

Portfolio Overview

Foreign Affairs and Trade Portfolio overview

Minister(s) and portfolio responsibilities

The Foreign Affairs and Trade portfolio has five ministers:

- Senator the Hon Penny Wong, Minister for Foreign Affairs;
- Senator the Hon Don Farrell, Minister for Trade and Tourism, Special Minister of State;
- The Hon Pat Conroy MP, Minister for International Development and the Pacific, and Minister for Defence Industry;
- Senator the Hon Tim Ayres, Assistant Minister for Trade and Assistant Minister for Manufacturing; and
- The Hon Tim Watts MP, Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs.

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

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT)

DFAT works to promote and protect Australia’s international interests to support our security and prosperity. To achieve this purpose, DFAT provides a global diplomatic and influencing capability, leads international and strategic policy advice, deepens economic engagement, and delivers international development and humanitarian assistance. Across an international network of 116 DFAT managed posts, DFAT leads whole-of-government efforts 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.

Australian Trade and Investment Commission (Austrade)

Austrade’s purpose is to deliver quality trade and investment services to businesses and policy advice to government to grow Australia’s prosperity, including leading on national tourism policy. To achieve this purpose, Austrade supports Australian businesses to expand, through trade facilitation and program support; facilitates high-quality international investment; conducts global marketing and promotion to create brand awareness, generate demand, and support the conversion of leads; leads visitor economy policy development and uses Austrade’s global and commercial perspectives to contribute to policy advice to Government on trade and investment; and provides consular and passport services on behalf of the Australian Government in 11 locations across nine countries.

Austrade, alongside DFAT, promotes the opportunities created by deepening economic engagement with key partners, including through trade agreements and the reduction in non-tariff barriers. Austrade administers the Export Market Development Grants program to assist Australian businesses to promote and diversify their operations. Austrade supports the Government's simplified trade reforms by coordinating the reforms of cross-border trade regulations, processes, systems and data to reduce barriers and improve the experience for Australian businesses.

Australian Secret Intelligence Service (ASIS)

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

Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR)

ACIAR supports Australia's national interests by investing in collaborative research and capacity-building partnerships in the Indo-Pacific region to improve the livelihoods of smallholder farming, fishing and forestry communities.

ACIAR supports crucial Australian development objectives and amplifies the impact of Australia's outstanding capabilities in food systems innovation and natural resource sciences by fostering research partnerships with public institutions, and where possible, the private sector. Australian and international partners work to enhance the resilience and equity of food systems, reduce poverty, improve food security, empower women and girls, improve sustainable management of natural resources, and help smallholder farming households and their communities adapt to climate variability.

ACIAR partnerships and programs also contribute to the development of our international and Australian partner institutions' research, policy and leadership capacities. Funds invested by ACIAR are managed and monitored to optimise economic, social and environmental benefits for partner countries and Australia.

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.

Export Finance Australia (EFA)

EFA (legally constituted as the Export Finance and Insurance Corporation) is Australia's export credit agency. EFA supports Australian export trade and overseas infrastructure development that delivers benefits to Australia. EFA provides commercial finance for export trade and overseas infrastructure development. From small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) to large corporates, foreign Governments and infrastructure projects, we help Australian businesses take on the world. In doing so, EFA finance supports Australia's economic security and regional resilience. EFA works closely with banks and other financial institutions to encourage and catalyse private market financing, and partners with DFAT and Austrade in the delivery of these services.

EFA provides financing solutions for Australian exporters and overseas infrastructure development that delivers benefits to Australia. As the Australian Government's export credit agency, EFA is an integral part of Australia's international trade focus – supporting businesses, jobs and the community. EFA plays a critical role for its customers and partners by using its commercial financing capability to support viable exporters and overseas infrastructure development when financing from the private sector is unavailable. EFA works closely with banks and other financial institutions to encourage and catalyse private market financing, and partners with DFAT and Austrade in the delivery of these services.

EFA also manages the National Interest Account on behalf of the Australian Government, including the Critical Minerals Facility, Defence Export Facility, Southeast Asia Investment Financing Facility and loans delivered under the Australian Infrastructure Financing Facility for the Pacific. EFA also provides support to other Commonwealth Government entities such as the National Reconstruction Fund Corporation, Northern Australia Infrastructure Facility and Housing Australia. EFA does not appear in the Portfolio Budget Statements as it is not part of the general government sector.

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

Figure 1: Foreign Affairs and Trade portfolio structure and outcomes

<p>Minister for Foreign Affairs Senator the Hon Penny Wong</p>	
<p>Minister for Trade and Tourism Special Minister of State Senator the Hon Don Farrell</p>	
<p>Minister for International Development and the Pacific and Minister for Defence Industry The Hon Pat Conroy MP</p>	
<p>Assistant Minister for Trade and Assistant Minister for Manufacturing Senator the Hon Tim Ayres</p>	<p>Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs The Hon Tim Watts MP</p>
<p>Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade Secretary, Ms Jan Adams AO PSM</p> <p>Outcome 1: The advancement of Australia's international strategic, security and economic interests including through bilateral, regional and multilateral engagement on Australian Government foreign, trade and international development policy priorities</p> <p>Outcome 2: The protection and welfare of Australians abroad and access to secure international travel documentation through timely and responsive travel advice and consular and passport services in Australia and overseas</p> <p>Outcome 3: A secure Australian Government presence overseas through the provision of security services and information and communications technology infrastructure, and the management of the Commonwealth's overseas property estate</p>	
<p>Australian Trade and Investment Commission Chief Executive Officer, Mr Xavier Simonet</p> <p>Outcome 1: To contribute to Australia's economic prosperity by supporting Australian exporters to expand internationally, attracting productive international investment, and growing the visitor economy</p> <p>Outcome 2: The protection and welfare of Australians abroad through timely and responsive consular and passport services in specific locations overseas</p>	
<p>Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research Chief Executive Officer, Professor Wendy Umberger</p> <p>Outcome 1: To achieve more productive and sustainable agricultural systems for the benefit of developing countries and Australia, through international agricultural research and training partnerships</p>	<p>Australian Secret Intelligence Service Director General, Ms Kerri Hartland</p> <p>Outcome 1: Enhanced understanding for the Government of the overseas environment affecting Australia's interests through the provision of covert intelligence services about the capabilities, intentions or activities of people or organisations outside Australia</p>
<p>Tourism Australia Chair, Mr Michael Issenberg</p> <p>Outcome 1: Grow demand and foster a competitive and sustainable Australian tourism industry through partnership marketing to targeted global consumers in key markets</p>	<p>Export Finance Australia Chair, Ms Debra Hazelton Managing Director & CEO, John Hopkins</p> <p>Purpose: To support Australian export trade and overseas infrastructure development that delivers benefits to Australia</p>