



THE FAWCETT FLYER

NOVEMBER / DECEMBER 2019



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2019 has been a year of challenges, but one which our Government has met head-on. The budget is back in the black, South Australia has begun to see the fruits of federal investment in space and defence, and Australians have reaffirmed their faith in a Federal Liberal Government. Other highlights over the year include the Coalition's election success in May; progress made on strategic security issues such as the signing of the critical minerals agreement with the US; as well as delivering tax relief for 10 million Australians.

Our Government has also been able to deliver better support for veterans; strengthened counter terrorism laws; finalise and legislate three more trade deals with Indonesia, Peru and Hong Kong; and continue our renewal of Australian Defence capability with an expanded role for local industry. Throughout this year, I have also been encouraged by the incremental progress made on the Rural Generalist pathway to improve health outcomes in country South Australia.

Thank you to all the South Australian Liberal Party leadership, state council, party members and volunteers who made 2019 such a resounding success. Our Government will not rest on our laurels in 2020, as there is much more work to be done for the benefit of all Australians.

In this month's Fawcett Flyer, I wrap up the parliamentary year (Page 4), describe our positive relationship with Vanuatu as well as how the Pacific Step-Up has progressed in 2019 (Page 5), and welcome works on the long-awaited Gawler Rail Line Electrification (Page 2). For more information about any of these topics or other matters of a federal nature, please don't hesitate to contact my office.

I would like to wish you and your family a Merry Christmas and a fulfilling New Year. Please stay safe if you're travelling over the summer break and I look forward to bringing you more developments and updates from the Federal Liberal Government in 2020.

SENATOR DAVID FAWCETT





After more than 10 years of delay, the Gawler Rail Line Electrification has finally been fully funded and construction has begun, thanks to \$440 million in a joint investment from the Federal and State Liberal Governments.

I represented the Australian Government at the official commencement of works alongside Premier the Hon Steven Marshall MP and SA Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Local Government the Hon Stephan Knoll MP.

The Gawler Rail Line is Adelaide's most heavily used rail line, carrying approximately 1 in every 3 South Australian commuters that board a train each day. To cater for

increased services on the line once the electrification is complete, the State Government is also investing an additional \$175 million in fifteen new trains.

The project will increase the railway's capacity during peak periods by approximately 15 percent. Further improvements will be made to pedestrian level crossings for enhanced safety measures.

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



SA-BASED INOVOR BUILDS SAT FOR DEFENCE



From their home at Adelaide's Lot Fourteen, Inovor Technologies will design and build a satellite to carry equipment into space, following December's signing of a \$2.5 million contract between the local space industry manufacturer and Defence.

As a result of the Federal Liberal Government's strong investment in Australia's sovereign defence and space technology, Inovor is now responsible for the production of a satellite used to house equipment in space for the Buccaneer Main Mission (BMM) - due to be launched in early 2022.

Playing a key role in Australia's world-leading Over-the-Horizon radar capability, Buccaneer is designed to improve understanding of the outer atmosphere, in particular

the Ionosphere. Small, low-cost satellites, like Buccaneer, provide a unique opportunity to support the development of ADF sovereign capabilities and rejuvenate Australian space research.

The first Buccaneer cube satellite was developed by Defence and UNSW Canberra for the Buccaneer Risk Mitigation Mission (BRMM).

Inovor will also be involved in the engineering development of a secondary spacecraft vehicle.

For more information on Inovor's new Defence contribution, click [here](#) or use the QR Code below.



With each day of 2019, the Australian people were first and foremost on the mind of our Government and its leaders. This consideration defined our legislative agenda this year.

As forecast, our Government's careful management and prudence has seen the budget return to balance for the first time in 11 years, without increasing taxes. We have delivered tax cuts worth \$158 billion for more than 10 million Australians, given vital support to farmers and communities affected by natural disasters, delivered record funding for hospitals and schools, and created more than 200,000 new jobs this year alone.

Building on all the work done in the first half of 2019, our Government has passed significant legislative reform within the first six months of this parliamentary term including:

- Australian Veterans' Recognition (Putting Veterans and Their Families First) Bill
- Combatting Child Sexual Exploitation Legislation Amendment Bill
- Counter-Terrorism (Temporary Exclusion Orders) Bill
- Emergency Response Fund Bill
- Farm Household Support

- Amendment (Relief Measures) Bill (No. 1)
- Future Drought Fund Bill
- Social Security (Administration) Amendment (Cashless Welfare) Bill
- Treasury Laws Amendment (Making Sure Multinationals Pay Their Fair Share of Tax in Australia and Other Measures) Bill
- Treasury Laws Amendment (Tax Relief So Working Australians Keep More Of Their Money) Bill
- Veterans' Affairs Legislation Amendment (Partner Service Pension and Other Measures) Bill

This is just a portion of the Government's positive parliamentary achievements since September.

We will continue to implement reforms to build a stronger economy, create more jobs, keep Australians safe and secure and to guarantee the essential services we all rely on. For more on what our Government achieved this year in the Parliament, click [here](#) or use the QR Code below.





AUSTRALIA CONTINUES DECADES-LONG VANUATU SUPPORT

Comprised of 83 islands spanning over 1000 kilometres between the tropic of Capricorn and the equator, Vanuatu is an important partner to Australia in the Pacific.

With a population of 304,500, Vanuatu is the fourth most populated Pacific Island nation behind Papua New Guinea, Fiji and The Solomon Islands.

Vanuatu gained independence in 1980 after decades being jointly governed by British and French administrations.

Australia championed Vanuatu's case for independence in the United Nations and Pacific Forums, following the establishment of an Australian High Commission (then, Consulate) in Vanuatu in 1978. Before independence was

successfully gained, Vanuatu was known as the 'New Hebrides'.

Demonstrating the Federal Liberal Government's renewed focus of engaging our Pacific neighbours, Prime Minister Scott Morrison made the first bilateral visit to Vanuatu by an Australian Prime Minister, in January this year.

Australia is an important contributor to Vanuatu's economic future, providing an estimated \$66.2 million in aid this financial year. With this addition, Australia is the largest bilateral aid donor to Vanuatu.

The key priorities of the Vanuatu-Australia Aid Partnership – signed in 2016 – are to support the development of effective governance systems and institutions, facilitate economic

growth and enable improvements to health and education for the Ni-Vanuatu people.

With over \$300 million of goods and services traded in 2017, our trade and investment relationship delivers mutually-beneficial economic gain. Vanuatu provides the largest contribution of workers in the Pacific under the Australian Government's Seasonal Worker Programme - over 3,300 in 2017/18.

Vanuatu's tourism sector thrives largely due to the fact that two-thirds of long stay tourists to Vanuatu, and almost all cruise ship passengers, are Australian.

Australia also has an existing Defence Cooperation Program with Vanuatu, which was established in 1983. Through this program, Australia assists Vanuatu in maintaining and operating its Pacific Patrol Boat, the RVS Tukoro, as well as providing AFP assistance.

Under the Pacific Maritime Security Program, Vanuatu will receive a replacement Guardian patrol boat estimated to be delivered in 2021.

The Pacific Step-Up in 2019

Australia seeks to be the security

partner of choice for our friends throughout the Pacific region. Our whole-of-government effort to further deepen Australia's engagement in the South Pacific is proving successful.

Defence-related activities progressed this year include infrastructure projects in Papua New Guinea, Fiji and Vanuatu, an increased Navy presence in the region and dedicated ADF team to provide training in priority areas for Pacific Island military and security forces; a regular program of senior leadership dialogues; as well as reinforcing security alumni networks.

Defence is also working to identify further opportunities to deepen our engagement in the region as required. For more on how the Pacific Step-Up is benefitting each of our Pacific neighbours, visit bit.ly/34bXOuh.

For more information on how the Australian Government is supporting and engaging with our neighbours in Vanuatu, click [here](#) or use the QR code below.



COMMITTEE UPDATE

The final two months of 2019 proved another busy period for Committee activity.

Magnitsky Act

Announced in December, the Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade (JSCFADT) is conducting an inquiry into a framework for autonomous sanctions under Australian law to target human rights abuses, examining whether Australia should adopt legal measures to impose domestic sanctions upon individuals who commit gross human rights abuses. One of the options being considered is whether Australia should enact legislation comparable to the Magnitsky Act.

Originally crafted in the United States in response to the human rights violations experienced by lawyer Sergei Magnitsky while in the custody of Russian police, the Magnitsky Act excludes sanctioned individuals from entering the United States, freeze any of their assets held by US banks and ban their future use of US banking systems.

The Global Magnitsky Act, expanded in 2016, extends the same sanctions legislated in the

original Magnitsky Act to human rights violators from any nation.

In a recent demonstration of the Act's potential, the US Department of the Treasury's Office used the Global Magnitsky Act to sanction 17 individuals in November allegedly involved in the killing of journalist Jamal Khashoggi.

Seen as an effective measure by many foreign legislators, other nations have followed and introduced their own legislative framework to impose similar sanctions, including in Canada, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and the UK.

Submissions to the inquiry are open until Friday, 31 January 2020.

JSCFADT and PJCIS Inquiries

Currently, the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Intelligence and Security (PJCIS) continues its Freedom of the Press Inquiry, as well as six ongoing legislative reviews at various stages of completion.

The JSCFADT is currently accepting submissions on its new Inquiry into Australia activating greater trade and investment with Pacific island

countries, and continues its scrutiny and review of remediation of PFAS-related harms.

The JSCFADT Defence Sub-Committee had a delegation travel to Papua New Guinea as part of the Committee's resolve to support Australia's Step-Up in the Pacific. The delegation engaged with PNG's defence and governmental leaders, among others, which will inform future Committee work.

Foreign military and diplomatic leaders visit Parliament

As Chair of JSCFADT, I recently met with the winners of the 2019 Collin East Award, which recognises the top four graduates from each of the Indonesian Navy, Army and Air Force staff colleges.

The award is named after Major Collin East – the first Australian officer to attend the Indonesian Army Staff College in the mid-1960s – and consists of a week-long visit to Australia to see our relevant ADF and national institutions including a visit to Parliament House. These emerging Indonesian military leaders are exposed to how Australia operates, politically, strategically and culturally.

This meeting was an opportunity to reinforce Australia's role as a reliable, capable and committed partner

within our bilateral relationship, and a staunch defender of security and stability throughout the Indo-Pacific region.

Also in my role Chair of JSCFADT, I facilitate regular interaction by diplomatic representatives from nations around the world with Australia's Parliament.

In November, a range of issues were covered during discussions with US Ambassador to Australia, Arthur B Culvahouse Jr. Many people are aware of Australia's defence cooperation with the US that goes back over 100 years to the Battle of Hamel. However, most are surprised to learn that 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, again, by a large margin.

To follow the work of any Parliamentary Committee, click [here](#) or scan the QR code below.



9 OUT AND ABOUT



The Edinburgh Air Show brought some of the ADF's most advanced military aircraft to the skies above Adelaide. As the former Commanding Officer at the Aircraft Research & Development Unit located at RAAF Base Edinburgh, I enjoyed heading back to the base and seeing the recent developments in capability.



A range of issues were covered during discussions with US Ambassador to Australia, Arthur B Culvahouse Jr. The US is the largest source of foreign direct investment in Australia, as well as the nation where Australian businesses make their most significant overseas investments. (*More on Page 8*)



I represented the Prime Minister at the Remembrance Day Service at Adelaide's National War Memorial on North Terrace.

Lest we forget.



It was great to hear the ideas and innovation of high school students at The Shark Tank eSchool program at the Adelaide Convention Centre. With 400 students forming 130 teams from across 22 schools, the top 10 groups had the opportunity to pitch their entrepreneurial ideas and concepts to an expert panel. This program is a great initiative to increase students' critical analysis.



The Airbus Foundation held a Space Workshop at Salisbury High School where students had the opportunity to get hands on experience in the world of robotics and the space industry.

Responding to the Federal Liberal Government’s investment in space and defence, industry are facilitating pathways for students into these growing sectors.



The Invictus Pathways Program provides support and tailored facilities needed for veterans who are aspiring to compete in the Invictus Games – a unique collaboration between The Road Home and the University of South Australia.

It was good to meet with participants, students and staff to understand the many benefits of the program – the first of its kind in Australia.



Great to speak with the winners of the 2019 Collin East Award, recognising the top four graduates from each of the Indonesian Navy, Army and Air Force staff colleges. The award is named after Major Collin East – the first Australian officer to attend the Indonesian Army Staff College in the mid-1960s. *(More on Page 8)*

For more, like [@senatorfawcett](https://www.facebook.com/senatorfawcett) on Facebook.





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