

Portfolio Overview

Foreign Affairs and Trade Portfolio overview

Ministers and portfolio responsibilities

The Foreign Affairs and Trade portfolio has five 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 International Development and the Pacific, and Minister for Defence Industry;
- Senator the Hon Tim Ayres, Assistant Minister for Trade and Assistant Minister for Manufacturing; and
- The Hon Tim Watts MP, Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs.

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 seven priorities as detailed in DFAT's 2022-23 Corporate Plan.

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 trade and investment services to businesses and policy advice to government to grow Australia's prosperity.

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. supporting Australian businesses to expand and diversify into international markets, win productive foreign investment, promote international education, and strengthen the Australian tourism industry;
2. leading visitor economy policy development and informing the Government's decision-making to drive tourism growth and recovery;
3. together with the Simplified Trade System Taskforce, simplifying cross-border trade regulations, processes, systems and data to reduce barriers and improve the experience for Australian businesses;
4. collaborating closely with federal, state and territory government entities to inform our commercial and practical policy advice to government; and
5. delivering consular and passport services on behalf of the Australian Government in 11 overseas locations.

Austrade, alongside the department, promotes the opportunities created by deepening economic engagement with key partners, including through Free Trade Agreements and the reduction in non-tariff barriers. Austrade administers the Export Market Development Grants program to assist Australian businesses to promote and diversify their operations. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Austrade also delivers a range of tourism grant programs to support tourism recovery.

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 (legally constituted as the Export Finance and Insurance Corporation) plays a strategically impactful role in financing Australian exports and interests, including overseas infrastructure development that is in Australia's national interests and 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 the October *Budget Paper No. 4: Agency Resourcing*.

Figure 1: Foreign Affairs and Trade portfolio structure and outcomes

