

# Portfolio Overview



# Foreign Affairs and Trade Portfolio overview

## Ministers and portfolio responsibilities

The Foreign Affairs and Trade portfolio has five 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);
- The Hon Dr David Gillespie MP, Minister for Regional Health and Minister Assisting the Minister for Trade and Investment (sworn in on 2 July 2021); and
- The Hon Michelle Landry MP, Assistant Minister for Regional Tourism and Assistant Minister for Children and Families (sworn in as Assistant Minister for Regional Tourism on 2 July 2021; and Assistant Minister for Children and Families on 28 August 2018).

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 makes Australia stronger, safer and more prosperous by providing global diplomatic and influencing capability. DFAT leads the development of Australia's international and strategic policy advice and provides timely and responsive consular and passport services.

To achieve this purpose, DFAT has three key outcomes (see *Figure 1: Foreign Affairs and Trade portfolio structure and outcomes*) and priorities as detailed in DFAT's 2021–22 *Corporate Plan*.

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 works with the Australian Public Service to shape 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 deliver quality services and programs to businesses to grow Australia's prosperity across trade, investment, tourism and international education.

To achieve this purpose, Austrade has two key outcomes (*see Figure 1: Foreign Affairs and Trade portfolio structure and outcomes*). Austrade achieves these outcomes by:

1. working with exporters, investors, the tourism industry, government and industry representatives to drive sustained long-term growth through exports and international expansion, and attracting productive foreign investment;
2. reducing the time, cost and risk for our clients by providing authoritative commercial insights and information to help them make informed business decisions; and
3. collaborating closely with state and territory governments and other Commonwealth Government entities to inform and influence policy supporting 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 (EMDG) Scheme and several tourism programs. 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 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 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. 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 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 Critical Minerals Facility, 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.

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 *Budget Paper No. 4: Agency Resourcing*.

**Figure 1: Foreign Affairs and Trade portfolio structure and outcomes**

