



# THE FAWCETT FLYER

December 2017



## A word from David

As 2017 draws to a close and we recognize John Alexander's re-election in Bennelong, it is important to note that much of the Coalition's work has never made the headlines, but underpins the security and prosperity of our nation.

This past year has seen Australia's media consumed with Section 44 of the Constitution (which most of the public had never heard of), the same sex marriage debate (which most of the public are glad to have behind them) and a string of News Polls (focussed on Canberra rather than the issues affecting most of the Australian public).

The Mid-Year Economic and Fiscal Outlook (MYEFO) confirms that:

- the Budget remains on track to return to balance in 2020-21,
- as of this year, the government will no longer need to borrow to pay for everyday spending, with growth in spending remaining the lowest of any government in the last 50 years,
- around 2000 jobs have been created every day in the month just passed, with nearly 1 million new jobs since the 2013 election; over 80% of them full-time,
- more people are in jobs meaning less people on welfare – the social dividend of the Coalition's focus on jobs and growth means that we now have the lowest level of welfare dependency in the working age population in almost 25 years,



- record investment in Medicare and health more broadly as well as funding for schools.

Australia is more secure with greater investment in our security agencies and the Australian Federal Police, a legislative reform program to deal with Foreign Interference as well as improvements to operational effectiveness and organisational efficiency through the creation of a Home Affairs portfolio.

Our military commitments overseas have helped defeat the Islamic State in both the Middle East and the southern Philippines and have played a key role in detecting and disrupting trade in narcotics.

The ground breaking investment in a continuous naval ship building program has already created hundreds of new jobs in SA, seen investment in new infrastructure and contracts are being drawn that will result in thousands of career jobs for generations of young South Australians.

Australia's trade agenda continues

to be vital to our economy, with agriculture being the largest growth sector in our GDP over the past 12 months. The FTA with Korea has seen sheep meat exports, for example, up by over 95% the past year. As more tariffs are reduced the export volumes will continue to increase. We continue to pursue trade deals with the EU and Indonesia as well as trans pacific partners.

With a State election and a possible by-election in Mayo, 2018 will be an important year for the people of South Australia and our role as Liberals.

For now though, as we celebrate the birth of Christ, I wish you a Merry Christmas, a joyous time with family and friends and a very Happy New Year.



Senator David Fawcett



# Modern Slavery

On 7 December 2017 the Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs Defence and Trade tabled its final report - Hidden in Plain Sight: An inquiry into establishing a Modern Slavery Act in Australia.

Following the extensive work of Andrew 'Twiggy' Forrest and the introduction of the Modern Slavery Act in the UK, the inquiry examined the best practice in fighting modern slavery in both Australia and globally.

Throughout the inquiry the committee were shocked to hear how far spread the prevalence of slavery was across a number of industries. Today, there are an estimated 40 million victims of slavery in the world and an estimated 4,300 in Australia.

Despite slavery remaining notoriously difficult to stop, it was heartening to hear about the work of many organisations and

people who are dedicated to eradicating slavery and providing support to victims. One such local example is Haigh's Chocolates, who despite the increased costs of business have made significant efforts to eliminate the risk of slavery in the cocoa bean supply chains.

A number of people in our horticultural industry have also taken similar steps, and should be commended for their efforts. The final report had a total of 49 recommendations, which if implemented will go a long way to ensure best practice in corporate social responsibility is practiced across all Australian businesses.

Given the eventful year in Parliament I would like to note that in addition to being a landmark report, the conduct of the committee was a great example of the cooperation and bipartisanship in parliament that often goes unnoticed.





## It's a Wrap: Agribusiness Australia

I am often invited to speak at defence industry events as Chair of the Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade (JSCFADT), but this month I had the pleasure of talking to a group of agribusiness professionals who form the local chapter of the Agribusiness Association of Australia.

My role in parliament covering these key portfolios, in addition to my work in intelligence and security, may at first glance seem remote from the commercial interests of the rural sector. However as I explained on the night, agriculture is inextricably linked to pursuing Australia's national interest in each of these areas.

The multilateral mechanisms created in the aftermath of WWII have enabled a rules-based approach to the resolution of competing

international interests, fundamental to maintaining world peace and regional security. Seven decades of unprecedented prosperity have followed, lifting millions of people out of poverty and overcoming food insecurity in many countries.

From a foreign policy perspective, Australia has promoted a comprehensive approach to global food needs. A recent example has been efforts to restore Australia's trade relations with Indonesia, supporting Indonesia's cattle breeding programs and helping to create better certainty for the trade of Australian live cattle through the Red Meat and Cattle Partnership.

It is clear that agriculture plays an essential role in our foreign aid program and broader economic diplomacy efforts, particularly in the Indo Pacific region to improve



agricultural productivity and open markets.

Of paramount importance to our local exporters, the Australian Government is also working hard to maintain freedom of navigation in international waters by working with our military allies. Yet few in rural industry realise that disruption to existing trade routes could also impact critical inbound sea freight such as Australia's just-in-time fuel supply at peak seasonal demand, including harvest.

These considerations underpin investments in defence. The Government's Naval Shipbuilding Plan will boost Australia's sovereign defence capability at a time of increasing risk of conflict in our region, arising from geopolitical

tensions over North Korea or the South China Sea in the immediate term.

Since the inception of the World Trade Organisation (WTO), multilateral trade talks have provided a foundation to rules-based international trade over the past 23 years. The Turnbull Government is actively working through this body to reduce distortions in global agricultural trade and to provide better market access for Australian exporters.

Earlier this month, Trade Minister Steven Ciobo attended the WTO Ministerial meeting in Buenos Aires and co-chaired a meeting of Cairns Group ministers to progress our goal of levelling the playing field in international agricultural





*Catching up with guests Jamie Smith & Brett Smith.*

trade. This work is undertaken closely with industry.

Looking ahead, Australia's trade and investment future in the European Union (EU) is in a strong position ahead of the launch of negotiations of the Australia–EU Free Trade Agreement (Australia–EU FTA). This will complement our bilateral trade talks with the United Kingdom, India and Indonesia, while regional agreements like the TPP-11 and the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership look ever-promising.

Past work in securing bilateral trade agreements in key markets such as China, Japan and Korea will only see further growth opportunities for agriculture, as tariffs progressively fall and technical

market access issues are resolved through negotiating new biosecurity protocols.

Since signing the Korea–Australia FTA three years ago, rounds of tariff reductions continue to apply. From January to September 2017, sheep meat exports have grown by 95.2 per cent to \$83.8 million in 2017, when compared to the same period last year.

With the backing of private sector investment and innovation, the Australian agricultural sector is a case study in the benefits of trade liberalisation.

In 2017 the value of agricultural exports was more than \$50 billion, up from \$41 billion five years ago; contributing over 14% of Austral-

ia's \$344 billion goods and services exported this year.

This outstanding achievement also meant that agriculture became the largest contributor to Australia's national GDP growth and the fastest growing economic sector in 2016/17.

As an example, the wine industry has enjoyed significant growth in recent years on the back of market access gains, with Australia's wine exports forecast to exceed 800 million litres worth \$2.5 billion in

2017/18.

In the face of rising global protectionism and regional insecurity, Australia's future depends on the maintenance of a rules-based international order in foreign affairs, defence and trade.

It is therefore incumbent upon peak industry bodies such as Agribusiness Australia, to continue to make the case for market-oriented economic, trade and agricultural policies to support international trade.

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## Supporting advanced manufacturing in Kingston

I had the pleasure of visiting local manufacturing firm, REDARC Electronics in my paired electorate of Kingston this month.

Established in 1979, REDARC is an Australian-owned company, supplying patented Australian designed and manufactured solutions to the domestic and international heavy commercial and defence vehicle sectors.

The company was recently awarded \$556,204 in Commonwealth funding to support the expansion

of its advanced manufacturing operations in Lonsdale.

This funding was awarded as part of the \$47.5 million Advanced Manufacturing Growth Fund, designed specifically to encourage further investment in advanced manufacturing projects in South Australia and Victoria.

The Growth Fund is a competitive, merits-based program encouraging the development and use of advanced technologies,



design and engineering excellence as well as innovative business processes that improve the overall efficiency and competitiveness of Australia's manufacturing firms.

As the local manufacturing sector transitions from traditional, heavy industrial processes to knowledge based manufacturing of higher value products, defence industry is rapidly emerging as one of South Australia's identified growth areas for investment.

Key to this growth has been the Turnbull Government's record investment of \$90 billion for naval shipbuilding that will benefit

South Australia's defence industry for decades to come.

Managing Director, Mr Anthony Kittel said REDARC had recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding with German Naval C2 and Navigation System Integrator, Raytheon Anschutz to partner for future Australian naval projects.

With other key projects arising from the most recent Defence White Paper, REDARC is well positioned to further expand the company's involvement in the military vehicle and naval systems sector.



*Meeting with REDARC in Kingston.*

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[senatorfawcett.com.au](http://senatorfawcett.com.au)



*Opening Prince's Terrace with His Excellency, Mr Hieu Van Le.*

## Opening Prince's Terrace

It was good to join the Governor of South Australia, Mr Hieu Van Le to open Prince's Terrace at Bowden earlier this month. Located in Bowden, the Prince's Terrace will provide high quality housing to our serving defence personnel while also setting new benchmarks for housing standards and building efficiency.

The Prince's Trust, which was established in the UK in 1976, coordinates the charitable endeavours of HRH Prince Charles by working in partnership with Australian businesses and other

charities to deliver high-impact, evidence-based programs across the country. HRH Prince Charles visited the Terrace in Bowden in 2015, turning the first sod of the development.

The Prince's Trust also supports Defence in other areas such as its flagship 'Lead Your Own Business' program, which provides defence personnel who are transitioning back to civilian life with a 12-18 month course which incorporates tailored mentorship, and the development of a business plan.





*Welcoming students from Tyndale Christian School to Parliament House.*

## Out and About

I was pleased to welcome an enthusiastic group of students from Tyndale Christian School in my paired electorate of Makin to Parliament House. Many school students undertake a trip to Canberra to visit national institutions including Parliament as part of their curriculum, and so they came armed with plenty of questions on the law making process which I was happy to answer.

Closer to home, I was able to join the Bright SEC for their monthly 'politics by the sea' function as the guest speaker, where I talked

about my work in Canberra as a Liberal Senator, and the work that I do as Chair of the Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade.

In Canberra, I enjoyed firing up the BBQ with my colleague Senator Linda Reynolds, Senator for WA at the end of the Parliamentary sitting year to thank our staff for the long hours they have put in to support work here in Canberra, on the road with committee inquiries and in our home states.







**David Fawcett**  
**Liberal Senator for South Australia**

Deputy Government Whip in the Senate

Chair, Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade

Parliamentary Joint Committee on Intelligence and Security

Joint Standing Committee on Treaties

Senate Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade

Senate Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs

Senate Standing Committee on Appropriations, Staffing and Security

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