

PORTFOLIO OVERVIEW

FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND TRADE PORTFOLIO OVERVIEW

Minister and portfolio responsibilities

The five portfolio ministers are:

- Senator the Hon Marise Payne, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Minister for Women;
- Senator the Hon Simon Birmingham, Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment;
- the Hon Alex Hawke MP, Assistant Defence Minister and Minister for International Development and the Pacific;
- the Hon Andrew Gee MP, Minister for Decentralisation and Regional Education and Minister Assisting the Minister for Trade and Investment; and
- Senator the Hon Jonathon Duniam, Assistant Minister for Regional Tourism and Assistant Minister for Forestry and Fisheries.

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 Export Finance Australia (EFA).

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 2020-21 Corporate Plan:

1. promote a stable and prosperous Indo-Pacific;
2. pursue our economic, trade and investment opportunities;
3. keep Australia and Australians safe and secure;
4. deliver an effective and responsive 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.

Portfolio overview

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.

Australian Trade and Investment Commission (Austrade)

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

Austrade, alongside the department, promotes the opportunities created by free trade agreements (FTAs) and the reduction in non-tariff barriers, and helps educate business on how to use FTAs to access new markets and grow their business. Austrade also administers schemes like the Export Market Development Grants and the Regional Tourism Bushfire Recovery Grants. These complement its work on policy, projects, programs and research to strengthen Australia's tourism industry and grow Australia's share of the international tourism market.

Australian Secret Intelligence Service (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.

Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (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 assistance priorities 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. Given the impact of COVID-19, Tourism Australia is allocating a significant portion of marketing funds to the domestic audience. 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 domestic and global consumers in key markets.

Export Finance Australia (EFA)

EFA helps Australian exporters and businesses operating in an export-related supply chain or investing overseas to gain access to finance. EFA provides commercial financial facilities for exporters, including loans, guarantees and bonds, with a focus on small and medium enterprises and those seeking to do business in emerging markets. EFA works closely 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 Defence Export Facility and the COVID-19 Export Capital Facility, and where directed, provides support to other Commonwealth government entities.

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

