



# THE FAWCETT FLYER

AUGUST 2019



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Australia has a longstanding commitment to the stability of the global rules based order which has prevented major conflict and underpinned prosperity through trade and lifted millions out of poverty around the world.

This commitment includes security of global trade routes which has led Prime Minister Scott Morrison to announce that we will contribute to an International Maritime Force providing security for merchant vessels in the Persian Gulf's Strait of Hormuz.

Yet again, the men and women of the Australian Defence Force are stepping up to serve our national interests. They are well equipped and highly trained and as they deploy I wish them success in their mission in the Strait of Hormuz in the Persian Gulf and a safe return to family and friends.

In addition to the global rules based order, Australia continues to support freedom. In this context I continue to take considerable interest in developments in Hong Kong. The circumstances in Hong Kong began in opposition to proposed extradition legislation but have developed into a broader bid to preserve the democratic

freedoms the people of Hong Kong have grown up enjoying under British government.

China is a valued trading partner for Australia but I share the concerns of many regarding potential threats to the basic freedoms of Hong Kong citizens that were intended to be protected under the "one country - two systems" framework.

In this edition of the Fawcett Flyer, I will update you on developments from Committees (*page 5*), share how a new agreement between the SA and Federal governments will result in a boost to state infrastructure (*page 2*), summarise our ongoing relationship with region partner the Solomon Islands (*page 6*), and how our Government is pushing to protect farmers from criminal threats (*page 4*).

If you would like more information on any of these or another issue of a Federal nature, please contact my office.

**SENATOR  
DAVID  
FAWCETT**



# SA AND FED AGREEMENT ENABLES INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRESS

Within the next two years, ten significant transport infrastructure projects will commence across Adelaide as a result of a new agreement between the Federal and State Liberal governments creating jobs, improving freight connections and safety, and helping South Australians get where they need to go faster.

This agreement builds on the strong record of our two governments working together to deliver infrastructure investment across Adelaide and the regions.

In the fifteen years between 2013 and 2028, South Australia is benefitting from more than \$8 billion in Federal infrastructure funding - \$1.9 billion over the next four years alone.

\$361 million of this federal funding will be delivered through the Urban Congestion Fund. This program will fund upgrades to rail crossing and intersections to improve road safety and reduce travel time for road users.

The most significant ongoing infrastructure project in Adelaide

is the North-South Corridor, which will allow commuters to travel 78km uninterrupted from Gawler to Old Noarlunga.

The Federal Government is providing \$708 million to the Northern Connector and \$534 million to the Darlington Upgrade sections of the Corridor, both of which are expected to be completed in the next 12 months. The final Torrens to Darlington stage of the project will receive \$2.711 billion in Federal funding.

In addition to road infrastructure, we are investing in Adelaide's railway system with \$62.5 million to the Flinders Rail Link, and \$220 million for the Gawler Rail Line Electrification project – expected to be completed in late 2020.

For more information on this agreement, [click here](#) or use the QR Code below.



## IN THE MEDIA

Adelaide manufacturer Supashock's new headquarters at Holden Hill were officially opened this month.

I attended the official opening alongside Premier Steven Marshall, Senator the Hon Simon Birmingham, and former Defence Minister Christopher Pyne among many other distinguished guests and defence personnel.

Founded in 2005 creating high performance automotive racing shock absorbers, Supashock have since expanded into defence mobility and now are developing parts specifically produced for autonomous vehicles.

In partnership with Rheinmetall, Supashock is now part of the

global supply chain for heavy transport vehicles and military armoured vehicles as well as developing smart systems to support operations and logistics.

They're an exemplar of the ongoing development of Australia's sovereign defence industry, delivering world class capability for our Defence force as well as developing new and innovative technology that is winning contracts in the US and Europe.

For more information on the Holden Hill facility opening, [click here](#) or use the QR Code below.



# CHANGES NEEDED TO PROTECT AUSTRALIAN FARMERS

Our Government is committed to tackling the problem of activists who illegally enter farms.

Under the proposed Criminal Code (Agricultural Protection) Bill 2019, activists who publish material via a carriage service encouraging others to trespass or damage property will be subject to heavier fines, and face up to 5 years' imprisonment. The toughening of laws will protect Australian farming families and agricultural businesses from intimidation and harassment, serious commercial damage and other intrusions which inhibit their ability to maintain an honest livelihood.

Farming and agriculture have long been an integral part of Australia's social, economic and environmental sustainability. Most farmers and agricultural businesses are run by families, not giant multinationals, and they simply aren't able to protect themselves adequately against this threat to their livelihood.

Farmers are frontline contributors to Australia's food supply, and trespassing on farming property regardless of the motivation is

unwarranted. The Bill also covers private agricultural businesses such as fishers and foresters- protecting our \$60 billion agriculture industry.

Exemptions have been included in the proposed legislation for whistle-blowers and journalists who expose instances of animal cruelty. I support the protection of Australian farmers and agricultural workers, and hope this amendment will draw a line in the sand to deter the illegal behaviour of vigilante-activists.

Groups who incite vigilante behaviour inviting their supporters to steal livestock from hardworking farmers, will now be liable for up to \$2.1 million for breaches of privacy, should this legislation pass into law.

This Bill is currently before the House of Representatives and an inquiry on the impact of this legislation is being conducted by the Senate's Legal and Constitutional Affairs Legislation Committee. To follow the passage of this Bill, [click here](#) or use the QR code below.





## COMMITTEE UPDATE

In the August Parliamentary winter break, the work continues as there is more time to coordinate Committee hearings with the Members and Senators.

This month, the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Intelligence and Security (PJCIS) held its second public hearing for the inquiry into the Citizenship Revocation powers. This legislation is used to prevent terrorists who hold dual nationality from returning to or remaining in Australia. The committee is required by law to review the need for, use of and effectiveness of this legislation on a periodic basis.

PJCIS also held a public hearing for the inquiry into the impact of the exercise of law enforcement and intelligence powers on the freedom of the press. Future inquiries for PJCIS include two reviews into three

national security bills which aim to strengthen Australia's counter-terrorism legislative framework, and facilitate the secure, automated and accountable exchange of identity information between Commonwealth and state and territory governments.

The Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications held two public hearings regarding concerns over declining populations of threatened native animal species. This inquiry continues following a reference initiated by Labor, the Greens and crossbench. The Federal Liberal Government has substantial conservation initiatives such as Threatened Species Strategy, Environment Restoration Fund, Landcare, and Communities Environment Program investing many millions of dollars into proactive environmental management.

# SUPPORTING THE SOLOMON ISLANDS FOR LIFE AFTER RAMSI

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Australia has a deep and long standing relationship with Solomon Islands. The Solomon Islands (SI) have only recently emerged from a decade and a half of political and social turmoil. Australia was a partner in the 14 year Regional Assistance Mission to Solomon Islands (RAMSI), and following its conclusion in June 17, SI have since celebrated the success of their first democratic election since RAMSI.

Prime Minister Scott Morrison recently met with Prime Minister Manasseh Sogavare in the capital city of Honoaria to discuss our shared historical and geographical ties (*pictured, above*).

In line with our bilateral security

treaty signed in 2017, we have committed to deeper cooperation on defence and security with SI.

Australia is providing technical assistance to SI to help develop a border security strategy. Defence Minister, Senator the Hon Linda Reynolds will visit SI to discuss security cooperation later this month.

To support greater security and stability in the region, \$37.9 million in funding has been delivered to establish the Australia Pacific Security College, providing local senior executive and middle management security and law enforcement training to Pacific Island nations so they are better equipped

to face security challenges.

The Seasonal Workers Program is a mutually beneficial initiative which helps fill labour shortages in rural and regional Australia while helping Pacific workers develop valuable skills and take up work opportunities.

Since 2012, the program has seen over 18,000 Pacific islanders travel to Australia for seasonal labour, and we're providing \$2.7 million over three years to deliver additional support for recruitment and mobilisation of temporary workers.

As part of the new Australian Infrastructure Financing Facility for the Pacific, announced by Minister Payne in July, Australia will provide up to \$250 million to SI in grant financing over 10 years to support key national and economic infrastructure such as telecommunications, energy, transport, water amongst others.

Current trade ties with SI are fruitful with almost 900 Australian businesses benefiting from the export of goods for a total of \$317 million worth of bilateral trade in 2017.

Further economic development in

the region is another priority for the Government and DFAT. The "PACER Plus" agreement is a comprehensive free trade agreement covering goods, services, and investment throughout the Pacific. The agreement is an important part of Australia's commitment to help foster continued security and stability in the region and is expected to be ratified this year.

As part of our ongoing commitment to a sustainable climate, Prime Minister Scott Morrison recently announced a \$500 million dollar renewable energy infrastructure and climate and disaster resilience package at the Pacific Islands forum in Tuvalu. This builds on the \$300 million already given by the Federal Liberal Government from 2016 to 2020, highlighting our commitment to not just meet our emissions reduction obligations at home, but to support our neighbours in the Pacific too.

There is more that we are doing to strengthen and engage with our neighbours in SI. [Click here](#) or use the QR code below to view.



## US AND NATO DELEGATIONS ARRIVE ON OUR SHORES



This month, I met with the Northern Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) Secretary-General, Jens Stoltenberg, to discuss Australia's ongoing commitment to NATO's objectives as one of its largest non-member contributors to the International Security Assistance Force and related operations.

We shared a productive discussion regarding Australia's role in global security and stability. I look forward to representing the Government at the 65th Annual Session of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly in London, in October this year.

NATO is currently leading missions in Afghanistan with Australian support and engages in air defence support activities, disaster relief operations,

defence training and air patrols across the globe.

Australia is one of five countries which have enhanced opportunities for dialogue and cooperation with the NATO Allies, and diplomatic relations with member states have been positive for Australian representation in the Assembly's biannual summit-level meetings.

As part of my role as Chair of the Joint Standing Committee for Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade (JSCFADT), I met with a US Congressional Delegation to discuss regional security and trade and to explore new measures we could back to further enhance the ongoing close relationship between the US and Australia.

## AUSTRALIA'S JOBS AND TRADE GROWTH

Despite the global economic caution and fear, Australians were given a number of reasons this month to be optimistic about the economic future of our nation.

In July, more than 41,000 new jobs were created throughout Australia, of which 34,500 were full time. More than 1.4 million new jobs have been created across our economy since a Federal Liberal Government was elected in 2013. The percentage of working age Australians on welfare has fallen to 14.3% – the lowest rate of welfare dependency in over 30 years – and our labour force participation rate is now 66.1% - a record high. Australia's employment growth rate hit 2.6% for the year, above the 1.8% long term average.

Domestic job creation is positively influenced by healthy international trade and Australia is reaping the reward of a record trade surplus of \$49.89 billion for the 2018/19 financial year. An increase of more than \$66 billion on 2017/18, we're focussed

on improving the strength of our export sector by promoting growth of Australian industries into overseas markets.

We have signed Free Trade Agreements with Hong Kong, Indonesia, Peru, and Pacific Island nations, and are in the process of negotiating an agreement with the EU. An FTA with the EU has the potential to open up a market of 500 million people and a GDP of \$25.1 trillion, underpinning the Government's commitment to ensuring open trade, a key part of the plan to keep our economy strong. It will advance our election commitment to ensure around 90% of Australia's trade is covered by FTAs by 2022.

In addition to FTA's, the 2019/20 Federal Budget included \$61 million over the next three years to support Australian businesses looking to break into new international markets and sell their products overseas, as part of the Export Market Development Grants (EMDG) scheme.

# OUT AND ABOUT



On the anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan, I joined with others to remember the service and sacrifice of South Australians in a commemorative service for Vietnam Veterans.

Of the 521 Australian servicemen killed in the Vietnam War, 58 of them were from South Australia.



Parliamentary Joint Committee on Intelligence and Security public hearings allow Senators and Members to question witnesses in relation to the continued efficacy of a Bill passed by Parliament.

This month, we held a further hearing to inquire of the Citizenship Revocation powers.



At the official opening of Supashock's new Holden Hill facility, I took the opportunity to speak with many of the distinguished guests, including former Defence Minister the Hon Christopher Pyne, and ADF personnel.

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