfolio agency partners work with the broader Australian Public Service to promote a stable and prosperous regional and global environment by leveraging Australia's engagement with bilateral and regional partners and multilateral institutions.

Portfolio overview

Austrade

Austrade's purpose is to deliver quality trade and investment services to businesses to grow Australia's economic prosperity. Austrade works with exporters, investors, government and industry representatives to drive sustained long-term growth through exports and international expansion, and through the attraction of productive foreign investment. Austrade aims to reduce the time, cost and risk for its clients by providing authoritative commercial insights and information to help its clients make informed business decisions. Austrade collaborates closely with state and territory governments and other Commonwealth Government agencies, and informs and influences policy to support positive trade and investment outcomes.

Austrade, alongside DFAT, promotes the opportunities created by free trade agreements, and helps educate business on how to use free trade agreements to access new markets and grow their business. Austrade also administers the Export Market Development Grant scheme, and works on tourism policy, projects, programs and research to strengthen Australia's tourism industry and grow Australia's share of the international tourism market.

ASIS

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.

ACIAR

ACIAR supports Australia's national interests by contributing to sustainable economic growth, poverty reduction and enhanced regional stability, with a particular focus on economic and scientific diplomacy, healthier and better-nourished families, and women's economic empowerment. ACIAR's mandate is to amplify the impact of Australia's outstanding capabilities in agricultural science by brokering and investing in agricultural research partnerships in developing countries. ACIAR works with public and private research institutions to improve the productivity and sustainability of agricultural systems and the resilience of food systems in partner countries.

ACIAR's objectives reflect Australia's development policy and the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* through supporting research collaboration while emphasising human capital building and private sector-led development, targeted at safer and more inclusive agrifood value chains and improved livelihoods in agriculture, forestry and fisheries.

Tourism Australia

Tourism Australia is Australia's national tourism marketing organisation. It works to promote Australia internationally as a compelling tourism destination for leisure and business events travel. The outcome of Tourism Australia's activities is to grow demand and foster a competitive and sustainable Australian tourism industry through partnership marketing to targeted global consumers in key markets.

Efic

Efic helps Australian companies exporting and investing overseas to gain access to finance and insurance services. Efic provides financial facilities for exporters, including loans, guarantees, bonds and political risk insurance, with a focus on small and medium enterprises and those seeking to do business in emerging markets. Efic will continue to work closely with DFAT and Austrade in the delivery of these services. Efic will also continue to manage the National Interest Account on behalf of the Australian Government, including the Defence Export Facility, and where directed, provide support to other Australian Government entities.

For information on resourcing across the portfolio, please refer to Part 1: Agency Financial Resourcing in *Budget Paper No. 4: Agency Resourcing*.

Figure 1: Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade portfolio structure and outcomes

