

PORTFOLIO OVERVIEW

FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND TRADE PORTFOLIO OVERVIEW

Minister(s) and Portfolio Responsibilities

The objective of Australia's foreign, trade and investment, development and international security policies is to advance Australia's national interest – the security and prosperity of Australians and promoting prosperity, reducing poverty and enhancing stability with a particular focus on our region, the Indian Ocean Asia Pacific.

The portfolio ministers are the Minister for Foreign Affairs, the Hon Julie Bishop MP, and the Minister for Trade and Investment, the Hon Andrew Robb AO MP. The Minister for Foreign Affairs is supported by the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Senator the Hon Brett Mason.

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

The coordination of work across the portfolio – particularly between DFAT, Austrade, Tourism Australia and ACIAR – has been given new importance by the Government's economic diplomacy agenda. This agenda prioritises efforts to promote Australian and global prosperity through four core objectives: trade, growth, investment and business. The completion of AusAID's integration into DFAT will ensure close alignment of Australia's efforts to promote economic growth and reduce poverty within Australia's broader national interests.

The department is implementing the New Colombo Plan, an Australian undergraduate study and internship program aimed at lifting knowledge of the Indian Ocean Asia Pacific in Australia and strengthening our people-to-people and institutional relationships in the region.

In 2014-15, DFAT will enhance the security and prosperity of Australians by strengthening our relationships with key partners and advancing Australia's core strategic and economic interests. DFAT will promote a clear understanding of the Government's foreign, trade and aid policy priorities and project a positive image of Australia.

Through Australia's aid program, DFAT will contribute to sustainable economic growth to reduce poverty and lift living standards, with a particular focus on the Indian Ocean Asia Pacific region. Australia's overseas development budget will be driven by a new paradigm which promotes a prosperous, growing region that is more stable and secure, and reduces poverty. The aid program will help build an effective

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and efficient private sector, support aid for trade, invest in infrastructure, promote better health and education outcomes and help empower women and girls. Australia will continue to be an effective and principled humanitarian donor. The Government's new approach to development will be underpinned by a set of benchmarks that will improve aid program performance, value for money and results. DFAT is committed to delivering a more efficient and effective aid program that has a strong culture of accountability and performance.

Australia's prosperity depends on open and transparent international markets. DFAT will contribute to increasing the international competitiveness of the Australian economy and boosting jobs and economic growth by opening up markets for Australian exporters. It will achieve this by strengthening our trading relationships and pursuing priority bilateral and regional trade agreements, adding urgency to plurilateral and multilateral trade negotiations, and challenging protectionist policies around the world.

DFAT will 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 effectiveness and 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 contribute to Australia's economic prosperity by promoting Australia's international trade, investment and education interests, with a particular focus on growth and emerging markets, including those in Asia, that offer commercial potential and which provide opportunities aligned with Australian comparative advantage in areas such as agribusiness, resources and energy, tourism and a range of services. Within these markets, there is a clear role for Austrade, as a Government agency, to support Australian businesses and education institutions. In established markets and other emerging markets, Austrade will partner with State and Territory governments and other Commonwealth Government agencies to attract productive foreign direct investment in priority sectors. It will also promote Australia as a preferred education destination and provider of education services and continue to administer several grant programs.

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

The Foreign Affairs and Trade portfolio now has responsibility for international tourism promotion, tourism policy, international tourism engagement, research and programs. The Tourism Division of the former Department of Resources, Energy and Tourism has been transferred to Austrade and will continue to provide policy advice and research and support the implementation of the national long-term tourism strategy, *Tourism 2020*. The international tourism engagement function, including bilateral tourism relations with other governments and international bodies, is being led by DFAT.

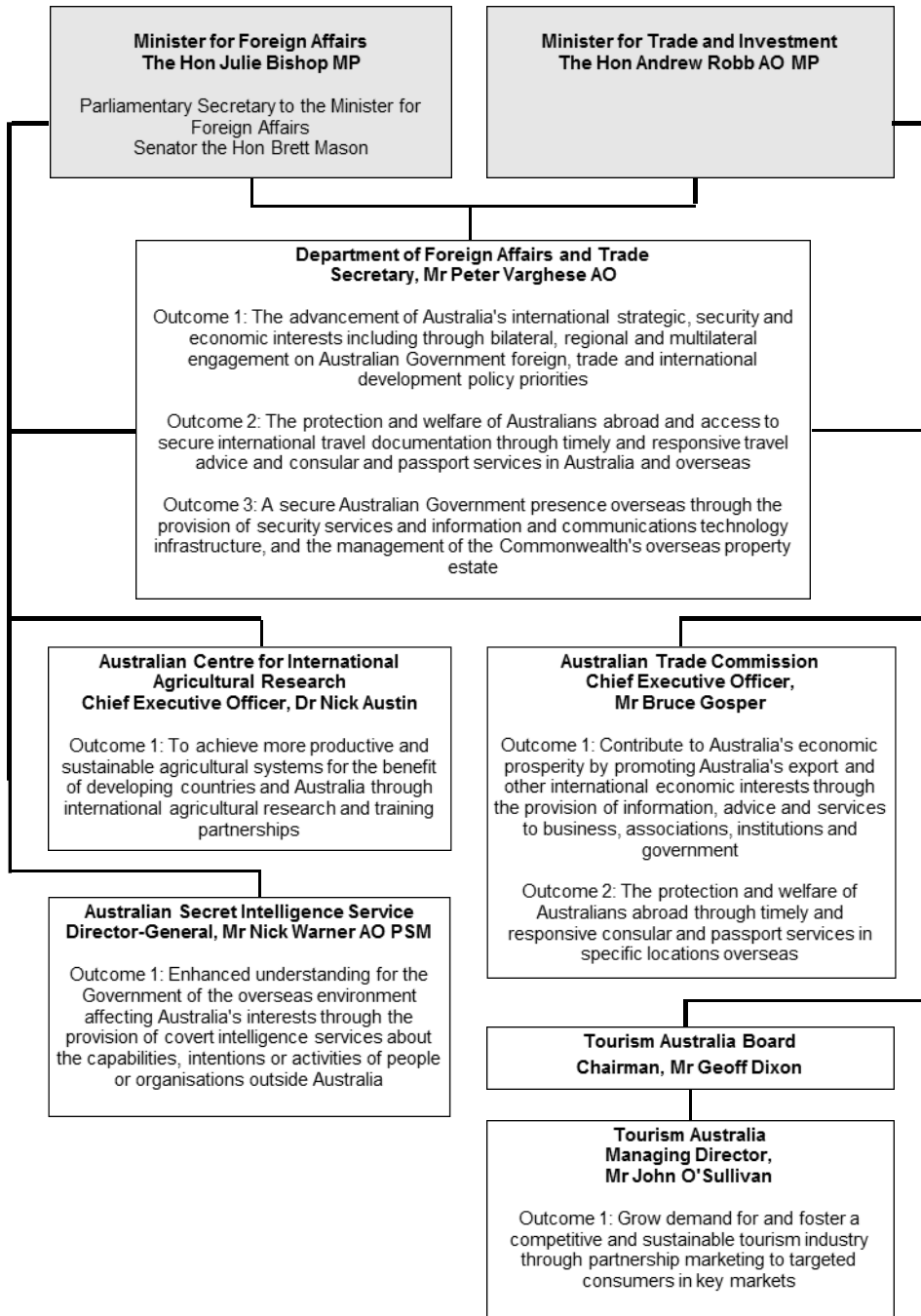
Tourism Australia is the Australian Government agency responsible for promoting Australia as an international destination for tourists and business travellers. Working in partnership with state and territory tourism organisations, industry and commercial partners, Tourism Australia aims to increase the economic benefits of tourism to Australia by building demand and increasing visitation and visitor spending.

ACIAR's work underpins Australia's national interest by contributing to economic growth and poverty reduction. ACIAR will continue to improve the productivity and profitability of agricultural systems, primarily in the Indian Ocean Asia Pacific region, through international agricultural research partnerships. ACIAR's research partnerships will have a stronger focus on developing market opportunities for smallholder farmers and will tackle gender inequality in the design, delivery and impacts of its activities. ACIAR will maintain its core mandate of producing excellent research, and will work through others to achieve up-scaling and broader development outcomes. ACIAR will also continue to administer and manage Australia's investment in multilateral innovation through the CGIAR.

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.

EFIC helps Australian exporters and companies investing in projects overseas to gain access to finance and insurance services. EFIC provides financial facilities for exporters, including loans, guarantees, medium-term credit insurance, bonds and political risk insurance, with a focus on small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and those seeking to do business in new and emerging markets. EFIC will continue to work closely with DFAT and Austrade in the delivery of these services. It will also manage the National Interest Account on behalf of the Commonwealth.

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 2014-15 budget year by agency.

Table 1: Portfolio Resources 2014-15

	Appropriation			Receipts	Total
	Bill No. 1 \$m	Bill No. 2 \$m	Special \$m	\$m	\$m
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade					
Administered appropriations	4,526.6	212.7	-	-	4,739.3
Departmental appropriations	1,324.0	80.8	-	172.2	1,577.0
Total:	5,850.6	293.5	-	172.2	6,316.3
Australian Trade Commission					
Administered appropriations	139.4	-	-	-	139.4
Departmental appropriations	198.3	1.5	-	19.8	219.6
Total:	337.7	1.5	-	19.8	359.0
Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research					
Administered appropriations	86.3	-	-	-	86.3
Departmental appropriations	10.1	-	-	1.7	11.7
Total:	96.3	-	-	1.7	98.0
Australian Secret Intelligence Service					
Administered appropriations	-	-	-	-	-
Departmental appropriations	220.8	2.7	-	34.5	258.0
Total:	220.8	2.7	-	34.5	258.0
Tourism Australia					
Administered appropriations	-	-	-	-	-
Departmental appropriations	129.9	-	-	30.0	159.9
Total:	129.9	-	-	30.0	159.9
Portfolio total	6,635.2	297.8	-	258.3	7,191.2
Less amounts transferred within portfolio					-
					Resources available within portfolio: 7,191.2

