

Portfolio overview

Foreign Affairs and Trade Portfolio overview

Minister(s) and portfolio responsibilities

The Foreign Affairs and Trade portfolio has 6 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 Pacific Island Affairs, Minister for Defence Industry
- The Hon Dr Anne Aly MP, Minister for International Development, Minister for Small Business, Minister for Multicultural Affairs
- The Hon Matt Thistlethwaite MP, Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade, Assistant Minister for Immigration
- Senator the Hon Nita Green, Assistant Minister for Pacific Island Affairs, Assistant Minister for Tourism, Assistant Minister for Northern Australia

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 promotes and protects Australia’s interests overseas in support of our security and prosperity. To achieve this purpose, DFAT maintains a global diplomatic presence, shapes international strategic policy, strengthens economic engagement and provides development and humanitarian assistance. DFAT works with international partners to tackle global challenges, expand trade and investment opportunities, uphold international rules, support regional stability and assist Australians overseas. To protect the welfare of Australians abroad, DFAT delivers travel advice, consular and passport services. As the Australian Government’s lead for overseas engagement, DFAT coordinates whole-of-government efforts across an international network of 114 DFAT-managed posts, to ensure a secure Australian Government presence and a stronger, safer and more prosperous Australia.

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 support the growth of Australia’s prosperity, including leading on national tourism policy. To achieve this purpose, Austrade: supports Australian businesses to establish, expand and diversify international markets through trade advice, connections and support; proactively targets and attracts inwards foreign investment and outward investment, including via the Southeast Asia Investment Deal Teams; contributes to, and informs, the strategic direction of Australia’s trade and investment, including through supporting the building of national capability, partnering with industry and sharing market insights; conducts global marketing and promotion to create awareness of Australia’s nation brand, generate demand for Australian products and support the conversion of leads for trade and investment; leads national visitor economy policy development and implementation, supported by the publication of official tourism statistics through Tourism Research Australia; and helps Australians overseas through the delivery of effective consular services, efficient passport services and practical contingency planning in 11 designated locations overseas.

Austrade also administers the legislated Export Market Development Grants program to assist Australian businesses promote and diversify their exports.

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 international research and capacity development partnerships to contribute to reducing poverty and improving the livelihoods of many in the Indo-Pacific and Africa through more productive and sustainable agriculture and natural resources systems. To achieve this, ACIAR partners bilaterally and multilaterally with governments and institutions to: improve food security and reduce poverty among smallholder farmers and rural communities; manage natural resources and produce food more sustainably adapting to climate variability and mitigating climate change; enhance human nutrition and reduce risks to human health; improve gender equity and empowerment of women and girls; foster more inclusive agrifood and forestry value chains and build scientific and policy capability within our partner countries.

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. Through its marketing to global consumers in key markets and industry support activities, Tourism Australia seeks to grow demand and foster a competitive and sustainable Australian tourism industry.

Export Finance Australia (EFA)

EFA (legally constituted as the Export Finance and Insurance Corporation) is Australia's export credit agency. EFA provides commercial finance for Australian export trade and overseas infrastructure development that delivers benefits to Australia. From small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) to large corporates, foreign governments and infrastructure projects, EFA helps 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 administers the Australian Government's National Interest Account (NIA), which currently includes the Southeast Asia Investment Financing Facility, the Critical Minerals Facility, the Defence Export Facility, the Fuel and Fertiliser Security Facility and lending for the Australian Infrastructure Financing Facility for the Pacific. As part of the Australian Government's Future Made in Australia agenda, EFA can also finance major domestic projects, aligned with the National Interest Framework, on the NIA. EFA also provides support to other Commonwealth entities, including Housing Australia and the Northern Australia Infrastructure Facility.

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

Minister for Foreign Affairs Senator the Hon Penny Wong	
Minister for Trade and Tourism Special Minister of State Senator the Hon Don Farrell	
Minister for Pacific Island Affairs Minister for Defence Industry The Hon Pat Conroy MP	
Minister for International Development Minister for Small Business Minister for Multicultural Affairs The Hon Dr Anne Aly MP	
Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade Assistant Minister for Immigration The Hon Matt Thistlethwaite MP	Assistant Minister for Pacific Island Affairs Assistant Minister for Tourism Assistant Minister for Northern Australia Senator the Hon Nita Green
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade Secretary, Ms Jan Adams AO PSM	
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.	
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.	
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.	
Australian Trade and Investment Commission Chief Executive Officer, Dr Paul Grimes PSM	
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.	
Outcome 2: The protection and welfare of Australians abroad through timely and responsive consular and passport services in specific locations overseas.	
Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research Acting Chief Executive Officer, Dr Nicholas Austin	Australian Secret Intelligence Service Director-General, Ms Kerri Hartland
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.	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.
Tourism Australia Chair, Ms Penny Fowler AM Managing Director, Mr Robin Mack	Export Finance Australia Chair, Ms Debra Hazelton Managing Director and CEO, Mr John Hopkins
Outcome 1: Grow demand and foster a competitive and sustainable Australian tourism industry through partnership marketing to targeted global consumers in key markets.	Purpose: To support Australian export trade and overseas investment and infrastructure development that delivers benefits to Australia.