



THE FAWCETT FLYER

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2022



2022 is proving to be an incredibly important year in South Australia. At the time of writing, we are in the midst of a state election, and the federal election is expected within a couple months.

Over the course of approximately three months, South Australians will be asked to decide on the leadership of our state and country.

We must not put at risk the stability, security and prosperity created by both the Morrison Federal and Marshall State Liberal Governments during challenging circumstances.

It is only because of the sound economic management of Liberal governments, ensuring that Australia's economy remains strong and stable, that we can continue to guarantee the essential services on which Australians rely – such as health, education and national security.

The Federal Liberal Government is contributing record investments in areas such as health, education and transport infrastructure. The State Liberal Government is using these funds – and contributing more – to deliver projects such as major upgrades to Modbury Hospital and the Lyell McEwin, upgrading dozens of existing schools and building new ones, and investing in significant road and transport projects to get South Australians where they need to go quicker and safer.

Additionally, significant national investment from the Morrison Government in the defence, space and cyber security sectors is growing sovereign capability, jobs, and investment in South Australia - improving the state's economic outlook and reversing the exodus of skilled professionals out of the state.

For more information on these or other matters of a federal nature, please contact my office via the details available on the back cover.

Kind regards,

**SENATOR THE HON
DAVID FAWCETT**



Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade (JSCFADT) Defence Sub-Committee visited South Australia in February to receive briefings on Australian defence assets and capabilities based at RAAF Edinburgh.

The sub-committee received briefings on the Air Warfare Centre – ISR, Space and Jindalee Operational Radar Network (JORN) capabilities and the research underway at Defence Science and Technology (DST) Edinburgh.

Following the passage of legislation through the Parliament in December, the Autonomous Sanctions Amendment (Magnitsky-style and Other Thematic Sanctions) Bill 2021 has now entered into force. This legislation reforms and modernises Australia's existing autonomous sanctions regime to enable the Australian Government to apply targeted and thematic sanctions and travel bans to perpetrators of serious human rights abuse and corruption. As JSCFADT Chair, I tabled the Committee's report on its 'Inquiry into whether Australia should examine the use of targeted sanctions to address human rights abuses' in the Senate in December 2020.

As part of an inquiry into the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade Annual Report 2019-20, the JSCFADT Foreign Affairs and Aid Sub-committee conducted an Inquiry into Australia's response to the coup in Myanmar, releasing their report in June 2021. In December, the Government released its response to the committee's 8 recommendations, agreeing to 5, noting 2 and agreeing in principle to 1.

Also as part of the Inquiry into certain aspects of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade Annual Report 2019-20, the JSCFADT Human Rights Sub-Committee released its 'Advocating for the elimination of child and forced marriage' report in December. The report makes 9 recommendations to the Government regarding how it can move toward the elimination of this abusive practice.

In February, the JSCFADT Trade Sub-Committee concluded an inquiry into 'Expanding the membership of the Comprehensive and Progressive Trans-Pacific Partnership' – a free trade agreement (FTA) between Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Canada, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, Peru,

New Zealand, Singapore and Vietnam. The Committee believe that the CPTPP would benefit from the addition of South Korea, the UK, and Taiwan, and Australia should consider negotiating a bilateral Taiwan-Australia FTA concurrently.

The Committee noted that China, who have applied for CPTPP membership, would have to re-establish full trading relations including ending its coercive trade measures and reengaging in ministerial dialogue, among other recommendations, before being considered as a suitable CPTPP partner.

In late December, the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Intelligence and Security (PJCIS) commenced a review of the listing of Hizballah and The Base as terrorist organisations under the Criminal Code. Submissions for this review are now closed and report consideration is underway.

Following the PJCIS recommendation that Hamas be listed in its entirety as a terrorist organisation, Minister Andrews announced in February that the Government has accepted the committee's recommendation and is listing all wings of Hamas under the Criminal Code – including its political wing.

Between December and February, the PJCIS concluded two reviews, into the Telecommunications Sector Security Reforms, and amendments made to Commonwealth legislation by the Telecommunications and Other Legislation Amendment (Assistance and Access) Act 2018. The Committee also completed an advisory report on the Intelligence Oversight and Other Legislation Amendment (Integrity Measures) Bill 2020.

The Senate Standing Legislation Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade (SSCFADT), of which I am a member, held Estimates hearings on the 16th and 17th February.

While I am not a member of the SSCFADT References Committee, I participated in the committee's inquiry into Australia's engagement in Afghanistan. The committee's interim report was released in January, ahead of a full report expected in mid March. A public hearing was held on February 2nd.

For more information on current and past Parliamentary Committee Inquiries, click [here](#) or scan the QR Code below.



FIRST OPV 4 LAUNCHED



The first of Australia's Arafura Class Offshore Patrol Vessel (OPV) fleet – NUSHIP Arafura – was launched at Adelaide's state-of-the-art Osborne Naval Shipyard, in December.

The first of 12 vessels, built to replace the Royal Australian Navy's Armidale and Cape class patrol boats, has now finished construction and was released into the water. All 12 OPVs are to be built in Australia – the first 2 constructed here in South Australia by Luerksen Australia and ASC.

The 80-metre diesel-powered vessels boast a displacement of 1640 tonnes, a speed of 20 knots, and a range of more than 7000 kilometres – equipped with advanced sensors and communications systems.

In addition to the construction of the first 2 OPVs, South Australia is delivering the fleet of 9 Hunter Class frigates; up to 8 nuclear-powered submarines; the full-cycle docking

and life-of-type extension of the Collins Class submarines; and a major upgrade of the air warfare destroyers' combat management system; among other projects.

The Australian Government's investment in our maritime security capability is creating job security for thousands of Australian workers – using Australian steel to construct these vessels. The Australian Government is investing \$270 billion to upgrade our nation's defence capability over the next decade – creating greater stability for Australia's sovereign defence industry, while generating and sustaining Australian jobs.

For more information, click [here](#) or scan the QR Code below.



OPENING UP GLOBAL MARKETS TO AUSTRALIAN EXPORTERS

Complementing the recently announced AUKUS partnership, Australia's relationship with the UK has been further strengthened with virtual signing of a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between our 2 countries, in late December. This agreement benefits Australians and Australian businesses through, among other measures, the immediate elimination of tariffs on over 99% of Australian goods exports to the UK, valued at around \$9.2 billion; the removal of around \$43 million in annual customs duties on Australian wine; and, phasing out of tariffs on British imports on goods such as cars, whiskey, confectionery, biscuits and cosmetics over the next 5 years.

Additionally, the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (RCEP) – the world's largest FTA – entered into force on January 1st. Australia joins 15 Indo-Pacific countries as part of RCEP – including ASEAN nations and ASEAN's FTA partners (one of which is Australia).

Combined GDP of the 15 RCEP nations, is approximately US\$26.3 trillion and this FTA enables the potential reach to a global market of approximately 2.3 billion people. The other 14 nations already constitute \$532.6 billion in trade with Australia, in 2019 figures.

In regard to ongoing negotiations for the bilateral Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement with India, a virtual meeting took place in late December between Minister Tehan and the Hon Mr Piyush Goyal of India as both parties seek to expedite negotiations.

75% of Australia's trading markets are now covered by FTAs, representing preferential access to 3.35 billion customers, up from 26% when the Federal Liberal Government formed in 2013. Since elected in 2013, the Federal Liberal Government has entered into 10 FTAs with Korea, Japan, Hong Kong, Peru, and Indonesia, among others. In December 2020, the PACER-Plus Agreement entered into force between Australia, New Zealand, and Pacific Island nations as a development-centred FTA to help secure a stable, prosperous region. Our Government has a plan to ensure around 90% of Australia's trade is covered by FTAs by 2022, giving all Australian businesses the opportunity to be competitive in the global marketplace.

For more information on RCEP, click [here](#) or scan the QR Code below.



SOVEREIGN C4 EDGE 6 CAPABILITY DEMONSTRATED



In late December, I had the opportunity to see a demonstration of the mobile tactical communication system being developed through the C4 EDGE program at Codan Communications' premises in Mawson Lakes. SA's Codan Communications, Acacia Systems, and Solinnov are part of C4 EDGE (Evolutionary Digital Ground Environment) – a defence industry collaboration between 31 Australian small-to-medium sized businesses established to design, develop and manufacture a C4 (command control communications and computers) capacity proof-of-concept.

C4 EDGE has successfully trialled a prototype mobile tactical communications system for the Australian Army – funded by the Morrison Government's \$35 million investment. The proof-of-concept needed to demonstrate the flexibility, scalability and interoperability necessary for a modern battlegroup, in line with Army's C4 capability requirements. This program has taken an innovative approach with

a partnership of SMEs around Australia leveraging their collective IP and expertise to demonstrate that Australian industry can provide an advanced, integrated command and control environment designed for the Australian Army's mission and environment. The Morrison Government recognizes that elements of Australian industry are a fundamental input to our defence capability if we are going to maintain a sovereign capacity for independent action.

I officially welcomed Codan and Solinnov to the C4 EDGE cooperative, in August 2020, at the event held at Codan's facilities. In October 2020, I had the privilege of opening Solinnov's new premises in Mawson Lakes. For more information on the C4 EDGE project, click [here](#) or scan the QR Code below.



INVESTING IN SA RURAL HEALTH TRAINING

Through the Federal Government's support for the recruitment and retention of regional GPs and health professionals, we are seeking to improve access to health care and health outcomes for people living in the more remote areas of our nation.

The Morrison Government is delivering over \$60 million to train more regional GPs in SA, through the Rural Health Multidisciplinary Training (RHMT) program – continuing to tackle Australia's long-running rural GP shortage.

This funding is to be divided among three SA universities - Flinders University, the University of Adelaide and the University of South Australia – which take part in RHMT, and operate clinical training placements in 14 towns across SA.

The funding announced in February is for 2022-2024 and enables the three universities to continue to operate and improve their RHMT facilities – facilitating hundreds of medical students, nurses, midwives and dentists each year to undertake their training in regional and rural SA.

RHMT funds a network of rural clinical schools, university departments of rural health, and regional training hubs across rural and remote Australia.

RHMT is part of the Coalition Government's \$550 million 10-year Stronger Rural Health Strategy, announced in the 2018/19 Budget.

Throughout 2020, the three SA universities supported 81 medical students in clinical placements through the RHMT program, each lasting a year.

These were in addition to the 155 short term medical placements and more than 1,380 placements for student nurses, midwives, and allied health professionals.

While there's still more to be done to tackle Australia's rural GP shortage, our Government is working to support creative solutions to get GPs into our regions, through various employment models, the Remote Vocational Training Scheme, as well as the National Rural Generalist Pathway program to better equip locally trained doctors to work in rural communities.

For more information, click [here](#) or scan the QR Code below.



RECIPROCAL ACCESS 8 AGREEMENT SIGNED

As Chair of the Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade, I welcomed the signing of the Reciprocal Access Agreement (RAA) in January, as part of a virtual leaders' summit between Prime Minister Scott Morrison and Japanese Prime Minister His Excellency Fumio Kishida.

The Australia-Japan relationship is one of our closest bilateral relationships in Asia and is fundamental to both countries' strategic and economic interests. It's underpinned by shared values, aligned visions for the region, complementary economies, and longstanding people-to-people links.



The RAA is Japan's only Reciprocal Status of Forces Agreement and only the second major defence agreement Japan has signed, demonstrating the significance of our relationship. The RAA facilitates greater and more complex practical engagement between the Australian

Defence Force and the Japanese Self-Defense Forces – enhancing our interoperability and cooperation, and supporting our joint involvement in broader multilateral exercises. The agreement will facilitate further joint exercises, disaster relief, and defence force interoperability – building on the strong defence co-operation we currently share.

As part of our existing Special Strategic Partnership, Australia and Japan have a broad, deep and growing relationship that aims to contribute to a prosperous, free, open, inclusive, secure and stable Indo-Pacific region. Alongside India and the US as part of the Quad partnership, Australia and Japan share a commitment to support the Indo-Pacific. Focussed on our region, the RAA complements the recently established AUKUS partnership, as well as Australia's Comprehensive and Strategic Partnerships with our ASEAN neighbours.

For Prime Minister Morrison's comments regarding the RAA, click [here](#) or scan the QR Code below.



OUT AND ABOUT



Great to join Member for King Paula Luethen MP at The Grove Shopping Village in February to speak with Makin locals about the issues that matter most to them. Federal Liberal Candidate for Makin Alan Howard-Jones also took the opportunity to hear from locals during the day.



I attended the Hammond SEC fundraising event at Longhorne Creek in mid-February with Premier Steven Marshall and Member for Hammond, Adrian Pederick MP.



As His Excellency concludes his time in the role, I met with the Singaporean High Commissioner to Australia His Excellency Mr Kwok Fook Seng to wish him all the best for the future.



On Australia Day, I represented the Australian Immigration Minister at the City of Tea Tree Gully Citizenship Ceremony and to congratulate the 72 new Australian citizens who participated in the ceremony. My state colleagues, Premier Steven Marshall, Paula Luethen MP, Richard Harvey MP, and Hon John Dawkins MLC, and Federal Candidate for Makin Alan Howard-Jones were also in attendance throughout the morning.

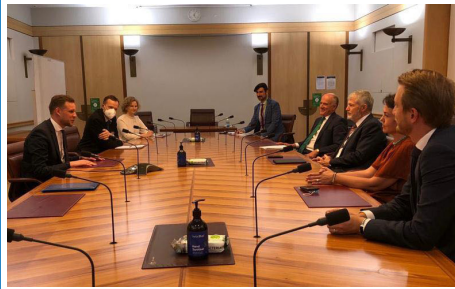




I had the opportunity to visit Aerotech in the Adelaide Hills in February – a great South Australian company, employing 60 full time employees, operating a 30-strong fleet of aircraft across the State. These Black Hawk aircraft assist the SA Country Fire Service suppress bushfires in aerial firefighting operations.



The JSCFADT Defence Sub-Committee members visited SA in February for briefings of Australian defence assets based at RAAF Edinburgh and Defence Science and Technology (DST) Edinburgh research facilities. I signed the attendees book on behalf of the committee.



As Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade (JSCFADT) Chair, I hosted a meeting in February with the Foreign Minister of Lithuania His Excellency Gabrielius Landsbergis and his delegation. Lithuania has recently been subject to coercive trade measures by the Chinese Communist Party which are being challenged by the European Union in the WTO. Australia has joined the action as a 3rd Party given our commitment to the global rules-based order as a basis for stability, security and shared prosperity.

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@senatorfawcett





Liberal Senator for South Australia

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

**Suite 4, 13/100 King William Street, Adelaide SA 5000
8205 1040**

senator.fawcett@aph.gov.au

senatorfawcett.com.au