



THE FAWCETT FLYER

MAY/JUNE 2021



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Current circumstances and increased COVID-19 case numbers in New South Wales demonstrate how vigilant we all must be when it comes to living with this virus, ensuring we continue to avoid the worst of the pandemic that we see overseas, and return to pre-pandemic norms as soon as possible. Vaccination will be a key part of doing this.

Australia's COVID-19 vaccine rollout is ramping up significantly. As of early July, one million doses are now administered approximately every 9 days. Over 9 million COVID-19 vaccines have been administered, and half of all NDIS participants in residential accommodation have received at least one dose. All 2,566 Commonwealth residential Aged Care facilities across Australia have received both doses. Prime Minister Scott Morrison has also announced one million doses of the Pfizer vaccine are being fast-tracked each week from mid-July to further scale up Australia's COVID-19 vaccine rollout. There is still more to be done, but Australia is charting a course out of the pandemic that will get us to the other side and see life gradually return to normal. Australia's economy is bigger now than it was going into the pandemic – something no other major advanced economy has achieved.

In April, Prime Minister Morrison announced Australian service personnel were withdrawing from Afghanistan, and drawdown had completed by late June. More than 39,000 ADF personnel have served in Afghanistan in the 20 years since initial deployment, and 41 Australians made the ultimate sacrifice – many more physically and mentally wounded. I honour the service and sacrifice of the Australians who fought to reduce the threat of Al-Qaeda terrorist basing in Afghanistan, bring hope and the opportunity for freedom to a generation of Afghans. 230 translators and other Afghans who supported Australian military and civil operators have been granted visas to come to Australia since April – totalling 1,480 since 2013.

I would like to congratulate, Secretary for the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Ms Frances Adamson who will be South Australia's 36th Governor, succeeding His Excellency the Honourable Hieu Van Le AC who has been outstanding as Governor since 2014.

For more information on any matters in this edition of the Fawcett Flyer or other matters of a federal nature, please contact my office.

Kind regards,

**SENATOR THE HON
DAVID FAWCETT**



In late May and early June, Senate Budget Estimates gave Senators the opportunity to ask Ministers, Government Departments and Agencies how taxpayer funds are being used and ensure accountability is maintained. These included the Department of Defence and the ABC, among others. My Senate Estimates involvement consisted of my roles as Chair the Environment and Communication (E&C) Legislation Committee and member of the Senate Foreign Affairs Defence and Trade Legislation Committee.

The Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade (JSCFADT) Inquiry into the implications of the COVID-19 pandemic for Australia's foreign affairs, defence and trade explored many questions and concerns about how Australia can be better prepared to deal with interruptions to our supply chains, in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. Since release of the JSCFADT report, the Government announced the establishment of an Office of Supply Chain Resilience (SCR) to monitor vulnerabilities and coordinate whole-of-government responses to improve ongoing access to essential goods.

In early July, I was able to virtually meet with Representative Mike Gallagher from the US House of Representatives. We discussed the JSCFADT report's findings and Mr Gallagher provided insight into his role as co-chair of the Defense Critical Supply Chain Task Force – which is aiming to identify items critical to US national security, vulnerabilities in those supply chains, and a legislative plan of action to build resilience against future shocks. Key priorities include semiconductors and critical minerals.

This also follows on from the Biden-Harris Administration's recent findings from the Executive Order to analyse America's Supply Chains. Many of the findings in the report were consistent with the JSCFADT recommendations, including identifying critical systems, as well as the need to identify and work with trusted partners to secure supply chains and mitigate vulnerabilities, in areas such as semiconductors and critical minerals.

I have facilitated meetings between the Office of SCR and key stakeholders such as Silanna – an Australian manufacturer of semiconductors which are

an essential input for electronic devices, in many defence and civil applications – to explore how Australia can work to be a trusted supplier to the US.

Our Government's investment in strengthening our critical minerals sector will also benefit US supply chains, as they seek to build up their processing and refining capacity. Support for our critical mineral sector means we can help meet growing global demand for this resource used in most advanced technologies – including defence, renewable energy, agricultural and telecommunications – as one of the world's top 5 producers of critical minerals.

For more on what the Morrison Government is doing to improve supply chain resilience and develop sovereign capability, click [here](#) or scan the QR Code below.



Following March and April's public hearings, the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Intelligence and Security (PJCIS) inquiries, into national security risks affecting Australian higher education and into extremist movements and

radicalism in Australia, continue.

The PJCIS has tabled its report on the Review of the re-listing of Hezbollah's External Security Organisation (ESO) as a terrorist organisation under the Criminal Code. The committee supported the re-listing of ESO, and recommended that the government consider expanding the listing to include the whole Hezbollah organisation.

Over the last two months, the E&C Legislation Committee tabled 4 reports for inquiries including EPBC Amendment Bills and Broadcasting Legislation Amendment Bill 2021. In May, the E&C References Committee released 4 reports for Inquiries which included Australia Post, Impact of feral deer, pigs and goats in Australia, and Press Freedom, among others. As Chair of the Legislation Committee, I fill the role of Deputy Chair in the Labor/Greens dominated References Committee.

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



2021/22 BUDGET DELIVERS NEXT PHASE OF RECOVERY

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The Morrison Government's 2021/22 Federal Budget is focussed on securing Australia's ongoing recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and setting the nation up for the future – strengthening our economy, creating more and better local jobs, improving our national resilience, and guaranteeing the essential services Australians rely on.

With record funding for hospitals, Medicare, mental health and aged care, our Government is guaranteeing the essential health services that Australians rely on. In 2021/22, South Australia's hospitals and health system receives \$1.6 billion, while a further \$1.9 billion is being invested in Australia's

COVID-19 vaccine rollout and \$1.1 billion to extend COVID-19 response measures. In response to the Aged Care Royal Commission, over \$17.7 billion is to be invested in aged care across Australia and implemented through our 5-year/5-pillar Aged Care Reform Plan.

SA students are to benefit from our Government's record \$1.8 billion funding for schools in South Australia in 2021/22 – a 64 per cent increase in SA schools funding since forming Government in 2013. Australian universities will also receive more than \$19 billion in funding in 2021/22, with 30,000 additional university places having been made available through our Government's Job-Ready Graduates' Package.

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More than 5,000 direct and indirect South Australian jobs are expected to be supported through the Morrison Government's \$3.2 billion investment in SA infrastructure. An additional \$1 billion is being invested in the \$2 billion Road Safety Program – delivering thousands of kilometres of road upgrades throughout Australia while supporting around 4,500 jobs. Among other projects, the Truro Bypass receives \$161.6 million, the Gawler Rail Line Electrification Project receives an additional \$60 million and the North-South corridor receives a further \$2.6 billion to construct the final stretch from Darlington to Anzac Highway.

The 2021/22 Budget provides a tax cut for more than 720,000 South Australians – up to \$1,080 for individuals or \$2,160 for couples. Over 99 per cent of Australian businesses, who employ over 11 million workers, can benefit from the extension and expansion of the Instant Asset Write-Off. Through an



additional \$500 million investment, the successful JobTrainer fund will be extended and expanded – delivering around 170,000 additional free or low-fee training places in areas of skills need.

This Budget continues to deliver strong, sustained investment in Defence and Australia's national security, and affirms the Federal Liberal Government's \$575 billion investment in Defence over the decade to 2029/30 – including \$270 billion to upgrade our defence capability. I write more about this Budget's investment in Defence on *Page 6*.

For more information on the 2021/22 Federal Budget, click [here](#) or scan the QR Code below.



2021/22 BUDGET AFFIRMS 6 DEFENCE CAPABILITY UPGRADES

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With the COVID-19 pandemic highlighting the importance of sovereign industry, this Budget accelerates the creation of the \$1 billion Sovereign Guided Weapons Enterprise, generating a more resilient strategic capability. Across two years, \$244 million is being invested through the 2021/22 Budget to support the refocusing of ADF presence from Middle East to Asia Pacific region, plus more than \$244 million for Operation RESOLUTE to continue to protect Australia's borders and offshore maritime interests through surveillance and response. Among support for other ADF bases, RAN base HMAS Cairns receives \$155 million in upgrades to introduce service sustainment of the new Arafura Class Offshore Patrol Vessels (OPVs).

Being built by ASC in partnership with Lürssen Australia, the first 2 OPVs – out of the fleet of 12 – are

currently under construction at the Osborne South Naval Shipyard.

Lead by BAE Systems Australia, the Hunter Class Frigate program is currently in the prototyping phase, where 5 prototype blocks are to be built to test the production systems, develop the facilities and ensure the workforce is trained to a high standard.

Lead by Naval Group Australia, the Attack Class Submarine program is currently in the design phase. Construction of the cutting-edge facilities at Osborne North Naval Shipyard – where the Royal Australian Navy's 12 Attack Class Submarines are to be built – is well under way. While in the UK to address the G7 leaders, Prime Minister Morrison met with French President Macron and held discussions to address concerns about the French Government's continued support to ensure that the Attack Class Submarine program is delivered as agreed.

For more on this Budget's investment in Defence, click [here](#) or scan the QR Code below.



WORLD-FIRST SUPPORT ENABLED ZOO SURVIVAL

In May, Zoos SA CEO Elaine Bensted (*pictured*) explained to me the positive impact that the Morrison Government's world-leading support had on the future of Australian zoos, during the COVID-19 pandemic. Between Job Keeper and AusTrade funding, Zoos SA – the conservation charity which manages Adelaide and Monarto Safari Park – were able to keep all their employees employed and continue to maintain a high standard of animal care, despite the pandemic's significant challenges.

In April 2020, the Australian Government provided \$94.6 million through AusTrade's 'Supporting Australia's Exhibiting Zoos and Aquariums' program, enabling eligible exhibiting zoos, aquariums and wildlife parks to maintain their animal populations where their tourism revenue has been affected by the travel and social distancing

restrictions in place to limit the spread of COVID-19.

This March, the Australian Government announced an extension of this program for a further six months, and an expansion of the funding to cover animal transfer costs where necessary due to welfare issues. This program was launched recognising the importance of our zoos for the Australian community, compensating for the ongoing expenses of animal care despite loss of revenue. AusTrade's program was the first initiative of its kind in the world and has been critical in keeping our zoos viable and animals cared for.

Throughout COVID-19, 62,300 organisations accessed JobKeeper payments, maintaining employment for 233,500 individuals.

To see Elaine speak about the impact of the Morrison Government's support for Zoos SA, click [here](#) or scan the QR Code below.



GROWING SA's RECYCLING INDUSTRY



In May, \$35.3 million was announced in joint Federal and State Government funding through the \$190 million Recycling Modernisation Fund (RMF) to invest in eight new projects for SA's recycling industry. The Morrison Government's RMF is expected to generate more than 10,000 jobs and, pursuant to new waste export bans, annually divert more than 10 million tonnes of landfill from being shipped overseas.

July 1st marks the introduction of a ban on the export of mixed plastic waste. By mid-2024, our Government's waste-bans will come into full effect, meaning Australia will need to recycle approximately 378,000 tonnes of mixed wastepaper and cardboard each year. These bans were legislated in December 2020, following an Inquiry I led as Chair of the Senate E&C Legislation Committee which also investigated reforms necessary for supporting sector innovation.

In February, I visited the North Plympton Solo Resource Recovery Facility (*pictured*) to discuss how waste can be harnessed as a resource.

Worth \$111 million, these eight RMF-funded projects will dramatically boost the SA recycling sector's capabilities, which already employs more than 4,800 people and diverts the highest rate of waste generated – 83.8% – from landfill, to resource recovery. The RMF package includes, among others \$7.9 million for a new wastepaper and cardboard recycling plant in Edinburgh North; and \$8 million for a glass processing plant at Kingsford, near Gawler. For more information on RMF funding in SA, click [here](#) or scan the QR Code below.



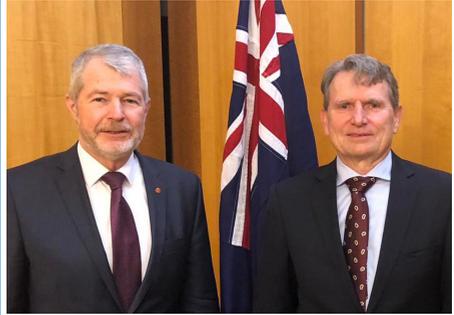
OUT AND ABOUT



Royal Australian Air Force No.24 (City of Adelaide) Squadron exercised its Freedom of Entry to the City of Adelaide – marking 70 years since the City of Adelaide granted the Squadron the right to carry its name. In 2021, the RAAF celebrates its centenary.



I represented the Prime Minister at the 79th commemoration of the Battle of the Coral Sea (4th-8th May 1942).



As JSCFADT Chair, it was good to meet with the European Union Ambassador, HE Dr Michael Pulch to discuss the EU Strategy for Cooperation in the Indo-Pacific and for the Committee to receive an update on the latest round of Free Trade Agreement negotiations.



PJCIS is one of the key oversight mechanisms for ASIO and associated national security legislation. While the Director General of ASIO, Mike Burgess and staff generally appear before the Committee in Parliament House, it was good to visit ASIO in their workplace along with my PJCIS colleagues.



I addressed the American Chamber of Commerce in Australia Health Trade Delegation Roundtable event, here in Adelaide. 2020 marked the 15th Anniversary of the Australia-United States Free Trade Agreement.

In June, it was great to address the Service Advisory Attaché Group (SAAG) – made up of Defence Attachés and representatives from 37 countries based in Canberra, including from the Army, Navy and Air Force of foreign nations – during their visit to Parliament House.



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