

Portfolio Overview

Foreign Affairs and Trade Portfolio overview

Ministers and portfolio responsibilities

The Foreign Affairs and Trade Portfolio has four ministers:

- Senator the Hon Marise Payne, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Minister for Women (sworn in as Minister for Foreign Affairs on 28 August 2018 and Minister for Women on 29 May 2019);
- The Hon Dan Tehan MP, Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment (sworn in on 22 December 2020);
- Senator the Hon Zed Seselja, Minister for International Development and the Pacific (sworn in on 22 December 2020); and
- The Hon Andrew Gee MP, Minister for Decentralisation and Regional Education and Minister Assisting the Minister for Trade and Investment (sworn in on 6 February 2020).

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'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.

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's purpose is to deliver quality services and programs to businesses to grow Australia's prosperity across trade, investment, tourism and international education. 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. Austrade aims 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. Austrade also administers schemes like the Export Market Development Grants, the Regional Tourism Recovery Grants and the International Freight Assistance Mechanism. 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

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 supports Australia's national interests by contributing to poverty reduction and improved livelihoods through more productive and sustainable agriculture emerging from collaborative international research.

The ACIAR mandate is to amplify the impact of Australia's outstanding capabilities in agricultural science by brokering and funding agricultural research for development partnerships in developing countries. The agency 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, with a particular focus on Papua New Guinea and Pacific island countries, and also in East Asia, South and West Asia and Eastern and Southern Africa.

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 increasing its focus on promoting domestic tourism. The outcome of Tourism Australia's activities is to grow demand and enable a competitive and sustainable Australian tourism industry.

Export Finance Australia

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, which includes the Defence Export 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 Northern Australia Infrastructure Facility and National Housing Finance and Investment Corporation.

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

Figure 1: Foreign Affairs and Trade portfolio structure and outcomes

