



THE FAWCETT FLYER

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2021



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September 1st marked the 70th anniversary of the signing the ANZUS Treaty – the first time Australia developed a political and security alliance without British oversight.

For more than 100 years following the WW1 Battle of Hamel where US and Australian forces first fought together under the command of Lieutenant General John Monash, the relationship between our two nations has been characterised by mutual benefit. In addition to our shared values and common commitment to upholding the global rules-based order, we have a strong economic partnership. The US is the largest source of foreign direct investment in Australia (by a significant margin), followed by the UK, Belgium and Japan. The US is also the nation where Australian companies make their most significant overseas investments.

As our nations celebrate this milestone, the relationship is strengthened with the announcement of AUKUS – a new enhanced, trilateral security partnership with the US, and UK, to protect shared values and promote security and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific region. Announced in September by Prime Minister Morrison, Prime Minister Johnson of the UK and President Biden of the US, this partnership demonstrates our joint commitment to enhance regional security, information sharing and cooperation on emerging technologies vital to our future security apparatus. More information on AUKUS is available on *Page 4*.

In September, Australia celebrated the 120th anniversary of the first time the Australian National Flag was flown. Since 1901, our National Flag has become an expression of our collective identity and pride, which has united us through both prosperous and challenging times over the last century.

On October 7th, Frances Adamson AC completed her first day as Governor of South Australia – our state's 36th Governor. I have had considerable involvement with Ms Adamson during her time as Secretary of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, through my role as Chair of the Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade. I look forward to Frances bringing her insight, commitment to Australia and professional competence to this new role.

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**



The Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) is a free trade agreement, of which Australia is signatory, alongside Brunei Darussalam, Canada, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, Peru, New Zealand, Singapore and Vietnam. The Trade Sub-Committee of the Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade (JSCFADT) is currently undertaking an inquiry to examine the merits of expanding membership of the CPTPP. The UK, China and Taiwan have all expressed interest in acceding to the CPTPP.

A representative of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office appeared before the sub-committee in October to provide further explanation regarding Taiwan's interest in becoming a CPTPP member. This provided the Sub-Committee with further insight, following testimony from a range of corporations, business chambers and individuals in both Australia and in Taiwan, including the Australia-Taiwan Business Council, and the Taiwanese Chamber of Commerce in Australia, among others.

The JSCFADT Trade Sub-Committee also completed its final report "One Region, One Family, One Future: Deepening relations with the Pacific nations through trade", which

examines the conditions necessary to activate greater trade and investment with countries of the Pacific region to the benefit of Australia and our Pacific neighbours. The Sub-Committee's 5 multi-faceted recommendations include establishing a Pacific region COVID-19 travel bubble, investigating improvement and reform to PACER Plus, reviewing existing labour mobility arrangements such as the Pacific Labour Scheme, and deepening engagement with Pacific nations through sport, churches, media and education.

In October, I also had the opportunity to discuss the JSCFADT COVID-19 inquiry with the Australian British Chamber of Commerce and the implications of the pandemic for Australia's supply chain resilience. This discussion was particularly salient for the Chamber's member businesses and organisations as the UK deals with the impact of its own supply chain weaknesses.

In September, the Parliament Joint Committee on Intelligence and Security (PJICIS) released an advisory report for the review into the Security Legislation Amendment (Critical Infrastructure) Bill 2020 and Statutory Review of the Security of Critical Infrastructure Act 2018. The report includes 14 recommendations, one

of which was to split the Security Legislation Amendment (Critical Infrastructure) Bill 2020 into two separate bills, facilitating the passage of critical elements of the legislation and allowing for further consultation on others.

The PJCIS also issued its final report for the review of the relisting of five organisations as terrorist organisations under the Criminal Code. The five organisations to be relisted include al-Shabaab, Lashkar-e-Tayyiba, Palestinian Islamic Jihad, Hamas' Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades and the Kurdistan Workers' Party. The committee supported the relisting of all these organisations, and recommended the government consider listing Hamas in its entirety as a terrorist organisation – in line with our like-minded allies in the US, Canada and the EU.

In early September, I resigned from my position as Chair of the Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications. I performed this role since the beginning of the 46th Parliament on a temporary basis until a suitable chair was identified from among the senators elected in 2019. Senator Andrew Bragg was recently selected to fill this role and I wish him well with the Committee's important work.

Submissions for the Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade (SFADT)

Legislation Committee inquiry into the Defence Amendment (Parliamentary Approval of Overseas Service) Bill 2020 closed in October. The committee is now considering stakeholder submissions. I addressed the Senate chamber on this Bill in late August, challenging assertions put forward in support of this Bill. I also explored how the current process for deploying ADF personnel provides an appropriate balance between keeping classified information, which could endanger the lives of Australians, from those who wish to do us harm, while seeking the opinions and advice of defence and national security experts in making appropriate Executive decisions. Previous reports by the Committee on similar bills have returned such recommendations. I support the measures that we currently have in place.

The SFADT References Committee commenced an inquiry into Australia's engagement in Afghanistan, receiving 57 submissions. October 11th was the first public hearing for the inquiry, featuring testimony from DFAT, Home Affairs, Defence, and Veteran Affairs, among others.

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



AUKUS MARKS NEW ERA FOR INDO-PACIFIC

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Described as ‘epoch-making’ and ‘the biggest strategic step Australia has taken in generations’, the new enhanced, trilateral security partnership – AUKUS – is an historic opportunity for Australia, the UK and US to protect shared values and promote security and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific region. Announced in September by Prime Minister Morrison, UK Prime Minister Johnson and US President Biden, this partnership demonstrates our joint commitment to enhance regional security, information sharing and cooperation on emerging technologies vital to our security.

The 2020 Defence Strategic Update makes it clear that Australia’s strategic environment is changing as both military and grey-zone threats evolve at unprecedented rates. Democratic nations are witnessing the most consequential strategic realignment since World War II and are increasing their collaboration in

response.

Not just about submarines

Given the headlines and commentary, however, it will come as a surprise to many that AUKUS is not predominantly about submarines. As one commentator has rightly pointed out, ‘the bigger picture is getting lost in a sea of naval analysis’.

The real value of this partnership lies in the joint development of capabilities and the deeper integration of defence-related science and technology, industrial bases and, importantly, supply chains. This new technology-sharing partnership reinforces our shared democratic values and enhances cooperation on matters pertaining to cyber capabilities, artificial intelligence, quantum computing and military capabilities. AUKUS complements, rather than competes with, regional partnerships such as the Quad and

intelligence-sharing arrangements such as the Five Eyes.

To understand why AUKUS is so important, you only have to consider the lessons of COVID-19 around supply-chain resilience and the assessment of threat in the strategic update, which calls for Australia to be capable to shape our region, deter aggression and respond with military force if required. The ability to deter aggression in our region will be enhanced by the agreement to provide the ADF with a range of precision-guided missiles, particularly long-range strike weapons that can hold an adversary at risk. Maintaining regional security, however, requires the ability not just to deploy military force when required, but to sustain operations. This requires resilient supply chains, which will be enhanced by the decision to accelerate the manufacture of precision-guided missiles in Australia.

New defence capability upgrades and investment – some enabled by the AUKUS announcement – include a \$5.1 billion upgrade to the Air Warfare Destroyers (AWDs) combat management system upgrade commencing in 2024 at Osborne Naval Shipyard – creating 300 jobs, Tomahawk cruise missiles for our AWDs, joint air-to-surface standoff missiles for our F/A-18 A/B Hornets and F-35 aircraft,

long-range anti-ship missiles for our Super Hornets, precision strike-guided missiles for our land forces, and continued commitment to collaborate on the development of hypersonic missiles.

These capability upgrades demonstrate the Morrison Government's commitment to maintaining a technological edge capable of deterring threats in the Indo-Pacific region.



SA secures FCD and LOTE

Also confirmed in September, the Full-Cycle Docking (FCD) of the Collins Class submarine fleet is to remain at Osborne Naval Shipyard, sustaining workforce capability and continuity. Not only is this in the national interest in respect to effective submarine capability but it ensures stability and continuity for the local workforce and SA's defence industry. FCD is an extensive maintenance and upgrade refit program, involving thousands of tasks over 2 years, which each submarine rotates through after a decade of operational service. All six Collins Class submarines are also

to undergo comprehensive LOTE upgrades at Osborne – keeping our fleet reliable and effective into the future. The Collins Class LOTE extends their life by upgrading the technology and systems within the vessels, to ensure Australia has submarine capability to deter threats within our region and to mitigate any potential capability gap.



The work associated with LOTE and FCD – expected to support up to 1,300 South Australian jobs over decades, enabled through an investment of \$6.4 billion – will utilise the skills and expertise of those workers currently employed to work on the Future Submarine program, as they transition from employment with Naval Group Australia and Lockheed Martin into these new and ongoing ASC projects. ASC has now launched the Sovereign Shipbuilding Talent Pool – providing all affected employees with the opportunity to transition

into positions with ASC or the wider industry.

Nuclear-powered submarines

Within AUKUS, one priority is to acquire nuclear-powered submarine technology – a fleet of at least 8 new nuclear-powered submarines – for the Royal Australian Navy, leveraging decades of experience from our new AUKUS partners. This fleet is expected to be built in Adelaide. Nuclear propulsion enables operations over greater range when compared to diesel-electric submarines, increasing security of the boat which does not have to surface regularly to recharge batteries, while also avoiding some of the limitations that the latter faces on weapons storage, speed and endurance. This capability significantly enhances our nation's ability to deter or defeat threats and contribute to shared security objectives in the Indo-Pacific.

AUKUS opens doors to enhanced collaboration that will build collective capability and resilience, enhancing Australia's ability to partner with like-minded nations to deter threats and contribute to stability and security in the Indo-Pacific. For my full opinion editorial as published by ASPI, click [here](#) or scan the QR Code below.



NEW AUSTRALIAN ICE BREAKER ARRIVES AT OUR SHORES



In October, Australia's new icebreaker, the RSV Nuyina (*pictured*), arrived in Hobart from the Netherlands, completing its journey of 23,000+ kilometres.

As the home of the Australian Antarctic Division (AAD), Hobart is the city where Australian Antarctic expeditioners are trained and equipped before heading south to Antarctica or Macquarie Island. Here the RSV Nuyina will undergo its final preparations for its first Antarctic journey later this year.

At 160m long from bow to stern, the RSV Nuyina can break through Antarctic sea ice, withstanding 14 metre seas and temperatures of -30 degrees Celsius to service our Antarctic stations. As the most advanced research vessel of its type in the world, the RSV Nuyina operates as a state-of-the-

art floating science platform for voyages of up to 90 days in length.

The Morrison Government is investing \$2.8 billion to enhance Australia's Antarctic operations and science capabilities – including funding for research and an upgraded station at Macquarie Island to provide a year-round capability for scientific monitoring and research. The RSV Nuyina is to assist the AAD's work as a vessel for station resupply and emergency response within the Antarctic's icy waters, in addition to its use as a platform for the AAD's scientific research in the Antarctic and Southern Ocean. For more information on the AAD and RSV Nuyina, click [here](#) or scan the QR Code below.



LEVERAGING US RELATIONSHIP TO GROW SOVEREIGN DEFENCE INDUSTRY

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Carrying greater significance in light of the formation of AUKUS, I delivered the keynote address at the American Chamber of Commerce in Australia Defence luncheon in September. The overarching theme of the event was “Building our Sovereign Defence Industry Capability”.

The Strategic Update of 2020 highlights the need for Australia to invest in a sovereign defence industry that can ensure that our military equipment is available for use when we need it, effective against the threats we face, and affordable in the longer term.

While Australia continues to benefit from US investment in military capability, it is clear that Australia has innovative and effective capability to offer the US as well.

As we mark the 70th anniversary of the ANZUS Treaty and the creation of AUKUS (*more on Page 4*), our close relationship with the US will be enhanced by actively leveraging the legal framework known as the US National Technology and Industrial Base (NTIB) – a US policy framework created to advance relationships between the defence-related R&D sectors of allies including the UK and Australia.

It is in the interests of the US that their legal framework underpinning the NTIB be leveraged to ensure that the Australian industrial base not only supports the ADF, but can export innovative products to like-minded partners such as the US and UK and be a key part of resilient supply chains, acting as a force multiplier for nations collaborating to maintain peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific region.

OUT AND ABOUT



In late October, I attended the University of Adelaide's Ingenuity 2021 – showcasing 300+ university student projects exploring practical applications of architecture, engineering, computer and mathematical sciences. The future is bright!



In mid-October, I discussed supply chain resilience and lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic with the Australian British Chamber of Commerce.



In September, I had the privilege of representing the Australian Government to welcome the new Australian citizens at the City of Tea Tree Gully Citizenship Ceremony. My state colleagues, SA Minister for Skilled Migration the Hon David Pisoni MP, SA Minister for Education the Hon John Gardner MP, Paula Luethen MP, and Richard Harvey MP were also in attendance.



As part of RAAF's centenary program in 2021 to recognise the service and sacrifice of aviators over the past 100 years, I joined current and former RAAF personnel at the Mallala War Cemetery to pay my respects to those who served at RAAF Base Mallala, particularly those who lost their lives while training during WWII. Pictured with Air Force Association SA president, Dr Robert Black AM and Ern Milde (*from left*).



Commemorating South Australia's contribution to the Battle of Britain, I laid a wreath at September's Commemorative Service – a key event of the RAAF Centenary in SA – to acknowledge the service and sacrifice of our RAAF personnel. I paid my respects alongside (*pictured, from left*) Air Commodore Ross Bender, WWII RAAF veteran Fred Brown, and Premier Steven Marshall.



Congratulations to all the award recipients as part of the State Council AGM in September. Ms Jocelyn Sutcliffe was awarded the Meritorious Youth Award (*pictured, above*). Mr Peter Altschwager, Mr Ron Anson, the Late Mr Thomas "Tuck" Cockburn, Archbishop John Hepworth, Mrs Anne Hornsey (*pictured, below*), Mrs Susan McDonald, Mr Bohdan Ochryn, and Dr Ryan Story were presented with Meritorious Service Awards.



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