Parliamentarians' Overseas Study Travel Reports

1 July to 31 December 2012

June 2013
1 July to 31 December 2012

The individual overseas study travel reports provided by Senators and Members are consolidated into one document and presented as a separate volume to the other two reports, which cover the costs of current and former Parliamentarians’ expenditure on entitlements for the period 1 July to 31 December 2012.

Supporting Information

To reduce the size of this document, some pages may have been excluded from individual reports (indicated on relevant title pages). A copy of the full report (and any supporting documentation, including a wide range of reference material such as copies of legislation, itineraries and reports prepared by other entities) is available on written request to the Office of the Special Minister of State.
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<td>25 August - 3 September 2012</td>
</tr>
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The Hon Gary Gray MP  
Special Minister of State  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Minister,

In accordance with the requirements of Clause 9.2(b) of Remuneration Tribunal Determination 2006/18 (the Determination), I submit the following statement reporting on my recent overseas study travel.

**Purpose of Journey**

The purpose of the journey was to gain a better understanding of the debate on health reform in Singapore and Shanghai and a comparative study of their health systems.

**Detailed Itinerary Schedule**

I departed Sydney with my wife on 18 April and returned to Brisbane on 24 April.

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<th>Activity</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<tr>
<td>18 April 2012</td>
<td>Flight</td>
<td>Sydney to Singapore 5.50pm SQ0242 arriving Singapore 12.10am 19 April 2012</td>
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<tr>
<td>19 April 2012</td>
<td>Meetings</td>
<td>Singapore</td>
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<td>20 April 2012</td>
<td>Meetings</td>
<td>Singapore</td>
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<tr>
<td>21 April 2012</td>
<td>Flight</td>
<td>Singapore to Shanghai 8.05am SQ0828 arriving Shanghai 1.25pm 21 April 2012</td>
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<td>23 April 2012</td>
<td>Meetings</td>
<td>Shanghai</td>
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<tr>
<td>24 April 2012</td>
<td>Flights</td>
<td>Shanghai to Singapore SQ0825 00.35am arriving 6am Singapore to Brisbane SQ245 9.50am arriving 7.30pm</td>
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**Strathpine Office** Shop 3/199 Gympie Rd, Strathpine  
**Mobile Office** Regular caravan visits throughout the electorate  
**Postal** PO Box 2012 Strathpine Centre 4500  
**Phone** 3205 9977 (Pine Rivers) 1300 853 640 (Esk-local call) **Fax** 3205 5111  
**Email** peter.dutton.mp@aph.gov.au **Web** www.peterdutton.com.au
Key Meetings and Outcomes / Findings

19 April 2012  Meeting with Australian High Commissioner, HE Mr Doug Chester
Australian High Commission, 25 Napier Street, Singapore

Meeting with Mr Lawrence Wong, Executive Vice President, Head of Listings,
Singapore Stock Exchange at Singapore Exchange, 2 Shenton Way, Singapore

20 April 2012  Meeting with Mr Koo Tsai Kee, Managing Director, Strategic Relations,
Managing Director Australia & New Zealand
Temasek International, 60B Orchard Road, Tower 2, The Atrium@Orchard
Singapore

Meeting with Mr Gan Kim Yong, Minister for Health.
Accompanied by Ms Julie Heckscher, Deputy High Commissioner.
Ministry of Health 16 College Road Singapore

23 April 2012  Meeting with The Director of Shanghai Health Bureau Mr. Jianhuang XU
Meeting with, Regional Director, Jones Lange LeSalle Mr Greg Hyland

Conclusion

Meetings conducted during my visit to Singapore and Shanghai will assist with my portfolio
and parliamentary duties.

I note that, in accordance with Clause 9.5 of the Determination, a copy of this statement
may be obtained from you upon request by any Senator or Member. I also note that this
statement will be tabled in the Parliament at your discretion, including as part of the six
monthly tabling of entitlements expenditure for Senators and Members by the Department
of Finance and Deregulation.

Kind regards

Hon Peter Dutton MP
Federal Member for Dickson
Shadow Minister for Health and Ageing
pcd:rl

October 2012
Overseas Study Travel Report

Special Minister of State
Parliament House CANBERRA
ACT 2600

Dear Minister

In accordance with the requirements of Clause 9.2(b) of Remuneration Tribunal Determination 2006/18 (the Determination), I submit the following statement reporting on my recent overseas study travel.

I note that, in accordance with Clause 9.5 of the Determination, a copy of this statement may be obtained from you upon request by any Senator or Member. I also note that this statement will be tabled in the Parliament at your discretion, including as part of the six monthly tabling of entitlements expenditure for Senators and Members by the Department of Finance and Deregulation.

Yours sincerely

Senator Sarah Hanson-Young
6 August 2012
Purpose of Journey

Jakarta, Indonesia

The purpose of accessing my overseas study entitlement was to travel to Jakarta, Indonesia, to speak to experts and agencies working directly with asylum seekers waiting in Indonesia for UNHCR assessment and third country resettlement.

Given the current debate in Parliament over attempts to deter asylum seeker boat arrivals and the Governments policy for offshore processing in Malaysia, I believe it is important to understand firsthand the impact that these policies will have on those who are seeking asylum and the agencies that work with them. The majority of asylum seekers arriving by boats in Australia are coming on boats leaving Indonesia.

I wanted to hear directly from the agencies, NGOs and civil society organisations, including the UNHRC and partner organisations, about what impact deterrence policies such as those proposed by both the Gillard Government and the Abbott Opposition would have on the numbers of people boarding boats to Australia. I also wanted to hear directly from asylum seekers and refugees living in Indonesia and determine their motivations for coming by boat to Australia and what impact deterrence policies would have on their decisions to board a boat.

I was looking to see firsthand the conditions that refugees live in Indonesia and the issues they face while waiting for their applications to be processed and resettlement found.

I also sought to hear directly from the experts on the ground about what they believed would be the best way forward to help refugees avoid taking dangerous boat journeys.
### Detailed Itinerary Schedule

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<th>Location</th>
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<td>3 July 2012</td>
<td>Flight</td>
<td>Adelaide to Jakarta, Indonesia</td>
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<tr>
<td>4 July 2012</td>
<td>Event</td>
<td>Tour of Kalideris district visiting refugee families</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 July 2012</td>
<td>Meeting</td>
<td>Mr Denis Nihill, Chief of Mission, Immigration Migration Organisation (IMO)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Meeting</td>
<td>Father Maswan, Jesuit Refugee Services</td>
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<tr>
<td>6 July 2012</td>
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<td>Mr Manuel Jordao, Representative to UNHCR of Indonesia</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Meeting</td>
<td>Roundtable with Indonesian refugee, human rights and civil society organisations including:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- Jesuit Refugee Service</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>- World Relief</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>- Church World Service</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Flight</td>
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Key Meetings and Outcomes / Findings

Day 1

I spent the first day meeting with a number of refugees and their families in the Kalideris district. Kalideris is host to a number of refugees who are waiting UNHRC assessment or resettlement. It is also a key district for people smugglers who target the area looking for desperate people to employ their services.

This experience gave me a sound understanding of what motivates those refugees who are currently waiting in Kalideris, where they have come from, why they have fled their homelands and what they have experienced while waiting in Indonesia and before that Malaysia. Of those that I spoke to, all are refugees and have been waiting in Indonesia for over two years. Almost all of them had waited for even longer in Malaysia before arriving in Indonesia. They spoke of the long and frustrating UNHCR assessment and resettlement process and the toll that living in a constant state of uncertainty was also having on their physical and mental health.

Parents spoke of their desperation to give their children security, an education and proper healthcare. None of the children I met were able to go to school while they waited in Indonesia. Refugees in Indonesia are unable to work and have no right to access the health care system.

Of those refugees I spoke with, all were very clear that they did not want to come to Australia by boat. They knew that it was dangerous and they were afraid of the journey. They wanted to be able to have their claim for asylum assessed in a timely manner by the UNHCR and then be resettled. Unfortunately with the long wait time, with very few people being resettled, and not having the ability to start a new life in Indonesia, many were driven by sheer desperation to listen to people smugglers and board boats to Australia.

I spoke with mothers, fathers and children. I also sighted their documentation from the UNHCR which proved the many years they have been waiting with no hope of a resolution.

Day 2

I met with the Chief of Mission for the International Organisation for Migration (IOM), Mr Denis Nihill.

Asylum seekers and refugees have no legal status in Indonesia as Indonesia is not a signatory to the International Refugee Convention. The Indonesian Government doesn’t offer any assistance or welfare support to asylum seekers or refugees who reside in their country. Assessment is undertaken by the UNHCR and the detention facilities and accommodation is run by the IOM.

Australia gives the IOM approximately $50 million to help run the detention facilities that detain refugees in Indonesia. There are 13 different detention facilities, all with varying degrees of security. The high security facilities are Indonesian prisons that are secured by the offices of the Indonesian Immigration Department.
There are currently around 2,500 refugees who are held in these 13 facilities. They are all registered with the UNHCR and are waiting either status determination or resettlement. The high security facilities hold men, women and children.

The IOM Chief was very clear that hope and the prospect of resettlement made a difference in stopping people boarding boats to Australia.

Day 3

Meeting 1

I met with the representative from the UNHCR, Mr Manual Jodao.

The UNHCR have only been running proper Refugee Status Determination processes in Indonesia since 2009. This has meant long delays in people’s individual assessments. The level of resettlement places are not enough to deal with the current case load in Indonesia.

The UNHCR figures show there are around 8000 asylum seekers and refugees waiting for assessment and resettlement in Indonesia.

The UNHCR believes a regional response where responsibilities and burdens for resettlement are shared and where refugee protections are lifted in countries like Indonesia and Malaysia so people are safe to wait, is the only way to deal with the needs of asylum seekers.

Meeting 2

I attended a roundtable with NGOs and partner agencies. The roundtable with NGOs and civil society groups who partner with both the IOM and UNHCR was invaluable in understanding what is really happening on the ground.

The groups spoke of the motivations driving refugees to board boats, including their fear of being returned home to danger and the desperate nature of their long wait time in both Malaysia and Indonesia.

All the groups urged Australia to help resettle more refugees directly from camps and detention facilities in Indonesia and Malaysia, as a way of providing alternatives to boat journeys. They also spoke of the need for more aid support so they can continue to offer services to those refugees and their children while they wait for assessment and resettlement to a third country.

The groups felt strongly that policies of pushing refugees away and punishing those who arrive on boats, like those of the Australian Government and Opposition, will put refugees in more danger and will not deter refugees from taking even more dangerous boat journeys, perhaps even to New Zealand.

The Groups were concerned that these policies would undermine their efforts to continue working for better protections for refugees in Indonesia and their campaign to get Indonesia to include legal protections and sign the Refugee Convention.

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Overseas Study Travel Report – Senator Sarah Hanson-Young
Conclusion

In conclusion, I am happy to report that I achieved all of my objectives on my short study trip to Jakarta, Indonesia.

The trip was very beneficial and has provided me with a great deal of information regarding the impact that deterrence policies would have on asylum seekers, refugees, and organisation working closely with them and the extreme conditions asylum seekers and refugees are exposed to whilst waiting in Indonesia. Experts on the ground provided me with alternative policy suggestions that will save lives and improve conditions in Indonesia.
THE HON ANDREW ROBB AO MP

United States of America
5 – 22 July 2012
Overseas Study Travel Report

Special Minister of State
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Minister

In accordance with the requirements of Clause 9.2(b) of Remuneration Tribunal Determination 2006/18 (the Determination), I submit the following statement reporting on my recent overseas study travel.

I note that, in accordance with Clause 9.5 of the Determination, a copy of this statement may be obtained from you upon request by any Senator or Member. I also note that this statement will be tabled in the Parliament at your discretion, including as part of the six monthly tabling of entitlements expenditure for Senators and Members by the Department of Finance and Deregulation.

Yours sincerely

[Signature]

Andrew Robb
18 October 2012
REPORT ON USA STUDY TOUR: 5-23 JULY 2012

2012 Australian American Leadership Dialogue

This report records major findings and activities associated with my visit to the US during July 2012.

The two week visit was at the invitation of the Australian American Leadership Dialogue (AALD), and involved AALD programs in Texas, Washington State, Washington DC and New York.

Principal issues pursued included:

- Major briefings and discussion on world energy issues, US energy developments with particular reference to the dramatic discovery of shale oil and gas supplies and technological advances in the resources and energy sectors;

- Detailed introduction to Amazon’s IT services, including the Cloud computing is playing in meeting the range of back-office IT needs within large and small organisations, including a number of major US Government Departments;

- A full day introduction to the major programs supported by the $60 billion Bill and Belinda Gates Foundation, covering health and agricultural programs in developing countries, and education in the United States;

- The current state of domestic politics within the United States in the rundown to the November Presidential election;

- Round table discussions of the state of the world economy, with particular reference to the United States, Australia, Europe and China;

- Round table discussions of the major security issues facing the world, with particular reference to terrorism and the war in Afghanistan, Iran and the Middle East, and medium long term security issues in the Asia Pacific region;

- Major presentations and discussion of food security issues in the 21st century, with particular reference to the role of innovation and technology, and

- One-on-one meetings with a range of business people regarding developments in on-line education, social media and its impact on traditional media, investment bankers’ assessments of sovereign risk issues in Australia and the appetite for major US investment in Australia, developments with sequestration of CO2 in algae produced bio fuels and feedstock, and discussion on mental health development.
## Detailed Itinerary Schedule

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<td></td>
<td>In transit</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Flight - QF7</td>
<td>Sydney to Dallas</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>In transit</td>
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<td>6 July 2012</td>
<td>Flight - AA1282</td>
<td>Dallas to Atlanta</td>
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<td>Private travel</td>
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<td>8 July 2012</td>
<td>Flight - AA1393</td>
<td>Atlanta to Dallas</td>
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<td>Private Travel</td>
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<td>Conference</td>
<td>Texas Leadership Dialogue</td>
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<td>10 July 2012</td>
<td>Flight - AA1407</td>
<td>Dallas to Seattle</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Conference</td>
<td>Seattle Leadership Dialogue</td>
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<td>14 July 2012</td>
<td>Flight - UA916</td>
<td>Seattle to Washington DC</td>
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<td>New York Leadership Dialogue</td>
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<td>21 July 2012</td>
<td>Flight - QF108</td>
<td>New York to Los Angeles</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>In transit</td>
<td>In Transit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21 July 2012</td>
<td>Flight - QF94</td>
<td>Los Angeles to Melbourne</td>
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</table>
Conclusion:

The two week program was structured in a way which enabled the maintenance and further development of key networks at the White House and US Congressional level, within key US think tanks, some major US Corporations, prominent journalists and media figures, academic and research fields.

Given my responsibilities as Shadow Minister for Finance, Deregulation and Debt Reduction, and co-ordinator of campaign policy development for the Coalition, the program (attached) provided an outstanding opportunity to further my knowledge on a wide range of policy issues currently at the centre of public policy consideration and debate in Australia.
Senator Barnaby Joyce
Leader of The Nationals in the Senate
Shadow Minister for Regional Development, Local Government and Water
LNP Senator for Queensland for Queensland

Overseas Study Travel Report

Special Minister of State
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Minister

In accordance with the requirements of Clause 9.2(b) of Remuneration Tribunal
Determination 2006/18 (the Determination), I submit the following statement reporting on my
recent overseas study travel.

I note that, in accordance with Clause 9.5 of the Determination, a copy of this statement may be
obtained from you upon request by any Senator or Member. I also note that this statement will be
tabled in the Parliament at your discretion, including as part of the six monthly tabling of
entitlements expenditure for Senators and Members by the Department of Finance and
Deregulation.

Yours sincerely

[Signature]

Senator Barnaby Joyce
23rd August 2012
Purpose of Journey

The purpose of the study tour to the US was to participate in the Australian American Leadership Dialogue (AALD) in Dallas and Washington, discuss financing options for major public works projects in New York and to discuss regional development and water issues with relevance to my shadow portfolio in Tennessee and California.

Detailed Itinerary Schedule

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<th>Activity</th>
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<td>7th July 2012</td>
<td>Flight QF7</td>
<td>Sydney to Dallas</td>
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<td>8th - 10th July 2012</td>
<td>AALD</td>
<td>Irving, Texas</td>
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<td>10th July 2012</td>
<td>Flight AA738</td>
<td>Dallas to New York</td>
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<tr>
<td>11th July 2012</td>
<td>Meetings with Standard and Poor's, City of New York Comptroller, Bank of America</td>
<td>New York, (various offices)</td>
</tr>
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<td>12th July 2012</td>
<td>Train Acela 2190</td>
<td>New York to Boston</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12th July 2012</td>
<td>Meeting with Dr Ken Rogoff and Dr Carmen Reinhart</td>
<td>Harvard University</td>
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<td>12th July 2012</td>
<td>Flight US2139</td>
<td>Boston to New York</td>
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<td>13th July 2012</td>
<td>Meeting with JP Morgan, discussions with Australian Consulate Officials</td>
<td>New York</td>
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<tr>
<td>14th July 2012</td>
<td>Day off (visited Metropolitan Art Museum)</td>
<td>New York</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15th July 2012</td>
<td>Flight AA3823</td>
<td>New York to Washington</td>
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<tr>
<td>15th July 2012</td>
<td>Flight cancelled and travelled to La Guadia for Shuttle</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16th - 18th July 2012</td>
<td>AALD</td>
<td>Washington</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19th July 2012</td>
<td>Flight US2543</td>
<td>New York to Knoxville TN</td>
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<td>20th July 2012</td>
<td>Meeting with Farm Bureau University of Tennessee</td>
<td>Knoxville TN</td>
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<td>20th July 2012</td>
<td>Tour with Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) Head office and Douglas Dam</td>
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<tr>
<td>21st July 2012</td>
<td>Travel Knoxville to Wartrace TN (Stayed at private residence)</td>
<td>Wartrace TN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22nd July 2012</td>
<td>Travel Wartrace to Nashville. Flight AA1307</td>
<td>Nashville to LA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23rd July 2012</td>
<td>Meeting with The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California</td>
<td>Los Angeles</td>
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<tr>
<td>24th - 26th July 2012</td>
<td>Flight QF16</td>
<td>LA to Brisbane</td>
</tr>
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Key Meetings and Outcomes / Findings

Dallas
Dallas - Australian American Leadership Dialogue (AALD)

Dallas meetings were based on Chatham House rules but participated in by senior cabinet members of the government, opposition and media. Included in the meetings was a briefing by Mr Richard Fisher of the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas. A key energy briefing was given by Mr Michael Yeager of BHP.

The general context of the meetings dealt with the Texan role as a hub for energy in the US and the issues pertaining to global economic conditions and the prognosis for the US in light of its own massive debt problem.

There was in general a sense that the predicament for the US is not the predicament of geographic sub sectors such as Texas and California. As such you could still see a very prosperous Texas whilst the North Eastern States remained depressed. Energy has been and remains a great source of wealth for Texas, indeed Texas has expanded to become a hub for managing global energy problems, including those in Australia. Dallas is a demonstration of the economic growth that energy development is delivering. The population of Dallas in 1872 was about 1000 people now the population of Dallas - Fort Worth is around 6.2 million.

Solar energy has a bright future, particularly through the development of molten salts technology, but at the moment relies on government support. Other renewable sources, however, are limited in what they can achieve. In 1800, 99% of energy was delivered by biomass across the world, by 2040 only around 10%.

An interesting anecdote about the development potential of energy is that prior to the development of oil Camel dung is still an alternative to hydrocarbon just not a good one. A gallon of petrol has enough energy to charge your phone for 20 years.

Major energy development will now come from gas, deep sea oil, shale oil and oil sands. These resources are assumed to be around 5 trillion barrels which one trillion has been used.

New York
Meeting - Office of the City of New York Comptroller

As an independently elected official the New York City Comptroller is the chief financial officer for the city of New York. The Comptroller is responsible for issuing Municipal Bonds for the construction of public infrastructure and had that week issued $4 billion in bonds for the construction of an upgrade in the city’s sewerage works. The return on the bonds for the bond holder is free from tax at both a local, state and federal level. The vast majority of the funding, over 85%, for public works in New York is done through municipal bonds.

The logic of the bonds is that the benefit is over a number of years so the payment by the rate payer to the bond holder via the municipality should be over a number of years.

Meeting – Bank of America

Mr John Hallacy is head of municipal research at Bank of America Merrill Lynch Global Research. Mr Hallacy said the market consisted of about 55,000 issuers (like the city of New York Comptroller) and
had a depth of about $3.7 trillion. The cost of the tax exemption is around $40 to $50 billion a year but the capacity in stringent times to access the money required for so many public works is just not there otherwise.

There are examples of very good bond proposals such as the airport bonds that built the Dallas-Fort Worth Airport. A very bad example was the North East Toll road which when it was inspected the bond issuer made the statement whilst driving along it that “the road is great when will it open” so they could earn tolls to pay for it. The reply came ominously that “it is open”. Another contentious municipal bond float was based on the income from parking metres in Chicago. Obviously the capacity for the private monopoly on parking spaces to charge their own price was not a very good political move for those who had no mechanism of managing the political fallout.

**Meeting – JP Morgan**

Paul Ryan is an Australian with over 22 years experience in the US Bond Market and related sectors. Bonds are currently being sold with a 4% return on a 30 year period but a required rate of return is generally sought in the vicinity of 8%.

JP Morgan stated that there was no shortage of cash looking for a home to invest with sources that included large investments by Canadian Pension Funds. Paul also noted that the municipal bonds were an implicit tax subsidy. Over a 1/3 of Municipal Bonds are held by the household sector with balance held by open end funds, insurance companies, commercial banking and money market funds.

**Meeting – Moody’s**

Moody’s employs around 6,400 people worldwide and maintains a presence in 28 countries. Its reported revenue in 2011 was $2.3 billion. Moody’s is an essential component of the global capital markets providing credit ratings and research to assist in creating greater transparency in the market place.

**Meeting – Standard & Poor’s**

Standard and Poor’s is a US based financial services company that publishes financial research on stocks and bonds.

Paul Caughlin was formerly a staff member with John Howard when he was Treasurer and conducted the interview. Paul was very supportive of the role the Queensland Industry Corporation did and said that as far as a group that understood the financing of infrastructure in Australia went that it would be hard to find a body much better than them.

**Boston – Harvard University**

**Meeting – Dr Ken Rogoff & Dr Carmen Reinhart, Authors of This Time is Different**

An interesting meeting with one of the globe’s most eminent authorities on debt, who in a previous life was grandmaster in Chess and remembers playing an Australian called Fuller who “use to have about 30 beers after a game”. Dr Reinhart was originally from Cuba but left when she was 10.

Many countries hide their debt and l informed him that Australia was not too bad at this as well referring to a net debt position that requires the assumption that public servants super can be used to pay debt.
A key issue was that Dr Rogoff and Reinhart did not believe that increasing the money supply would have an inflationary effect because of excess capacity. US government fiscal tightening was also not a real possibility with the advent of Obamacare.

On Greece they believed that there would not be a technical separation of Greece from the EU but lots of restrictions would be placed on them. Iceland showed one way of getting out of a crisis, default and let your financiers in the UK and Holland eat it up.

China’s growth is doubtful because speculation on where their economy is going internally is currently being booked as substantial.

Washington

As the AALD meetings and the discussions at the State Department Dinner were all strictly “off the record” and this point was reiterated numerous times so it is rather difficult to convey the substance of the meetings. There was also an informal barbeque at the Ambassador’s residence.

Some of the key discussions that I had in Washington were with Chevron, environmental agencies in Washington on water quality issues, and the discussions within the AALD forum including at the White House. I also had meetings with Congressman Bob Gibbs, Congressman Tom McClintock, Senator Mike Lee and staff about issues from water to carbon emission policies and the general disquiet surrounding them.

Tennessee

The Tennessee Valley Augmentation Scheme was started as a project pursued by two Senators; Dodd and Norris and then incorporated into President Franklin D. Roosevelt in his New Deal.

The scope of the scheme had two main streams. The first to mitigate the effect of flooding in the Tennessee Valley the second to provide a source of power to lift the local population that lived to the west of the Great Smokey Mountains out of rather desperate financial means. It was a vast success and now this area has become home to major investment in manufacturing, including by General Motors, Nissan and now lately Volkswagen.

The power that emanated from hydro was later extended to include power from coal, nuclear and in a very small amount, and the most expensive form, wind.

The meetings involved one with the Farm Bureau based out of the University Of Tennessee in Knoxville and the following day with the TVA including a visit to Douglas Dam.

There are large sections of these smaller parcels which as farms have fallen into disrepair and are once again covered in regrowth. Without the investment in the production of cheap power the financial position for so many in this area would be dire.

In summary Tennessee’s future rests with stable labour relations, cheap power and modern and highly efficient transport corridors. In Australia we still do not have direct rail link between our second and third biggest cities in our nation which are both bigger than any city in Tennessee.

Los Angeles

The final part of the US trip involved a visit to Southern California for a meeting with Metropolitan Water District of Southern California. This was a good example of the clash between agriculture and
urban water especially as it relates to the over allocation of the Colorado River. There is approximately 16 million acre feet, one acre feet is equivalent 1.23 mega litres, for river with an annual flow of 14 million acre feet.

With San Diego only receiving around four inches per year and Los Angeles only about 12 inches per year access of alternate sources for one of the most populous sections of the US is imperative. New sources of water from Northern Rivers in the state and the purchase of the option to water from irrigation farms have alleviated the problem in the short term. To indicate the type of deal that needs to be offered farmers were offered 75% of the value of the property for the option to annually acquire their water but no more than a third of any district at one time.

**Conclusion**

This study tour was a high volume very intense package of key meetings over a number of weeks. It allowed a varied view of the political nuances of all sides of the water debate in the US as somewhat of assistance to how we manage similar issues in Australia.

The US is vital for Australia’s ongoing strategic requirements which underpin our economic future. The trip also created contacts which can be built on in the future to continue to nurture our bilateral relationship.
Due to the size of this individual study report a number of pages are not included in this document. A copy of the full report (and any supporting documentation) is available on written request to the Office of the Special Minister of State.
The Hon Gary Gray MP  
Special Minister of State  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Minister

In accordance with the requirements of Clause 9.2(b) of Remuneration Tribunal Determination 2006/18 (the Determination), I submit the following statement reporting on my recent overseas study travel.

I note that, in accordance with Clause 9.5 of the Determination, a copy of this statement may be obtained from you upon request by any Senator or Member. I also note that this statement will be tabled in the Parliament at your discretion, including as part of the six-monthly tabling of entitlements expenditure for Senators and Members by the Department of Finance and Deregulation.

Yours sincerely

Kevin Rudd
Confirmation Purpose of Journey (9.2 (B)(i))

The purpose of my journey to Switzerland, the United States and Canada was to attend a number of conferences and meet with business leaders, government officials and academic institutions.

My travel to Switzerland was to attend the Caux Forum for Human Security where I spoke at two of the keynote sessions – on sustainable development and on racial reconciliation.

In New York, I met with the United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon, the heads of a number of multilateral institutions, business leaders and former government officials.

I attended The Australian-American Leadership Dialogue in Washington and participated in a number of sessions.

Following the Dialogue in Washington I travelled to Chicago where I met with the Mayor of Chicago, other government officials, business leaders and academics and addressed the Chicago Council on Foreign Relations. During my visit to Chicago I returned briefly to New York to participate in the Australian American Leadership Dialogue to be a guest speaker.

I concluded my travel by visiting Canada, accepting a Guest-of-Government invitation from the Canadian Foreign Minister. In Canada I participated in the Canada-Australia Economic Leadership Forum, addressed the Canadian Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade and held a number of meetings with academic institutions, Australian and Canadian business leaders and a variety of current and former government officials.

I provide further information about my program below and detail a number of findings.
**Detailed Itinerary Schedule (9.2 (B)(i))**

**SATURDAY 7 JULY**
Depart Brisbane

**SUNDAY 8 JULY**
Arrive Geneva
Overnight at the Residence of Australia’s Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the United Nations and to the Conference on Disarmament, Geneva, Mr Peter Woolcott

**MONDAY 9 JULY**
Arrive at the Caux Forum for Human Security
Speak at the session “Living Sustainably – Restoring Land, Restoring Lives”
Accommodation for the duration of the conference was at the Caux Conference Centre.

**TUESDAY 10 JULY**
Depart Caux Forum for Geneva
Lunch with Mr Guy Ryder, Director-General elect of the International Labour Organisation
(accompanied by Peter Woolcott)
Meeting with Peter Maurer, President of the International Committee of the Red Cross
Depart Geneva for Caux

**WEDNESDAY 11 JULY**
Speak in the Just Governance session about the Apology to Indigenous Australians
THURSDAY 12 JULY

Depart Geneva for New York

Arrive New York

Meeting with Janos Pasztor, Executive Secretary, UN Secretary-General's High-level panel on Global Sustainability

Evening dinner with Australia’s Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the United Nations, New York, Gary Quinlan.

Accommodation for the stay in New York was at the at Australia’s Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the United Nations, New York, Gary Quinlan.

FRIDAY 13 JULY

Lunch with Helen Clark, Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme

Meeting with United Nations Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon

Meeting with Peter Mason, Senior Adviser to the Executive Director of UNICEF

MONDAY 16 JULY

Breakfast with Dr Henry Kissinger

Train to Washington

U.S State Department Reception and Dinner for the Australian American Leadership Dialogue

Accommodation for the duration of the AALD Conference is Washington was at the Conference venue, the Park Hyatt.

TUESDAY 17 JULY

Meeting with Mr Alec Ross, Senior Advisor for Innovation to Secretary of State Hillary Clinton
Australian American Leadership Dialogue, Afternoon Session Part 1: Foreign Policy Challenges, China and India and Burma and Emerging Democracies

Farewell BBQ hosted by Ambassador Beazley

WEDNESDAY 18 JULY

Breakfast meeting with Jeffrey Bader, John C. Whitehead Senior Fellow in International Diplomacy at the Brookings Institution

Meeting with Brookings Institute
  Martin Indyk, Vice President and Director of Foreign Policy
  Richard Bush, Senior Fellow and Director, Center for Northeast Policy Studies
  Cheng Li, Senior Fellow and Director of Research, China Center
  Erica Downs, Fellow, China Center

Meeting with The Hon Strobe Talbott, president of the Brookings Institution

Arrive Chicago

Meeting with Rahm Emanuel, Mayor of Chicago

Accommodation for the duration of the stay in Chicago was at the Consul-General’s Residence

THURSDAY 19 JULY

Address to the Chicago Council on Global Affairs “The Rise of China: Strategic Responses for the US, the West and the Rest”

Meeting with President Emeritus of the Chicago Council on Global Affairs, Prof John Rielly and Vlas Sambaiwe, President of the Stanley Foundation

Meeting with John Conolly, Associate Director of Market Education, Chicago Board of Trade

Visit to the Chicago Board of Trade

Flight Chicago to New York

New York Leadership Dialogue Gala Dinner - Keynote address to Honour to Bob Hormats
FRIDAY 20 JULY
Meeting with Anthony Lake, Executive Director UNICEF
Flight New York for Chicago
Informal Dinner hosted by Consul-General Roger Price

SATURDAY 21 JULY
Dinner – Evan Feigenbaum, former United States Deputy Assistant Secretary for East Asia, and David Hale

SUNDAY 22 JULY
Depart Chicago for Toronto

MONDAY 23 JULY
Breakfast/Roundtable with Canadian and Australian business leaders
Meeting with Mr Len Edwards, Mr Thomas d’Aquino and Mr Fen Hampson, Co-authors of Winning in a Changing World: Canada and Emerging Markets
Speech at the Munk School of Global Affairs on China’s Impact on the Global and Regional Order,
Address and the Opening Reception and Dinner, Australia-Canada Economic Leadership Forum

TUESDAY 24 JULY
Breakfast meeting and tour of the Centre for International Governance Innovation
Meeting with Jim Balsillie, Founder and Chairman of the Centre for International Governance Innovation
Meeting with the Honourable John Manley, President and CEO of Canadian Council of Chief Executives (CCCE)
Australia-Canada Economic Leadership Forum sessions

Depart Toronto for Ottawa

WEDNESDAY 25 JULY

Lunch hosted by Mr Morris Rosenberg, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs

Speech at Cadieux Auditorium, DFAIT on Global Challenges, Global Responses and Global Governance

Private Dinner with Foreign Minister John Baird

THURSDAY 26 JULY

Meeting with Foreign Minister John Baird

FRIDAY 27 JULY

Montreal

SATURDAY 28 JULY

Montreal

SUNDAY 29 JULY

Quebec City

MONDAY 30 JULY

Ottawa

Meeting with the Governor of the Reserve Bank Canada, Mark J. Carney

Depart Ottawa for Brisbane
WEDNESDAY 1 AUGUST

Arrive Brisbane
Key Meetings and Recommendations (9.2(B)(ii))

1. Desertification

In order to adequately feed approximately 9 billion people in 2050 we will need to increase global food production by 70%. This will require a comprehensive understanding of the factors that impact on global food production and specific research into conservation agriculture.

I had sought a meeting with the Executive Director of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification to discuss the global impact of desertification, land degradation and drought (DLDD) on food security.

The United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification states that its primary aim is to reverse desertification and land degradation and to mitigate the effects of drought in affected areas.

As the Executive Director mentioned to me during our meeting the effects of DLDD are widespread:

- 70-80% of cropland expansion is the result of deforestation;
- 50% of agricultural land is moderately to severely degraded;
- 75 billion tons of fertile soil disappear per year;
- 12 million hectares of land per year are lost due to (DLDD); and
- Over 27,000 species are lost each year due to land degradation.

Additionally, I am advised that in over one hundred countries over 250 million people are directly affected by desertification. These people are often some of the world’s poorest individuals.

The direct effects of DLDD lead to further social challenges such as extreme poverty, food insecurity and hunger, mass migration, increased drought and water stress and instability and crises.

In my meeting with the Executive Director it was recommended that there are four types of DLDD which require varying levels of response:

1. High degradation trend or highly degraded lands requires rehabilitation if economically feasible, and mitigation where degrading trends are high.
2. Moderate degradation trend in slightly or moderately degraded land requires the introduction of measures to mitigate degradation.
3. Stable land, slightly or moderately degraded land requires preventive interventions.
4. Improving lands require reinforcement of enabling conditions which foster sustainable land management.

I understand that up to a third of the overall global abatement potential in 2030 is represented by improved management of the world’s land and that there were significant outcomes at the Rio+20 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in relation to land stewardship for sustainable development.

As Foreign Minister I gave a speech to the 5th World Congress on Conservation Agriculture to highlight Australia’s potential as a world leader in agricultural research and world-leading agricultural research systems.

I acknowledged that as a country we grow twice as much food as we consume and it is my view that as a leader in the area of conservation agriculture we can share our expertise with the developing world.

Specifically I note that the Australian Centre for Agricultural Research (ACIAR) has completed over 1,200 agricultural development projects in 60 countries in Asia, Africa and the Pacific.

It is my view that Australia is uniquely placed to combat DLDD through our world-class expertise in the field conservation agriculture and our connections as a regional power.

**Recommendation:** The Australian Government should consider providing further support to the work of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification as part of our increased multilateral work on food security.
2. Caux Forum – the Apology and its Role in Reconciliation in Aboriginal Australia

*Summary of address to the Caux Forum (including community and official delegations from the Sudan, Nigeria and the Ukraine where peace and reconciliation work is underway.)*

Four years ago, I delivered an Apology in the Australian Parliament on behalf of all Australians to the Indigenous peoples of our vast continent.

Since this moment, I’ve asked myself the question - what has it all meant? If we strip away the emotions of the day, and look starkly at the words printed on the page, has it all added up to be no more than a clanging symbol and a sounding gong?

As part of this forum entitled “Apology and Healing in Aboriginal Australia”, I reflected upon the spirit of the Apology, the spirit of reconciliation, and the spirit of new beginnings that we have seen unfold over these last few years and that will hopefully unfold in time across other parts of the world.

One: For an apology to have any effect it, must be authentic.

In order to apologise, the words must be real.

How could a white-fella begin to plumb the depths of Indigenous suffering over hundreds of years and then, with any confidence proclaim any real empathy with the physical, emotional and spiritual experience of degradation and indignity?

Three days before I delivered that speech there was no speech at all. Put simply, I experienced the most aggravating case of writer’s block. So, that is why I sought out an Aboriginal lady who gently explained to the white-fella what it was like to be ripped from your mother’s arms.

At the age of five, this young girl was stolen from her parents at Tenant Creek in the late 1920s. I met her when she was 82. For three hours I sat and listened to her story, and it was only then, when I had the benefit of the authenticity of her description, of her experience, that I could begin to write authentically.

Two: If an apology is to be effective, it has to be received.

As part of the Apology, I chose carefully the phrase which said: “And I ask respectfully that the Apology offered here is received in the spirit with which it is tendered”.

That the act of “saying sorry”, if genuinely meant, can help to set relationships right.
We all know from our own lives that it is hard to say that you’re sorry. Just as we
know that it can be equally hard to accept such an apology if great wrongs have
been committed.

I did not know at that point whether it would be. There was a great risk in all of this,
but if you are only going to do things when it’s one hundred and ten percent certain,
nothing will ever be done.

Three: If an apology is authentic and it is received with an open heart, then it can be
fundamentally transformational.

This is a difficult thing for those of us in the formal business of politics to
comprehend. We are accustomed, particularly in the West, to think about politics
and policy in formal processes. If we simply see this as a formal set of political, and
economic, and cultural exchanges it will only be part of the picture.

Revolutions of the soul are hard to engineer. They are difficult to come by, but when
they happen, and when they are based in truth, the change can be both enduring and
profound.

In the Apology, I spoke of this act of reconciliation as a bridge – a bridge that had to
be crossed before the practical work of reconciliation could begin. We all know from
our own lives that old wounds cannot simply be hidden. They need to be treated if
they are to be healed, and only then can we get on with it.

Four: An effective apology also has to be factually based.

You need an evidentiary basis, a set of case histories and case stories that are well
documented and well researched by experts in their field, who are both sensitive but
also disciplined in the preparation of historical material. The ‘Bringing Them Home
Report’ cases stories were essential. This body of work ensured that the case was
unassailable.

Five: For an apology to effective, civil society and the community at large must be
engaged much earlier.

Politicians are notoriously slow, they are notoriously reactive. Therefore, the
dedication and hard work of local grassroots organisations over a long period of
time, when the political obstacles seemed to formidable and unsurmountable, was
critical preparation work. The spirit and enthusiasm for which they worked ensured
that the symbolism behind the apology was real.

Six: An apology without action is meaningless.
As part of the Apology speech, I lifted a quotation from St Paul's letter to the Corinthians: “Unless we commit ourselves now to a program of action for our indigenous and with our indigenous brothers and sisters it will be nothing but a clanging gong over time”. If the Apology was to be real, it had to be accompanied by a practical program of action to close the gap in disadvantage between indigenous and non-indigenous Australians.

Because for me, it would be nothing more than a badly sounding gong if we all had an emotional experience and in ten years time, Aboriginal children were still experiencing four times the mortality rate of white children.

Seven: For an apology to be effective, it is an extension of the previous point, it must be sustained into the long term future.

As part of the Apology speech, I pledged that on each anniversary of the Apology, the Prime Minister of the day would be required to formally present a report to the Parliament, outlining progress against the Closing the Gap objectives.

The purpose for this is very simple: to measure whether we are real or we are false, and when we are succeeding to own that with confidence and some collective pride, as we are against three of four of the six measures, and to reflect with anguish when one or two of those measures we are not succeeding. It is, essentially, to hold us to account.

Recommendation: To draw upon the Australian apology experience as appropriate, and in response to any requests from international organisations, in support of reconciliation programs elsewhere in the world where Australia’s experience is deemed to be relevant.
3. **New Democracy**

I had sought a meeting with Alec Ross to discuss the State Department’s views on the impacts of social media and the consequences and opportunities offered through expansion of access to the internet. It is my view that the United States is the current leader in the use of social media and eDiplomacy. It is also my view that more than any other area of diplomacy, this mantle is up for grabs.

None of us know if Facebook or Twitter will be around in ten years time, meaning that the eDiplomacy efforts will continually change and the leaders will be continually challenge. The tools are available to us all – it is simply a question of how we use them and the purposes for which we do so.

The State Department’s success has come from a broad range of engagement amongst its officials - and built upon the traditionally high levels of public diplomacy investment.

As Foreign Minister I was determined to continue Australia’s efforts in eDiplomacy including ensuring mobile access to the Smartraveller service, getting the Department of Foreign Affairs on Twitter and YouTube and engaging with my counterparts on twitter. My discussion with Ross left me with no doubt that there is much more to do, and that there always will be.

I acknowledged the increasing role that social media will play not only in explaining and engaging people in the work of diplomacy, but in driving the changing international environment. I raised this during my speech to the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada:  

"foreign ministries both in their analysis and their diplomacy must engage in the fundamental importance of social media around the world. Not only is social media reflecting change, it is driving change. Furthermore, both around the world and within our own countries, social media is also critical in explaining global complexity and possible response to complex global problems."

I believe that there is a greater role for a focus on innovation in diplomacy. There are no longer the cultural, economic and communication technology barriers that separate our countries.

As Ross mentioned to me during our meeting a recent speech he had given in London where he had talked about the challenges of government slowing down and preventing innovation online.
"As power is shifting from hierarchies to citizens, and networks of citizens, governments tend to feel overwhelmed...They feel over-run by this change. As movements accelerate; as revolutions increasingly make use of connective technologies; as pieces of legislation with massive corporate backing get shot in the head because of citizen-centered networks, what you should anticipate is a lashing back from government."

The shift that Ross discussed also reminds us that we should be very cautious about locking up the talents of our public servants, especially those in foreign ministries, who could be helping build the social capital between countries through social networks.

I also believe there is a greater role for Australia to assist in the goal of Sustainable development by assisting developing countries harness the full power of the internet. If low income countries such as Egypt can change a government with the assistance of social media, I am confident there are even greater economic and educational opportunities for such countries.

**Recommendation:** For the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade to further expand its use of social media across its consular and representational interest around the world.
4. **China and the World**

While abroad, I published an essay in the New Statesman. I took the opportunity at a number of speaking engagements in the United States and Canada to expand on the themes of this essay.

In Ottawa I spoke about a regional engagement strategy and what could constitute the core principles for engagement with China:

First, the international community must accept that it is entirely legitimate for China to have a louder voice at the global negotiating table.

...

Second, we should argue clearly with the Chinese political elite that the current liberal internationalist order, which has preserved the global peace and enhanced prosperity for two-thirds of a century, must be sustained.

....

Third, if, for whatever reason in the future, China steps beyond these agreed norms, the rest of the international community should be prepared not only to say no resolutely, but also to act accordingly.

...

Fourth, the crucible for China’s rising role in the world is of course the Asia-Pacific region. This is where the new regional institutions underpinned by shared international values will be needed to craft principles and practices of common security and common property for the future.

...

Fifth, there is real work to be done on a conceptual level, finding common language, common frameworks, and common discourses between China and the collective West on how best to describe the future global and regional rules-based order.

I believe that principles such as these should form the basis not just for Australia’s, but for the world’s engagement with China. My discussions made it clear to me that there are many in the West who are looking for a blueprint for their own countries future relationship with China.
Australia has a key role to play not just in providing our take on these matters, but being a voice that actively engages in this discussion at all levels.

**Recommendation:** That the Australian Government continue to engage regional governments, the United States, Canada and the Europeans on China’s rise and the implications for the global and regional rules-based order.
5. **Australia and Canada in Asia**

The Australia-Canada Economic Leadership Forum highlighted the opportunities for further joint cooperation between Australia and Canada in coordinated economic approaches to Asian markets.

This could be done at both a corporate level sharing the resources and expertise of companies who have offices and representatives throughout the region, but further, building on the extensive diplomatic links and cooperation between Australia and Canada, this could be instituted at a government level as well.

I am particularly concerned that due to the relatively low levels of trade between Australia and Canada that the natural business connections and opportunities that logically flow from this have not been fully developed. A CEO level exchange between Australia and Canada could go a long way towards improving this.

Despite the strong cultural, political and academic cooperation and exchange between our two countries it would surprise many that our two way trade is only A$3 billion in 2010-11.

The key to growing this figure, and the amount of foreign direct investment between our two countries is to develop more coordination in how we approach growing markets.

Further, given the interest I found in Canada amongst businesses wanting to access Asian markets, there is much opportunity for the Australian financial services and advisory sector to sell expertise to Canadian firms looking to expand.

**Recommendation:** There is scope for a much stronger, coordinated economic approach for Australian and Canadian businesses to work together to enter new markets in Asia. This could come about through a peak meeting of Australian and Canadian CEOs - or an expanded and elevated Australia-Canada Economic Leadership Forum.
6. **Fragile States**

In my meetings with officials from the UNDP, the World Bank, UNICEF, and The United Nations I discussed my upcoming role with the World Economic Forum as Chair the Forum’s Global Agenda Council on Fragile States.

Australia, as a major contributor to the development of fragile states, and even more so in times of acute crisis, has a deep interest in how we help build the economies of fragile states.

The Global Agenda Council on Fragile States has the task to “find new models for harnessing the private sector – capital, corporations, entrepreneurial energies and domestic firms – in partnership with the public sector and citizens. It aims to create jobs and promote prosperity in fragile states.”

I took on this chairperson role through the World Economic Forum (WEF) as it appeared as one of the best ways to link the posture disposition of the business community at events such as WEF with one of the most difficult development challenges we face.

Research by the UN University* places the number of states classified as fragile at about 50, with some one billion people living within these states. Further they estimate that 70 per cent of the most fragile states are in Sub Saharan Africa and that between 1955 and 2006 there were some 139 “state failure events”.

*http://i.unu.edu/media/publication/000/000/786/rb03-08-fragile-states.pdf

**Recommendation:** That AusAid continue to focus its efforts on the basic development needs of Fragile States but also work with the multilateral development banks on how to better package, present and risk manage private sector investments in infrastructure projects in these states.
Attachments:

New Statesman Article – Published 12 July 2012


Speech, The Rise of China - And its Impact on the Global and Regional Order, Address to the Munk School of Global Affairs, University of Toronto, Monday, 23 July 2012

Speech, Global Challenges, Global Responses and Global Governance, Address to the Canadian Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, 25 July 2012
SENATOR HELEN KROGER

United States of America
8 - 22 July 2012
Overseas Study Travel Report

Special Minister of State
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Minister

In accordance with the requirements of Clause 9.2(b) of Remuneration Tribunal Determination 2006/18 (the Determination), I submit the following statement reporting on my recent overseas study travel.

I note that, in accordance with Clause 9.5 of the Determination, a copy of this statement may be obtained from you upon request by any Senator or Member. I also note that this statement will be tabled in the Parliament at your discretion, including as part of the six monthly tabling of entitlements expenditure for Senators and Members by the Department of Finance and Deregulation.

Yours sincerely

[Signature]

Senator Helen Kroger
Chief Opposition Whip in the Senate

20 August 2012
Purpose of Journey

The purpose of accessing my overseas travel entitlement was to travel to Hawaii to participate in the Australian Parliamentary Defence Program Exercise RIM-OF-THE-PACIFIC (RIMPAC) 2012, and, in particular, observe the operations of the United States and Australian forces. The exercises were held between 29 June and 3 August 2012.

RIMPAC is held biennially and is the world’s largest multi-nation defence training exercise, based in and around the Hawaiian islands. When it was first held in 1971, RIMPAC was a joint exercise between the United States of America, Australia and Canada. RIMPAC 2012 hosted over 22 nations – a testament to the increasing importance of international cooperation in defence and military training.

The exercise is hosted by the United States of America and provides significant opportunities for approximately 1100 members of the Australian Defence Force (ADF) to put their training to the test, and examine the limits of Australian military hardware. Particularly for ADF members, RIMPAC is the ideal opportunity to maximise our interoperability and effective collaboration with our allies and partners in the region.

Nations that participated in RIMPAC 2012:
- Australia
- Canada
- Chile
- Colombia
- France
- India
- Indonesia
- Japan
- Malaysia
- Mexico
- Netherlands
- New Zealand
- Norway
- Peru
- Republic of Korea
- Republic of Philippines
- Russia
- Singapore
- Thailand
- Tonga
- United Kingdom
- United States

ADF participants:
- Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment (1 RAR)
- 3 Combat Engineer Regiment (3 CER)
- 4th Regiment, Royal Australian Artillery (4 REGT, RAA)
- Medical specialists
- HMAS Darwin (FFG 04)
- HMAS Perth (FFH 157)
- HMAS Farncomb (SSG 74)
- S-70 B-2 Seahawk helicopter
- Australian Clearance Diving Team 1
- RAAF AP-3C Orion MPA
- RAAF E7A Wedgetail AEW&C

RIMPAC statistics:
- 22 nations
- 40 surface ships
- 6 submarines
- Over 200 aircraft
- 25000 personnel
## Detailed Itinerary Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Location</th>
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| 8 July 2012| Flight  
Flight                                                   | Melbourne to Sydney  
Sydney to Honolulu                                |
| 14 July 2012| Meeting: with Parliamentary delegation and WGCDR Lynton Dixon             | Hotel                                          |
| 15 July 2012| Event: military exercise  
Meeting: briefing and tour                                              | Kaneohe Bay Marine Corps Base  
USS Essex (overnight)                                |
| 16 July 2012| Meeting: briefing and tour  
Meeting: briefing and tour                                              | HMAS Perth  
HMAS Darwin (overnight)                             |
| 17 July 2012| Meeting: briefing and tour  
Meeting: briefing  
Meeting: briefing                                              | USS Nimitz  
US Air Force Base Hickam  
JS Bungo                                              |
| 18 July 2012| Event: visit  
Event: tour  
Meeting: briefing and tour  
Meeting: briefing and tour  
Event: observe Australian-Japanese warfare and clearance diving taskforce | Pearl Harbor memorial, USS Missouri  
USS Arizona  
Pacific War Fighting Centre  
JS Bungo  
JS Bungo                                                |
| 19 July 2012| Meeting: briefing and pre-sortie safety check  
Event: AP-3C evening sortie                                      | Kaneohe Bay Naval Air Station  
On operation from 9:30pm to 5:30am                     |
| 20 July 2012| Meeting: briefings and tour of RAAF AEW&C aircraft  
Event: ADFPP conclusion dinner                                | US Air Force Base Hickam  
Honolulu                                               |
| 21-22 July 2012| Flight  
Flight                                                   | Honolulu to Sydney  
Sydney to Melbourne                                      |
Key Meetings and Outcomes / Findings

Joint air, land and sea exercise, Kaneohe Bay

15 July 2012
The delegation travelled to the base of the US Marine Corps to witness the combined exercise. Captain Leggatt and Lieutenant Spencer briefed participants on the exercise, which involved Australian personnel and materiel, marine and naval vessels. It was fascinating to observe the coordinated exercise involving all three service arms. The ADF performed admirably, experiencing a genuine amphibious flooding and sea rescue, participating in planned amphibious attacks, and a helicopter assault. As a member of the Senate FADT Committee, and a keen supporter of our troops, it was highly impressive to see. Participants were airlifted to the USS Essex, which can carry between 2700-4500 personnel. The US participants spoke highly of the ADF, their consistency, ‘can do’ attitude and training. The Essex was our base for the night, which was a great opportunity to speak with the service personnel and experience a taste of life at sea.

HMAS Perth - HMAS Darwin

16 July 2012
Participants were airlifted to HMAS Perth, which allowed us to experience military logistics. Prior to each transit, the delegation was given a detailed safety brief. Aboard the Perth, we spoke with many personnel who all emphasised the importance of interoperability and joint exercises with our key allies and regional partners. We were then airlifted to Hickam Air Force Base, home to USAF 15th Wing which provides strategic and tactical airlift capabilities in the form of the C-17 Globemaster and F-22 Raptor aircraft. Nothing in Australia compares to the size, scale and capacity of Hickam. The base provides health, educational and recreational facilities for single personnel and military families. We received briefings from US RADM Charles Ray (USCG), US RADM Russ Perriman (PACFLT HQ) and members of the New Zealand defence force contingent. The delegation was airlifted to an overnight on HMAS Darwin.

HMAS Darwin – USS Nimitz – USAFB Hickam– JS Bungo

17 July 2012
LCDR Pepper provided a formal briefing on the vessel, an upgraded Oliver Hazard Perry Class frigate. Details of the presentation are available on request. The Darwin was deployed on 24 May for a 4½ month deployment. The briefing included details of the Green Fleet MOU between Australia and the US, which formalised the ADF policy to reduce reliance on fossil fuels. We witnessed the restocking of naval supplies via airlift to supply ships and warships. The Darwin undertook a MK 46(P) firing the following Thursday using the Pacific Range Missile Facility. Exercises such as these are unique to RIMPAC and provide an invaluable chance to test all platforms. The delegation was airlifted to USS Nimitz where we were provided with a comprehensive and impressive tour and briefings. The Nimitz has 24 deck levels and has a personnel capacity of X and carries up to X number of aircraft. We witnessed an airstrike program with 14 fighter planes being catapulted off the deck at less than two minute intervals. A personal highlight was steering the carrier from the bridge. We were catapulted in a C-2 Greyhound from the flight deck and returned to USAFB Hickam where we transited to JS Bungo, a Japanese war ship, the base for an Australian-Japanese joint exercise. A tour of the clearance diving capabilities, including the Revis, concluded our time on the vessel.

Pearl Harbor – USS Missouri – USS Arizona – Pacific War Fighting Centre

18 July 2012
We undertook a comprehensive tour of USS Missouri and USS Arizona, a very moving and appropriate tribute to fallen US sailors during the strike on Pearl Harbor. We transited to the Pacific
Senator Helen Kroger

War Fighting Centre – the headquarters of RIMPAC 2012 – where we received a number of detailed briefings.

Kaneohe Bay Naval Air Station – AP-C3 Orion evening sortie
19 July 2012
Following extensive briefings and pre-flight checks, I participated in an evening exercise in the AC-P3 Orion with one other delegation member. The exercise commenced at 9:30pm with the Squadron members demonstrating their technical skills under the leadership of CO, WGC DR John Grime. The brief was to identify and locate an enemy submarine that included the use of 35 sonar buoys that were dropped during the night. We returned at 5:30am the following morning.

USAFB Hickam – RAAF AEW&C Wedgetail
20 July 2012
Participants were given briefings and a tour of the RAAF Wedgetail aircraft – a vital part of Australia’s airborne early warning system. A dinner was held in the evening to conclude the ADF participation program.

Conclusion

In conclusion, participation in RIMPAC 2012 reinforced my appreciation and respect for the professionalism and skills of our defence forces. It provided me with an opportunity to better appreciate the physical limitations that our personnel sometimes work under. Government investment in these exercises is critical. With the challenges of the 21st century, ranging from disaster relief to time critical military deployments, interoperability is a vital part of the ADF. Cultural awareness, cooperation and trust between nations is critical. So is the opportunity for nations to test their defence assets in a ‘friendly’ environment. At the dawn of the Asian century, it is vital for Australia’s defence forces to embrace and excel at regional defence exercises. I strongly commend RIMPAC as a military exercise that fosters a peaceful and resilient Asia-Pacific region.
SENATOR THE HON ERIC ABETZ

Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand
9 - 23 July 2012
Special Minister of State
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Overseas Study Travel Report

Dear Minister

In accordance with the requirements of Clause 9.2(b) of Remuneration Tribunal Determination 2006/18 (the Determination), I submit the following statement reporting on my recent overseas study travel.

I note that, in accordance with Clause 9.5 of the Determination, a copy of this statement may be obtained from you upon request by any Senator or Member. I also note that this statement will be tabled in the Parliament at your discretion, including as part of the six monthly tabling of entitlements expenditure for Senators and Members by the Department of Finance and Deregulation.

Yours sincerely

Eric Abetz
10/09/12
Purpose of Journey

The purpose of my overseas study to Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand was to get a better understanding of Australia's relationship with these countries and the potential for mutual beneficial interaction. Whilst there has rightly been a lot of concentration in recent times on China and India, it seems that there are other countries in between with whom Australia might also beneficially interact at a more intense level.

The areas of interest related to

(i) my portfolio responsibilities of workplace relations and the role of Government agencies and authorities, private sector and union organisations and the International Labor Organisation which has a regional headquarters in Bangkok;

(ii) the potential for investments in these countries by Australian businesses and what opportunities Australia has to expand its investment in these countries and create wealth for Australia, rather than foregoing manufacturing opportunities to these countries, e.g. the Ford Focus plant in Thailand, previously destined for Geelong;

(iii) the vexed problem of people smuggling and the attitude of authorities to this issue and pathways for resolution;

(iv) the issue of forestry such as certification, oil palm plantations, and Indigenous/native/customary title rights.

(v) Australia's ongoing support for war memorials in memory of our service personnel and presentation of the Burma Railway and Hellfire Pass was also an interest.

The issues of interest arise from my current portfolio responsibilities in Employment and Workplace Relations and representing the Environment and Climate Change, and Immigration and Citizenship portfolios, previous portfolio responsibilities as a Shadow Minister and Minister and in my role as Leader of the Opposition in the Senate, these being the previous Shadow Minister for Innovation, Industry, Science and Research, a former Minister for Fisheries, Forestry and Conservation, a former Parliamentary Secretary for Defence and a former Chair of the Parliament's Joint Committee on Native Title and the Indigenous Land Fund. The forestry issues also held a keen interest for me as a Senator for Tasmania.
## Detailed Itinerary Schedule

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<td>9 July 2012</td>
<td>Travel</td>
<td>Fly Hobart to Sydney</td>
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<tr>
<td>9 July 2012</td>
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<td>Fly Sydney to Jakarta</td>
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<td>10 July 2012</td>
<td>Meeting</td>
<td>Ambassador’s residence</td>
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<td>10 July 2012</td>
<td>Meeting</td>
<td>Ministry of Manpower and Transmigration</td>
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<td>10 July 2012</td>
<td>Meeting</td>
<td>Ministry of Industry</td>
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<tr>
<td>10 July 2012</td>
<td>Meeting</td>
<td>Mr Kermal Stanoelo MP, Head of Australia-Indonesian Bilateral Corporation Group</td>
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<td>10 July 2012</td>
<td>Meeting</td>
<td>Ministry of Forestry</td>
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<td>10 July 2012</td>
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<td>Co-ordinating Ministry for Political, Legal &amp; Security Affairs</td>
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<td>10 July 2012</td>
<td>Meeting</td>
<td>Professor Haffid Abbas - Hotel</td>
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<td>10 July 2012</td>
<td>Meeting</td>
<td>Discussing Workplace Relations with a range of Australian and Indonesian business people - Embassy</td>
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<tr>
<td>11 July 2012</td>
<td>Meeting</td>
<td>IOM Community Accommodation Facility</td>
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<td>11 July 2012</td>
<td>Meeting</td>
<td>Migrant Educational Facility</td>
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<td>11 July 2012</td>
<td>Workshop</td>
<td>Lara Djonggrang Restaurant with UNHCR’s Indonesian representatives</td>
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<tr>
<td>11 July 2012</td>
<td>Travel</td>
<td>Fly Jakarta to Kuala Lumpur</td>
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<td>12 July 2012</td>
<td>Travel</td>
<td>Fly Kuala Lumpur to Kuching</td>
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<td>12 July 2012</td>
<td>Meeting</td>
<td>Land Ministry Sarawak</td>
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<td>12 July 2012</td>
<td>Meeting</td>
<td>Director of Forests Sarawak</td>
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<tr>
<td>12 July 2012</td>
<td>Travel</td>
<td>Fly to Sibu</td>
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<tr>
<td>12 July 2012</td>
<td>Meeting</td>
<td>Board of Ta Ann</td>
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<tr>
<td>13 July 2012</td>
<td>Travel</td>
<td>Fly from Sibu to Pasin</td>
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<tr>
<td>13 July 2012</td>
<td>Meeting</td>
<td>Warden and staff and native title holders of Lanjak Entimau Wildlife Sanctuary including briefing on Orang-utan research</td>
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<tr>
<td>13 July 2012</td>
<td>Meeting</td>
<td>Aerial inspection of protected areas, logging coupes, river reserves, buffer zones, wildlife corridors etc</td>
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<tr>
<td>13 July 2012</td>
<td>Meeting</td>
<td>Aerial inspection of oil palm plantations and exclusion lots by native title holders exercising their rights</td>
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<tr>
<td>13 July 2012</td>
<td>Travel</td>
<td>Fly to Miri</td>
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<tr>
<td>14 July 2012</td>
<td>Meeting</td>
<td>Aerial inspection of Penan native holdings</td>
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<tr>
<td>14 July 2012</td>
<td>Meeting</td>
<td>Penan people, WWF interpreting</td>
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<tr>
<td>14 July 2012</td>
<td>Meeting</td>
<td>Longhouse community, urban migration, native title rights, forestry and plantations</td>
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<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Type</td>
<td>Details</td>
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<tr>
<td>14 July 2012</td>
<td>Travel</td>
<td>Fly to Sibu</td>
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<tr>
<td>15 July 2012</td>
<td>Meeting</td>
<td>Ta Ann Headquarters</td>
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<tr>
<td>15 July 2012</td>
<td>Meeting</td>
<td>Ta Ann Mill</td>
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<tr>
<td>15 July 2012</td>
<td>Travel</td>
<td>Fly to Kuching</td>
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<tr>
<td>15 July 2012</td>
<td>Travel</td>
<td>Kuching to Kuala Lumpur</td>
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<tr>
<td>16 July 2012</td>
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<td>UNHCR Compound</td>
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<td>16 July 2012</td>
<td>Meeting</td>
<td>Wisma UN</td>
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<td>16 July 2012</td>
<td>Workshop</td>
<td>Illido Restaurant with Embassy advisors</td>
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<td>16 July 2012</td>
<td>Meeting</td>
<td>Mandarin Oriental Hotel with President of Malaysian Bar Council</td>
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<td>17 July 2012</td>
<td>Meeting</td>
<td>Human Rights Commission of Malaysia</td>
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<tr>
<td>17 July 2012</td>
<td>Workshops</td>
<td>High Commissioner's residence</td>
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<td>17 July 2012</td>
<td>Meeting</td>
<td>Ministry of Plantation Industries and Commodities</td>
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<tr>
<td>17 July 2012</td>
<td>Meeting</td>
<td>Dutch Embassy</td>
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<tr>
<td>18 July 2012</td>
<td>Travel</td>
<td>Kuala Lumpur to Bangkok</td>
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<tr>
<td>18 July 2012</td>
<td>Workshop</td>
<td>Australian Embassy</td>
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<tr>
<td>18 July 2012</td>
<td>Meeting</td>
<td>International Labour Organisation</td>
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<tr>
<td>18 July 2012</td>
<td>Meeting</td>
<td>Thai Board of Investment</td>
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<tr>
<td>19 July 2012</td>
<td>Meeting</td>
<td>Eastern Seaboard Industrial Estate and Ford Thailand Manufacturing facility</td>
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<tr>
<td>19 July 2012</td>
<td>Meeting</td>
<td>Indoor Air Quality</td>
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<td>20 July 2012</td>
<td>Travel</td>
<td>Bangkok to Mae Sot</td>
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<td>20 July 2012</td>
<td>Meeting</td>
<td>Mae La displaced persons camp and tour</td>
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<td>20 July 2012</td>
<td>Workshop</td>
<td>Khaomao-Khaofang Restaurant with UN and IOM officials</td>
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<td>21 July 2012</td>
<td>Meeting</td>
<td>IOM Processing Centre</td>
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<tr>
<td>21 July 2012</td>
<td>Travel</td>
<td>Mae Sot to Bangkok</td>
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<tr>
<td>21 July 2012</td>
<td>Ceremony</td>
<td>Kanchanaburi War Cemetery &amp; Burma-Thailand Railway Centre and River Kwae bridge</td>
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<tr>
<td>22 July 2012</td>
<td>Ceremony</td>
<td>Hellfire Pass</td>
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<td>22 July 2012</td>
<td>Meeting</td>
<td>Home Phu Toey Resort</td>
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<td>23 July 2012</td>
<td>Reception</td>
<td>Australian-Thai Chamber of Commerce</td>
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<tr>
<td>23 July 2012</td>
<td>Travel</td>
<td>Bangkok to Singapore</td>
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<tr>
<td>23 July 2012</td>
<td>Travel</td>
<td>Singapore to Darwin</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Key Meetings and Outcomes / Findings/Conclusions

Forestry

10 July 2012, Jakarta, Indonesia: Meeting with Mr Zulkifli Hasan, Minister for Forestry.
12 July 2012, Kuching, Malaysia: Meeting with Tuan Haji Ali Bin Yusop, Director of Forests, Forest Department, Sarawak.
12 July 2012, Kuching, Malaysia: Meeting with Dr Stephen Rundi regarding palm oil projects.
12 July 2012, LEWS field station briefing and longhouse (Kati-bau)
14 July 2012, Sibu, Malaysia: Visit to Ta Ann headquarters and Ta Ann mill.
17 July 2012 Dutch Ambassador

In both Indonesia and Malaysia the issue of how to best harness the resources that the forests have to offer in a sustainable way was discussed. There is also the legitimate concern of native/customary title holders to both protect their forests and land should that be their wish, or for them to be able to capitalise on the forests and thus create wealth for their people above and beyond the subsistence level.

In Indonesia, the issue of Australia’s illegal logging legislation was discussed with their Minister for Forestry. After initial concerns the legislation is welcomed in principal, but Australia needs to ensure that the bill does not impact negatively on trade, and, as such, Australia should recognise Indonesia’s existing timber legality verification scheme.

It was a matter of concern that Indonesia was able to advise that they had supplied timber for the London Olympics. It is noted that because of extreme green and untrue representations being made to the suppliers of the London Olympics, regrowth and plantation timber material from Tasmania processed by Ta Ann in both Tasmania and Malaysia was not able to be sold to the London Olympics. This is an absolutely perverse outcome and a direct result of the extreme green ideology overtaking common sense. Whereas in Australia the total forest estate is actually growing, in Indonesia, deforestation is still well into the millions of hectares per annum. It is to this timber to which the greens provided a market! A similar green strategy is now blocking the sale of sustainably harvested Tasmanian timber, which is processed in Sarawak, Malaysia, from its previous markets in Japan. This will impact on Tasmanian/Australian jobs and will give priority to the harvesting of forests in Southeast Asia where the practices of forest husbandry are able to be improved. The targeting of the Ta Ann company by the extreme greens is most unfortunate given that they are in genuine discussions with the Penan people, and decided to invest in Tasmania rather than the Russian Federation because of our robust forestry practices regime.

Workplace Relations

10 July 2012, Jakarta, Indonesia: Meeting with Mr Ruslan Irianto Simbolon Director General of Industrial Relations and Social Security Affairs, Ministry of Manpower and Transmigration.
18 July 2012, Bangkok, Thailand: Meeting with Ms Alcestis A. Mangaha, Officer in Charge, and Mr Wolfgang Schiefer, Head of Regional Partnerships, Resource Mobilisation and UN Reform, International Labour Organisation

Minimum wage rates are being implemented in the region, albeit their enforcement, especially with large trans-migration populations, it is difficult to monitor.
Malaysia has a lot of Indonesians earning an income which is often repatriated back to Indonesia. The International Labour Organisation in Bangkok is liaising in the area, seeking to lift standards including in occupational health and safety. Progress is being made. Interestingly, in Indonesia, it only requires ten people to be able to form a union. The unionisation of labour in Indonesia is on par with Australia.

In Malaysia the minimum wage takes into account regional variabilities in capacity to pay.

Industry and Investment

10 July 2012, Jakarta, Indonesia: Meeting with Dr Alex Retraubun, Vice Minister for Industry.
10 July 2012, Jakarta, Indonesia: Meeting with Mr Kemel Stamboel, Member of the Indonesian House of Representatives, Head of Australia – Indonesia Bilateral Cooperation Group, Member of parliamentary commission XI, responsible for Finance, Banking & Development
19 July 2012, Rayong Province, Thailand: Tour of Ford Thailand Manufacturing Facility with Mr George Elisseou, Human Resources Manager.

The region is growing rapidly and the growth rates have seen a burgeoning middle class and the lifting of those in abject poverty to a more acceptable lifestyle, albeit, still far short of what we might anticipate in Australia.

Investments are being made in the harnessing of nature’s gifts, and in developing manufacturing, especially for the burgeoning middle class. The relatively large domestic markets allows there to be a consumer base which the manufacturing sector can fulfil. A visit to the Ford Plant in the Eastern Seaboard Industrial Precint of Bangkok highlighted what Australia missed out on when the Ford Focus development for Southeast Asia was withdrawn from Australia and given to Bangkok. Thailand has embarked on an aggressive development plan for the automotive sector, which has seen a number of large players establishing in Thailand. The new Ford factory production will be twenty percent for the domestic market and eighty percent focused on exports. It is this sort of ratio that is difficult for the Australian automotive manufacturers to achieve.

People Smuggling

10 July 2012, Jakarta, Indonesia: Meeting with Mr Nadjib Riphat Koesoema, Deputy to the Coordinating Minister for Political, Legal, and Security Affairs.
16 July 2012, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia: Meeting with Mr Kamal Malhorta, UN Resident Coordinator for Malaysia and UNDP Representative for Malaysia, Singapore, and Brunei Darussalam.
20 July 2012, Mae Sot, Thailand: Tour of Mae La displaced persons camp with briefing by Ms Yoko Akasaka, Senior Protection Officer, UNHCR

The vexed issue of people smuggling is a matter of genuine concern throughout the region. Regrettably, there are not sufficient resources to fully monitor the transmigration and people movements. There is an acknowledgement that there is a lot of opportunism in the people movements that have taken place in recent times.
The plight of those on the Thai/Burma border camp was obvious. Some had been displaced since 1994 and are eagerly awaiting resettlement. Displacement of these people by those perceived as engaged in opportunism is rightly seen as an injustice. The recent Houston Report has rightly identified the need to remove any advantage from those seeking to enter Australia illegally. This will require lengthy delays in resettlement and should act as a disincentive.

**Hellfire Pass**

22 July 2012, Kanchanaburi, Thailand: Tour of Hellfire Pass and Memorial Museum

Australia’s Department of Veterans’ Affairs does an exceptional job in commemorating the sacrifice of our fellow Australians in the protection of our nation and the freedoms that we enjoy today. The Hellfire Pass memorial and the Kanchanaburi war cemetery, together with the privately run museum opposite the cemetery, are a great tribute to the service of those Australians who died for us. The efforts of the private Australians who operate the museum should be applauded.

**Conclusion**

It is vitally important that Australia maintain an engagement with the countries between India and China. It is easy to overlook these middle power players in circumstances where China and India are providing such exciting opportunities. Nevertheless, the countries of Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand provide very real opportunities for our nation to engage on a bilateral and multilateral level to deal with issues such as illegal logging, deforestation, people smuggling and mutual investment opportunities.

Extreme green campaigns have seen regrowth and plantation products from Tasmania being supplanted by products originating from Southeast Asian rainforests. This is neither good for the Australian economy, Australian jobs or the World’s environment.

Australia is highly thought of as a nation, despite some setbacks, such as the live cattle export issue, the Malaysian Solution, so called. It seemed that every official or minister had a son or daughter or at least some close relative studying in Australia, or had studied in Australia, with extremely positive experiences. Mr Abbott’s recent announcement about a reinstituted Colombo Plan, together with encouraging more Australians to study at the universities of our near Southeast Asian neighbours, has been exceptionally well received.
MR JAMIE BRIGGS MP

United States of America
12 - 23 July 2012
Overseas Study Travel Report

The Hon. Gary Gray MP
Special Minister of State for the Public Service and Integrity
PO Box 6022
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Minister

In accordance with the requirements of Clause 9.2(b) of Remuneration Tribunal Determination 2006/18 (the Determination), I submit the following statement reporting on my recent overseas study travel.

I note that, in accordance with Clause 9.5 of the Determination, a copy of this statement may be obtained from you upon request by any Senator or Member. I also note that this statement will be tabled in the Parliament at your discretion, including as part of the six monthly tabling of entitlements expenditure for Senators and Members by the Department of Finance and Deregulation.

Yours sincerely

[Signature]

JAMIE BRIGGS MP
17 August 2012
Purpose of Journey

PARTICIPATION in YOUNG LEADERSHIP DIALOGUE FORUM

The purpose of accessing my overseas study entitlement was to travel to the east coast of the United States of America to participate in the 2012 Young Leadership Dialogue Forum (YLD).

The Australian American Leadership Dialogue describes itself as non-partisan initiative bringing together Australian and American leaders to assist in reviewing and refining the parameters of the bilateral relationship. Participants in the Dialogues aim to foster mutual understanding on issues of mutual interest and concern. The long-term aim of the Leadership Dialogue is to enrich Australia’s longstanding alliance with the United States, enhancing the framework for regional security to assist in ensuring economic and cultural prosperity for Australians and Americans alike. The YLD was launched in 2007 for delegates aged up to 34 years of age, and includes young Australian and American leaders from politics, enterprise, education, NGOs, technology and the sciences whom feature in every Leadership Dialogue event.
## Detailed Itinerary Schedule

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<td>Flight</td>
<td>Adelaide to Sydney</td>
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<td>12 July 2012</td>
<td>Flight</td>
<td>Sydney to Los Angeles</td>
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<td>12 July 2012</td>
<td>Flight</td>
<td>Los Angeles to Washington DC</td>
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<tr>
<td>13 July 2012</td>
<td>Meeting</td>
<td>Congressional Liaison Officer of the Australian Embassy</td>
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<td>Political Director of National Republican Senatorial Committee (NRSC)</td>
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<td>Bus trip from Washington to New York</td>
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<td>New York to Los Angeles</td>
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<td>Flight</td>
<td>Los Angeles to Melbourne</td>
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<td>22 July 2012</td>
<td>Travel</td>
<td>Flying time</td>
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<tr>
<td>23 July 2012</td>
<td>Flight</td>
<td>Melbourne to Adelaide</td>
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Key Meetings and Outcomes / Findings

All sessions are ‘closed’ which enables the delegates to control how little or how much of their views are published. It also enables the Leadership Dialogue to act as both an instrument to facilitate deeper engagement between the US and Australia, and at the same time encouraging public discourse on the issues under discussion.

Sessions – Washington DC
1. US and Australian Political Overview
2. Leadership Session
3. Economics Session
4. Capitol Hill offsite
16 July 2012

Sessions – Washington DC
1. Economics Dialogue
2. Climate Change
3. The Evolving Indo-Pacific
5. Bi-partisanship in Public Policy
6. Capital Elite Cruise
17 July 2012

Sessions – New York
1. Manhattan Cruise
18 July 2012

Sessions – New York
1. Morning Session including Media, Digital Technology and Urban Policy
2. Evening Gala Dinner
19 July 2012

Sessions – New York
1. Google – Offsite
20 July 2012
Conclusion

The East Coast YLD is a well established opportunity for young political, media and business leaders of Australia to come together with American counterparts and discuss shared challenges. This was the first time I have attended the East Coast dialogue and I found it both intellectually stimulating and relevant to my role in the Federal Parliament.

Discussions relating to issues such as current thinking in the Education, Health, Defence/Security and Energy sectors, the challenges of the evolving Indo-Pacific, and the American political climate were particularly significant. So too were the discussions surrounding the economic challenges facing global economies, given the current economic debate in Australia. The exposure to emerging technologies in terms of media and the changing roles of newspapers was useful in considering the direction of Australian policy in this important area.

Finally the separate discussions with the Republican Senate Campaign director and the Chief of Staff to Representative Paul Ryan were very useful in understanding the issues that will dominate the upcoming elections in the United States.
8 August 2012

Special Minister of State
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Minister

In accordance with the requirements of Clause 9.2(b) of Remuneration Tribunal Determination 2006/18 (the Determination), I submit the following statement reporting on my recent overseas study travel.

I note that, in accordance with Clause 9.5 of the Determination, a copy of this statement may be obtained from you upon request by any Senator or Member. I also note that this statement will be tabled in the Parliament at your discretion, including as part of the six monthly tabling of entitlements expenditure for Senators and Members by the Department of Finance and Deregulation.

Yours sincerely

[Signature]
Senator Anne McEwen
SENATOR FOR SOUTH AUSTRALIA

ADELAIDE OFFICE
PO BOX 55, TORRENSVILLE PLAZA SA 5031
101 HENLEY BEACH ROAD
MILE END SA 5031
TEL: 08 8352 7477
FAX: 08 8234 1165

CANBERRA OFFICE
PARLIAMENT HOUSE
CANBERRA ACT 2600
TEL: 02 6277 3434
FAX: 02 6277 3425
EMAIL: Senator.McEwen@aph.gov.au
Purpose of Journey

The purpose of the journey was to attend RIMPAC (Exercise Rim of the Pacific) 2012 as part of the Australian Defence Force Parliamentary Program (ADFPP).

The ADFPP is organised and supported by the Australian Defence Force (ADF) to give Federal parliamentarians the opportunity to spend time with defence personnel while they are ‘at work’. The Program enables parliamentarians to observe the many duties and responsibilities of our defence personnel on assignments both in Australia and overseas, and to examine the capabilities, systems and platforms of the ADF and to consider future requirements. The Program enables parliamentary participants the opportunity to experience, and discuss with defence personnel, the practical implementation of Government defence policy including defence procurement.

A reciprocal arrangement is available for ADF personnel to undertake a placement with Federal parliamentarians. This exchange program gives participating defence personnel an insight into the work of the Federal Parliament and the day-to-day activities and responsibilities of parliamentarians.

A number of options are available in the ADFPP each year. Parliamentarians nominate to attend one or more of the options offered and places on some options are limited. I was fortunate to secure a place on the Program to attend RIMPAC 2012.

RIMPAC has been held bi-annually since 1971 by the Commander, US Pacific Fleet (PACFLT). Australia has participated in all RIMPACs and, in 2012, 22 nations were participating, including Russia for the first time. Participating nations provided 40 ships, 6 submarines, 200 aircraft and 25,000 personnel to RIMPAC.

RIMPAC is described at www.navy.gov.au/RIMPAC_2012 as “a US sponsored exercise ... a unique training opportunity that aims to enhance the interoperability of the combined forces and involves war-fighting exercises, humanitarian assistance/disaster relief (HA/DR) and maritime security operations. The exercise also enables participants to foster and sustain the cooperative relationships that are critical to ensuring the safety of sea lanes and security on the world’s oceans”.

RIMPAC 2012 was held between 30 June and 3 August 2012. The ADFPP participants attended activities selected by the ADF from 14th – 20th July 2012.

Approximately 1100 Australian defence personnel from all three services participated in RIMPAC 2012 and participants in the ADFPP were able to meet many of those personnel, across all the services and from all ranks. There were also opportunities to meet defence personnel from other nations and to examine closely and ‘in action’ the defence capability of Australia and the other participating nations.

As well as giving participants the opportunity to learn in detail about Australia’s defence forces and capabilities, attendance at RIMPAC enables participants to gain a better understanding of Australia’s military and strategic relationships with other nations in our region.
### Detailed Itinerary Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>14 July 2012</td>
<td>Flights</td>
<td>Adelaide / Sydney / Honolulu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 July 2012</td>
<td>Observe amphibious landing, meet 1RAR Participants. Transfer to USS Essex – briefings/tours/overnight</td>
<td>Marine Corps Base, Kaneohe Bay / at sea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17 July 2012</td>
<td>Transfer to USS Nimitz – briefings / tours. Transfer to Hickam Airforce Base.</td>
<td>At sea / on land / Honolulu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19 July 2012</td>
<td>Briefings / maritime ops flight AP-3C Orion with RAAF.</td>
<td>Kaneohe Naval Air Station / in air</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 July 2012</td>
<td>Briefings / tour Wedgetail (AEW&amp;C) with RAAF. ADFPP concludes / dinner.</td>
<td>Hickam Air Force Base/Honolulu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23 July 2012</td>
<td>Flights</td>
<td>Honolulu / Sydney / Adelaide</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Key Meetings and Outcomes / Findings

ADFPP participants at RIMPAC attended a number of different activities which were organised by the Australian Defence Force (ADF).

Key activities included:

- Observing an amphibious assault landing involving Australian soldiers from 1RAR working with the US Marine Corps
- Tours, detailed briefings, observation of at sea exercises and formal and informal discussions aboard naval ships USS Essex, USS Nimitz, HMAS Perth and HMAS Darwin. All ships were at sea and engaged in warfare exercises whilst participants were aboard.
- Flight with RAAF No. 11 Squadron on Lockheed AP-3C Orion whilst on maritime patrol.
- Tour and briefings by RAAF No.2 Squadron on Boeing Wedgetail (AEW &C)
- Briefings of “The Great Green Fleet”, an initiative of the US Navy, intended to reduce reliance on imported oil and to support energy efficiency in the US Defence Force. Australia has signed an MOU with the USA on this initiative.
- Ship board briefing by Australian Mine Warfare and Clearance Diving Taskforce
- Detailed briefings by Combined Forces Maritime Component Commander (CFMCC) at PACFLT HQ.
- Visits to memorial sites at Pearl Harbor including USS Arizona and USS Missouri
- Formal and informal dinners and other meals with defence personnel from participating nations including Australia, US, UK, Russia, New Zealand etc aboard ships and on land. Opportunities were provided to speak informally with personnel from all ranks.

Some of the findings from these activities included:

Australia’s defence forces are very highly regarded by other nations participating in RIMPAC and this was acknowledged by Australia leading the maritime component of RIMPAC. This was the first time in the history of RIMPAC that the US Navy has provided this role to another country.

ADF personnel value the opportunity RIMPAC gives them to work alongside other nations and to see the various platform and capability of those nations.

The 2009 Defence White Paper highlighted the need for Australia to be more independent and capable in areas such as undersea, anti submarine and surface maritime warfare, as well as needing enhanced air capability and more adaptable platforms. Briefings and discussions during the program emphasised these aspects of the Paper. Personnel were enthusiastic about planned capability enhancements including future submarines, AWDs and LHDs. A replacement for the P3 Orion was advocated.
It was also apparent that ADF personnel who deliver our capability “on the ground” want to be consulted about capability enhancements.

The early release of the next Defence White Paper is of considerable interest to serving personnel, especially in the context of Australia’s changing role in Afghanistan, the increasing role of the defence force in humanitarian assistance and disaster relief in our region and elsewhere, and the deployment of ADF personnel in border protection activities.

ADF personnel of all ranks used the opportunity to raise with the ADFPP participants ongoing issues in the services including changes to the travel entitlement for single military personnel, the ongoing issue of indexation of defence force superannuation incomes, choice of superannuation funds and other matters. Personnel and participating politicians discussed the importance of entitlements other than salary in the recruitment and retention in the ADF.

ADF personnel often expressed their disappointment that public attention in Australia seemed to focus only on the “bad news” stories out of Defence (including harassment and abuse matters) when much good work, for example in the HA/DR arena, is not reported.
Conclusion

Attendance at RIMPAC as part of the ADFPP enabled me to see 'first hand' the practical application and impact of Government defence spending and defence policy. The opportunity to spend considerable time with ADF personnel from all services and of all ranks and to witness military operations as part of a broader exercise with allies and neighbour countries reinforces how important it is to continue to question our ongoing ability to defend Australia and our ability to continue to contribute to security and stability in our region of the world.

Given the amount of funding Australia devotes to defence ($103bn in the 2012/13 budget), it is important that parliamentarians understand what is being spent, why it is spent and what the intended outcomes of that spending are.

It is also important to understand and question Australia’s 'place in the world'. This is particularly relevant given the recent decision by the United States of America to focus more on its operations in the Pacific. Australia needs to work with our allies but also retain our independence.

As a Senator for South Australia, where both Federal and State governments have invested, and continue to invest, to attract defence industries and establish defence research and construction precincts such as Techport, I now have a better understanding of developments in defence capability including hardware and systems. The continual question of whether to support in-house developments in systems and platforms, or to buy off the shelf, or to modify off-the-shelf purchases will continue to exercise the minds of defence personnel and politicians. Those questions need to continue to be asked.

As a member of the Senate Foreign Affairs Defence and Trade Committee, and of the Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade I find participation in the ADFPP invaluable for my work on that Committee.

Attendance at RIMPAC 2012 has been particularly valuable because of the concentration of activities, the opportunity to witness our services 'in action, and the opportunity to speak to serving personnel about their roles, their careers, the equipment they use and the impact of budgetary and political decisions on their ability to perform their work.

My thanks to all the ADF personnel who assisted with the Program, and especially to Lynton Dixon, Executive Officer of the Australian Defence Force Parliamentary Program.
The Hon. Gary Gray  
Special Minister of State  
Suite M1 23  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Overseas Study Travel Report

Dear Minister,

In accordance with the requirements of Clause 9.2(b) of *Remuneration Tribunal Determination 2006/18* (the Determination), I submit the following statement reporting on my recent overseas study travel.

I note that, in accordance with Clause 9.5 of the Determination, a copy of this statement may be obtained from you upon request by any Senator or Member. I also note that this statement will be tabled in the Parliament at your discretion, including as part of the six monthly tabling of entitlements expenditure for Senators and Members by the Department of Finance and Deregulation.

Yours sincerely

Mike Symon  
Federal Labor Member for Deakin  
04/10/2012
Purpose of Journey

The purpose of accessing my overseas study entitlement was to travel to Honolulu as a part of the Australian Defence Force Parliamentary Program (ADFPP) to observe joint military exercises involving Australian armed forces personnel in Exercise Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC 2012).

The RIMPAC exercises are undertaken bi-annually in Hawaii and this year there were 22 different nations represented including Australia, Canada, Chile, Columbia, France, India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Peru, Russia, South Korea, Singapore, the Philippines, Thailand, Tonga, the UK and the US.

1100 Australian personnel from the Air Force, Army and Navy took part in the joint exercise which totalled over 25,000 armed forces personnel and over 200 aircraft from the 22 countries taking part.

Australia, for the first time, was in charge of leading the maritime component of the RIMPAC Exercises which consisted of 41 surface ships, one aircraft carrier (USS Nimitz) and six submarines.

RIMPAC 2012 was held between the 30th of June and the 3rd of August 2012.

Detailed Itinerary Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>13 July 2012</td>
<td>Flight</td>
<td>Melbourne to Sydney</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 July 2012</td>
<td>Flight</td>
<td>Sydney to Honolulu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 July 2012</td>
<td>Event/Meeting</td>
<td>Deploy for overnight visit at sea on USS Essex</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16 July 2012</td>
<td>Event/Meeting</td>
<td>Deploy for day visit at sea to HMAS Perth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16-17 July 2012</td>
<td>Event/Meeting</td>
<td>Deploy for overnight visit at sea on HMAS Darwin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17 July 2012</td>
<td>Event/Meeting</td>
<td>Deploy for day visit at sea on USS Nimitz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 July 2012</td>
<td>Event</td>
<td>Visit to USS Arizona memorial and USS Missouri historical display at Pearl harbour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19 July 2012</td>
<td>Event/Meeting</td>
<td>RAAF AP-3C Orion anti submarine surveillance flight at Kanehoe Naval Air Station</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 July 2012</td>
<td>Event/ Meeting</td>
<td>Visit to Hickam Air base to view RAAF Airborne Early Warning &amp; Control Aircraft AEW&amp;C (Wedgetail)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22 July 2012</td>
<td>Flight</td>
<td>Honolulu to Sydney</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23 July 2012</td>
<td>Flight</td>
<td>Sydney to Melbourne</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Key Meetings and Outcomes / Findings

Deployment to USS Essex
Hawaii
15th & 16th July 2012

After viewing a landing by Amphibious Assault Vehicles (AAV’s) that included an Australian contingent launched from the USS Essex at Kaneohe Bay, I met with personnel from A Company – 1RAR.

That afternoon, I was transferred to the USS Essex by helicopter and met with senior US Navy officers.

For the RIMPAC exercise, the USS Essex was carrying 1000 crew, 1800 marines and 13 Amphibious Assault Vehicles, several types of helicopters including 6 CH-53 Super Stallions, 4 x Ah-1W Super Cobras and 3 LCAC heavy transport hovercraft. At 260m in length the USS Essex was built at a cost of $1.1 billion and commissioned in 1992. It is powered by two steam propulsion plants and has a large capacity medical facility with six operating rooms and up to 600 beds.

Deployment to HMAS Perth
Hawaii
16th July 2012

In the morning I was transferred from the USS Essex to Hickam Air Base and then across to the HMAS Perth, an FFH class frigate by helicopter. The HMAS Perth was commissioned in 2006 and is the first Anzac class ship to have the Anti-Ship Missile Defence upgrade installed.

I met with Captain Malcolm Wise the Commanding Officer of the HMAS Perth and was briefed on the role of the ship in the exercises, the weapons and missile systems on board and the engineering systems below decks.

In the afternoon I was able to view the live firing exercises using the ships 5 1/4" gun.

Deployment to HMAS Darwin
Hawaii
16th & 17th July 2012

Late afternoon I was transferred by helicopter to the HMAS Darwin that was also taking part in RIMPAC exercises and was briefed by Captain Brian Schlegel, the Commanding Officer.

The Darwin is an FFG class frigate and compared to the Perth, is older although it is well equipped with modern weapons and navigations systems.

The HMAS Darwin can counter simultaneous threats from the air, surface and underwater with its range of sensors and weapons.
Deployment to USS Nimitz
Hawaii
17th July 2012

At 0830 I was transferred by helicopter to the USS Nimitz, an aircraft carrier commissioned in 1975 with a large complement of FA 18 Hornets onboard along with various other aircraft for the transferring of supplies and personnel.

The USS Nimitz has a crew of around 5000, is 332 metres in length and the equivalent of 18 storeys in height.

I was given a guided tour of the ship, including the Flag and Nav Bridges, the flight operations centre, the arresting gear room (used to hook aircraft as they land), the Foc’sle and the Flight Deck and am still struggling to find words to describe the sheer scale of this vessel.

I was transferred off the Nimitz by Carrier Onboard Delivery (COD) aircraft to Hickam Airbase later that afternoon.

Visit to USS Arizona Memorial and USS Missouri Historical Display
Pearl Harbour, Hawaii
18th July 2012

On the morning of the 18th of July I was escorted to the memorial of the USS Arizona that was sunk during the Japanese raid on Pearl Harbour on 7th December 1941 with the loss of 1177 lives of the ships crew.

I also visited the battleship USS Missouri, which is now on historical display at Pearl Harbour, being the vessel upon which the Japanese instrument of surrender at the end of World War 2 was signed.

Meeting with Commodore Stuart Mayer
Pearl Harbour – Forde Island – Pacific War Fighting Centre
18th July 2012

In the afternoon I met with Commodore Mayer and his staff and was briefed on Australia’s role in the leading of RIMPAC maritime operations whilst viewing operations at the Pacific War Fighting Centre.

Visit to Japan Maritime Self-Defence Force Minesweeper Tender, JS Bungo (MST-464)
Pearl Harbour, Hawaii
18th July 2012
Later in the day I was given an onboard briefing of the capabilities of the Japanese Mine Sweeper Tender, the JS Bungo and saw first hand the involvement of Australian and New Zealand navy personnel in tandem with the Japanese crew of the JS Bungo.

**Surveillance Flight on AP-3C Orion**  
*Kaneohe Naval Air Station*  
*19th July 2012*

Early in the morning I embarked upon a flight in an AP-3C from 11 Squadron that was tasked with patrolling the open seas in an anti submarine surveillance capacity.

Squadron Leader Paul Hay and the crew showed me the capabilities of the aircraft and I left with a far different impression to when I had boarded. The capability of low level and night flying options make the AP-3C a very valuable asset for a country such as Australia with such enormous sea lanes to protect.

**Inspection visit of RAAF Wedgetail Airborne Early Warning & Control Aircraft**  
*Hickam Air Base Hawaii*  
*19th July 2012*

On the afternoon of the 19th of July I was briefed on the capabilities of the Wedgetail Airborne Early Warning & Control Aircraft. This briefing outlined the differences between the capabilities of this aircraft and the AWACS operated by the United States.

An inspection tour of the Wedgetail was included with the briefing whilst the aircraft was parked on the tarmac at Hickam air base.

**Conclusion**

The multinational involvement in RIMPAC exercises provides Australian forces with an opportunity to engage in joint naval operations together with our pacific neighbours.

As a spectator to some of these operations it was evident that the skill, dedication and professionalism of the Australian forces was held in high regard by the representatives of all partner countries that I met during the course of my visit to the RIMPAC exercise.

The opportunity for interaction with our allies at sea and to undertake live naval fire exercises at sea is very useful and I would recommend that Australia take every opportunity to engage in future RIMPAC and other similar exercises to enhance our military interoperability with our pacific neighbours.

Similarly, I would recommend the RIMPAC option of the ADFPP program to all parliamentarians with an interest in Australia’s defence operations and capabilities.
Due to the size of this individual study report a number of pages are not included in this document. A copy of the full report (and any supporting documentation) is available on written request to the Office of the Special Minister of State.
3 May 2013

The Hon Mark Dreyfus, QC, MP
Special Minister of State,
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Minister

In accordance with the requirements of Clause 9.2(b) of *Remuneration Tribunal Determination 2006/18* (the Determination), I submit the following statement reporting on my recent overseas study travel.

(a) Confirmation of Purpose:

To participate in the annual Australia-US Leadership Dialogue in Washington DC and New York City. Program is attached.

(b) Itinerary:

**Sunday 15 July 2012**
Travel Brisbane to (QF 15) Brisbane/Los Angeles (QF 3085) Los Angeles to Washington Dulles Int’l Airport

**Wednesday 18 July 2012**
Travel to New York (via bus)

**Sunday 22 July 2012 – Tuesday 24 July 2012**
Travel New York to Dallas American Airlines (2489), Dallas to Brisbane (QF 8)
Conclusion:

I note that, in accordance with Clause 9.5 of the Determination, a copy of this statement may be obtained from you upon request by any Senator or Member. I also note that this statement will be tabled in the Parliament at your discretion, including as part of the six monthly tabling of entitlements expenditure for Senators and Members by the Department of Finance and Deregulation.

Yours sincerely,

(George Brandis)
Senator the Hon George Brandis, SC
Sunday 15 July 2012 – Tuesday 24 July 2012
BRISBANE / Los Angeles/Washington/New York/Brisbane

Sunday 15 July 2012

8.30am
Comcar – Clayfield to Brisbane International Airport – job number 6834

10.35am – 6.40am
Flight – QF 15 Brisbane/Los Angeles - (travel time 13 to 5 mins)
Confirmed Business Upgrade seat 2A

9.15am – 5.15pm
Flight – QF 3085 Los Angeles to Washington Dulles Int’l Airport
(travel time 5 hours)
Upgrade must be requested on checkin in BNE / or on arrival in LAX

Met on arrival by DFAT – car transport to accommodation

5.15pm
Travel to accommodation
The Park Hyatt
1201 24th Street, NW
Washington DC
Arrive 15.07.12 - Depart 18.06.12

6.00pm – 9.00pm
Welcome Drinks
Venue to be advised
Nightcaps Session, Park Hyatt

Monday 16 July 2012 - Dress Code:

Morning Session: Global Economy and Growth
Lunch: USA Politics – election Year in Review
Afternoon Session: US Administration briefing

7.15am – 9.00am
Breakfast Briefing
Venue: The Park Hyatt

9.00am – 4.45pm
Forum ‘12
Venue: The Park Hyatt

6.15pm – 7.30pm
US State Department Cocktails
Venue: 8th Floor, 2201 C Street, NW, Washington

7.30pm – 9.30pm
Dinner – State Department Dinner
Venue: as above
Tuesday 17 July 2012 -

Morning Session: Defence and Security
Lunch: Australian Politics – Year in Review
Afternoon Session: Foreign Policy Challenges

7.30am – 9.00am Breakfast Briefing
Venue: The Park Hyatt

9.15am – 5.00pm Forum ‘12
Venue: The Park Hyatt

6.30pm – 9.30pm Farewell BBQ – Ambassador Kim Beazley’s Residence
Venue: 3120 Cleveland Avenue, NW, Washington

Wednesday 18 July 2012 - Dress Code

7.30am – 9.00am Breakfast Briefing
Venue: The Park Hyatt

9:00am Buses depart Park Hyatt Washington DC for University Club New York

NEW YORK LEADERSHIP DIALOGUE

Evening: Welcome Reception, Hudson River Cruise

Accommodation: University Club, New York
1 West 54th Street
New York, NY

Arrive 18.07.12 - Depart 22.06.12
Confirmation #: 183348

Dress code at the University Club, male members to wear jackets, dress shirt & tie
Thursday 19 July 2012 - Dress Code:

Morning:
Dialogue Session, University Club
Lunch:
Lunch, University Club
Evening:
New Your Leadership Dialogue Gala Dinner, University Club

9.00am – 1.00pm
New York Leadership Dialogue
Venue: The University Club, College Hall

1.00pm – 2.00pm
New York Leadership Dialogue Lunch
Venue: The University Club

7.00pm
New York Leadership Dialogue Gala Dinner
Venue: the University Club

Friday 20 July 2012 – New York

Saturday 21 July 2012 – New York

Sunday 22 July 2012 – New York to Brisbane

4.30pm – 7.30pm
New York to Dallas
Flight American Airlines Flight 2489 – (travel time 4 hours)

9.55pm – 5.00am July 24
Dallas to Brisbane
QF 8 – (travel time 16 hours and 5 minutes)

Tuesday 24 July 2012

5.00am
Comcar – Brisbane International Airport to Clayfield - Job number 6836
Senator Louise Pratt  
Overseas Study Travel Report  

Special Minister of State  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600  

Dear Minister  

In accordance with the requirements of Clause 9.2(b) of Remuneration Tribunal  
Determination 2006/18 (the Determination), I submit the following statement reporting on my  
recent overseas study travel.  

I note that, in accordance with Clause 9.5 of the Determination, a copy of this statement may be  
obtained from you upon request by any Senator or Member. I also note that this statement will be  
tabled in the Parliament at your discretion, including as part of the six monthly tabling of  
entitlements expenditure for Senators and Members by the Department of Finance and  
Deregulation.  

Yours sincerely  

Louise Pratt  
17/09/2012
Purpose of Journey

As Convenor of the Parliamentary Liaison Group for HIV, Blood Borne Viruses and STIs I committed to attending the 2012 Global Aids Conference. The purpose of this Conference was to examine developments in HIV treatment and prevention in both a global and Australian context.

I also undertook meetings in Washington and New York on a number of key issues of relevance to my Parliamentary work. These included UN Women, UN AIDS, and Parliamentarians for Global Action, Nuclear Disarmament, International GLBTI rights, Antarctica and HIV.

These are all policy areas in which I have an active interest.
# Detailed Itinerary Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>19 July 2012</td>
<td>Flight</td>
<td>Perth to Sydney</td>
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<tr>
<td>19-20 July 2012</td>
<td>Flight</td>
<td>Sydney - Dallas - Washington</td>
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<tr>
<td>(AEST to US Time zone)</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>MSM Global Forum – Welcome Reception</td>
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<tr>
<td>21 July 2012</td>
<td>Event</td>
<td>Washington DC</td>
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<td>MSM Global Forum – Pre-Conference</td>
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<td>22 July 2012</td>
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<td>Washington Convention Centre</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>XIX International AIDS Conference Opening</td>
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<td>23 July 2012</td>
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<td>XIX International AIDS Conference</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Meeting</td>
<td>Inter-Parliamentary Union</td>
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<td>Event</td>
<td>US Congress</td>
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<td>24 July 2012</td>
<td>Event</td>
<td>XIX International AIDS Conference</td>
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<td>Meeting</td>
<td>Office of Oceans and Polar Affairs</td>
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<td>Meeting</td>
<td>Human Rights Campaign Office</td>
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<td>Event</td>
<td>Embassy of Canada</td>
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<td>25 July 2012</td>
<td>Event</td>
<td>XIX International AIDS Conference</td>
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<td>Meeting</td>
<td>Department of State &amp; Council for Global Equality</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Meeting</td>
<td>Senior Government Official Department of State</td>
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<td>Meeting</td>
<td>United Kingdom Politicians</td>
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<td>Meeting</td>
<td>Ambassador Australian Embassy</td>
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<td>Meeting</td>
<td>Nuclear Threat Initiative</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Meeting</td>
<td>Aids united human rights campaign congressional reception</td>
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<tr>
<td>26 July 2012</td>
<td>Event</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Event</td>
<td>Satellite Symposium - AIDS 2014 Melbourne</td>
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<td>Event</td>
<td>Symposium Dinner</td>
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<td>27 July 2012</td>
<td>Event</td>
<td>XIX International AIDS Conference - Closing</td>
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<tr>
<td>28 July 2012</td>
<td>Train</td>
<td>Washington DC to New York</td>
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<tr>
<td>30 July 2012</td>
<td>Meeting</td>
<td>New York State Assembly Member</td>
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<tr>
<td>31 July 2012</td>
<td>Meeting</td>
<td>Parliamentarians for Global Action</td>
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<td>Empowerment of Women (UN Women)</td>
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<td>8 August 2012</td>
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Key Meetings and Outcomes / Findings

MSM GF Preconference meetings

This conference demonstrated the significance of supporting HIV prevention and treatment work in MSM and transgender communities and that successfully tackling HIV cannot be done effectively without addressing the needs of key affected populations.

The conference underscored how challenging this can be in legal, social and cultural environments where men who have sex with men and transgender people are discriminated against.

The conference noted importance of legislation to lift travel bans against HIV people from travelling to the US. However, sex workers and injecting drug users were precluded from travel and attendance. This underscored the difficulty of effectively addressing issues at the conference for these vulnerable populations without their attendance.

Criminalisation Symposium - “Take the test – but risk arrest.”

This symposium raised the inappropriate application of general criminal law in relation to HIV – there are a number of law enforcement hotspots, Australia included. Such laws promote stigma and create a disincentive to positive people to get tested or disclose to sexual partners.

Many studies show that HIV positive people have a burden around their responsibilities in the law. The law reinforces false beliefs about how people will behave; these assumptions are not necessarily borne out to be true. There is for an example an expectation of disclosure from young gay men that their sexual partners will disclose when this may not be the case – it is also misleading given most transmission comes from undiagnosed cases. Criminalisation means people are less likely to disclose to health professionals.

Parliamentarian’s Meeting

Speakers included - Congressman Jim McDermott and Sen Marleen Temmerman

The meeting recognised the importance of the findings of the Global Commission on HIV AIDS and the Law – noting that the report found that stigma, discrimination and criminalisation of HIV and homosexuality inhibit good treatment and prevention practices. A good example relevant in some Australian contexts is the manner in which criminalisation deters people from learning their HIV status.

The IPU meeting encouraged countries to audit laws – this is something much needed in Australia with a range of State laws impinging on good HIV prevention practice. Consistency in good practice across the country is also desirable, meaning the Australian Commonwealth Government could also provide a leadership role to assist in coordinating an effective response.
The meeting highlighted problems arising from the flattening of international financing and the fact that globally 10 million people who are positive have no access to treatment. The IPU encouraged nations to fund the Global Fund for HIV, Malaria and Tuberculosis noting that the global financial crisis has had a significant impact on contributions and therefore on the global HIV response.

The global response now needs to include smarter financing and partnerships, the scale up of evidence based programs including treatment as prevention and to target vulnerable populations. This necessitates change in some national responses which have ignored at risk populations because of moral “complexities”. This is a point reinforced by the MSM GF conference.

The Roadmap to an AIDS free generation highlights the importance of maternal care to prevent mother to child transmission but also the need to reduce transmission in adult population through access to treatment. The principle of treatment as prevention is built on the principle that people are more likely to want to know their status if they have access to treatment and that positive people who know their status are much less likely to pass the virus on. Most importantly people on treatment can lower their viral load to an undetectable level which significantly reduces the possibility of transmission.

The Hon. Ryuhei Kawada of the House of Councillors, Japan highlighted how Japanese policy makers are obstructing good HIV national responses and gave the example of how teachers are not allowed to speak of sex and sexual intercourse. “How can I teach children how to use a condom if you can't use the word sex or sexual intercourse.” He noted that there is a growing epidemic young people and MSM.

A number of African MPs highlighted that many people are not aware of the link between sexual inequality for MSM and women and the link with HIV. This need to be addressed with prevention education for young people. There is a need to include women at the table and listen to their voices.

To achieve this there is a need to educate policy makers. Noting that NGOs and small organisations are struggling with the burden of educating in many countries, particularly in the face of restrictive local and national laws and policies which make this work difficult.

The forum heard from Joel Nana the Executive Director, African men for sexual health and rights. He also highlighted the importance of the Global commission on HIV and the Law and the problem of many laws in Africa which criminalise men who have sex with men and sex workers. This experience is also relevant in Asia and the Pacific region.

Nana noted the importance of strengthening international human rights law and the need for right holders to be able to claim their rights. Discrimination, stigma, denial of rights is accelerating the epidemic in many parts of Africa.

His experiences highlighted how it is not possible to protect against HIV at the same time as criminalizing MSM, sex workers and injecting drug users.
Asia-Pacific Region Symposium

The symposium session featured a large panel of speakers - including medical practitioners, activists and policy makers – who discussed the key issues, from their perspective, related to HIV/AIDS in the Asia-Pacific as follows.

Dr Swarup Sakar spoke about the overall situation in the region, noting that:

- The situation was highly variable between countries, with Papua New Guinea the only nation experiencing a crisis similar in magnitude to that which exists in some some African countries.
- There had been some considerable successes in the region (eg Cambodia) but that responses within countries had only been successful when ALL high risk groups – including MSM, injecting drug users and sex workers - were actively and appropriate targeted. If any one of these groups was excluded from the overall responses, then HIV infection rates tended to be unstable/increase.
- Given the ongoing stigma and discrimination faced by these high-risk groups in the region, coupled with the large gap between available funding and need in the region, it would be very unlikely that the UN High Level goals would be achieved within the Asia Pacific. Few countries in the region were directing available funds to high risk groups, and that there was accordingly a need for Global Fund monies to fill this gap.

Also presented were findings from the Indonesian report How Dare You! regarding issues faced by women living with HIV/AIDS:

- Many women continue to face substantial financial and geographical/transport barriers to accessing HIV tests & treatment
- Forcible/coerced sterilization of women living with HIV/AIDS continues to be a problem throughout the region, as does women living with HIV/AIDS being discouraged from continuing with pregnancy. The new Indonesian Health Ministry has said it will work to address the problem in that country – a positive development though it is noted that much work will need to be done with doctors themselves.
- For the above reasons, and due to real/feared stigma there is a tendency for many women to avoid health care at all during pregnancy

Other key issues raised during the symposium included:

- Significant concern about the risks posed by free trade agreements to the production of and access to generic HIV/AIDS medications. Australia was seen as having an important role to play here in supporting other countries in the region.
- The need to critically access the structure of programs in the region – most, (especially those targeted at intravenous drug users and sex workers) are adult focused, meaning that young people miss out and are excluded from the HIV responses
- The close connection between “unwanted labor” and HIV infections. In particular:
  a. The region needs a stronger and more coordinated response to migration that includes health and HIV/AIDS considerations.
  b. Sex workers need to have an improved legal status – with an urgent need to broaden the discourse in region about sex work beyond only issues of trafficking which are currently dominant.
Global Fund Session

The Global Fund spoke of the significant progress made globally in addressing HIV and of the need to move into the next phase of tackling the epidemic which would involve targeting key affected populations that are at the centre of the disease burden. The fund is looking towards being a key force in attaining universal coverage or treatment, care and prevention efforts.

There is a need to invest strategically, especially considering the constrained global financing environment. The fund will be focused on high impact programs and on fast approvals.

The fund expressed their support for rights campaigns that will bring down barriers so that the funds efforts can reach vulnerable populations such as injecting drug users, sex workers and men who have sex with men.

The Fund has restructured to enhance accountability and is looking to institutionalise diverse stakeholders in both funding and policy decisions. The fund is looking to work towards greater country ownership for increased impact and sustainability of programs.

I also met with Christoph Benn from the Fund and we discussed the funds reform process as well as preparations for a Global Fund meeting in Australia.

*** Australia is a significant donor to the Global Fund.

Looking to Melbourne Symposium

This symposium looked to draw out directions for the 2015 Global AIDS conference to be held in Melbourne.

These included:-

- Vaccine and a cure
- Prevention failures because gender and other human rights issues for vulnerable groups have not been addressed
- Targets for treatment – which will need to be much higher given is desirable to treat people earlier.
- Test and treat methodologies
- The need to track more populations for infections
- Better targeting of investment – only 8% of funding has gone into the right investments including marginalised populations.
- A greater focus on Co-morbidities such as TB
- Treatment and prevention interventions that are less behaviourally dependant such as injectable and vaginal rings.
- The $7 billion global gap in funding

Parliamentarians for Global Action on TB

This meeting with UK and Scottish Parliamentarians followed up on the important links between TB and HIV noting their significant co-morbidity and the need to raise awareness of the need for
investments in both diseases. This has particular relevance for Australian Mining investment in Africa as both TB and HIV are prevalent in some mining communities.

**UNAIDS - Mr Bertil Lindblad, Director**

UN AIDS recently opened a NY office because of the key political work taking place in NY.

They have worked on key issues such as data management and collection for the UN AIDS. Their work has focussed on the investment framework as well as critical enablers for care and treatment, access to justice and targeted resource mobilisation.

UN AIDS is supporting significant technical work which supports countries to understand their epidemics and grapple with issues such as understanding the significance of the time of infection and bio markers.

The meeting noted that with the significant down turn in funding the UN should be targeting resources behind legal reforms developing the important work of the Global Commission on HIV and the Law, including for LGBT communities and sex workers. The meeting noted the important role of Parliamentarians to affect this.

**Ms Marjorie J. Hill, Chief Executive Officer, GMHC**

GMHC is one of the US’s most important HIV/AIDS community service Organisations. My objective behind visiting the centre was to understand more about their approach to rapid testing for HIV which US organisations are surprised to find does not yet exist in Australia. Rapid testing has been undertaken by GMHC for many years.

The organisation was originally called the gay men’s health crisis centre, but it has grown to be a diverse and inclusive organization serving the HIV positive community of New York. It also does outreach promoting a culture of HIV testing in the NY community. It provides health and support services to positive people including a meals program in premises, social networks, a food pantry, nutrition counselling and more.

All medical clinics are required by law to provide HIV tests. Dr Hill noted that there is even a NY dental practice that offers HIV testing to its patients and has detected some HIV positive patients.

Rapid testing exists in many settings in NYC, including walk ins, the drop in health and testing centre and mobile vans, bars, churches and the Central Park AIDS walk, appropriate counselling is provided in all settings. This includes pre and post-test counselling.

The tests don’t need to be done qualified medical practitioners but it is regulated by law that they do need to be done by qualified HIV counsellors.

There are a number of different kinds of tests used by GMHC with different views of which are preferable. All have been seen however to provide reliable results when conducted in a manner that
is consistent with good counselling and clinical practice. This will involve counselling around what at risk activities may have taken place and when so that the effect of any window period before a positive result might be detected is understood. Concerns about accuracy because of the window period have been reported in Australia.

Counselling will involve really getting people to think about any risk behaviours they might be exposing themselves to and creates an opportunity to promote safer sex or injecting. Notably this level of Counselling may not be provided in all Australian settings. However, such counselling is likely to be provided in many of the Australian clinical settings where it is provided by doctors or nurses attached to Sexual health, HIV or injecting drug user services.

While we have a continued HIV epidemic it is nevertheless a growing one. It is an epidemic that could be further contained if those at risk are tested early and regularly if transmission risk factors remain. Rapid testing can have many benefits in terms of encouraging those who should be tested to get tested as it is far more convenient for people to be able to get on the spot results rather than to return later for test results as is currently required for blood tests that are sent away for analysis.

There are many settings in Australia which would be well placed to benefit from rapid testing conducted in a proper manner. These are likely to include support services for injecting drug users, HIV/AIDS services and sexual health clinics. It’s notable that some trials have commenced in NSW and Victoria — consideration will have to be given to affective national approaches and these international comparisons should be useful.

**Human Rights Campaign - Mr Josh King**

The HRC noted the important work being done by the US State Department on LGBT human rights issues, noting that embassies have been told to engage with LGBT NGOs on the ground at a country level.

This policy direction was explicitly wired to the posts. The State Department Work includes a commitment to a global equality fund – designed to leverage private funds to support LGBTI human rights defenders. This builds on existing programs and other countries such as Australia could look to contribute.

Notable in an Australian context is the HRCs corporation equality index created 11 years ago. This is something Australian corporates’ are now looking to be more responsive too as a way of building work place productivity. The HRC provides a good model for rating this work.

**United States State Department – Asia Pacific Roundtable & Meeting**

The US State department organised regional roundtables on LGBTI rights as part of the global AIDS conference. It was notable that this round table was of relevance to Australia.
Senator Louise Pratt

I spoke at the round table and noted that while this round table had no Pacific participants the needs of the Pacific are very great with a high level of legal discrimination as well as social stigma in the region.

It was noted that the US State Department is looking to support some kind of global equality fund which could also fit with priorities for AusAid and DFAT.

The meeting provided a good overview of issues confronting some LGBTI people in the Asia region. Particularly important was the work of ACOM.

Parliamentarians for Global Action

Parliamentarians for Global Action have a number of campaigns that are also key issues running actively in the Australian Parliament, these include human rights, gender and development, HIV and the law, disarmament and populations and development issues. My meetings with the PGA will enable me to participate in connecting these activities to help support successful international campaigns.

UN High Commissioner for Human Rights - Mr Charles Radcliffe, Chief, Global Issues

This meeting created an opportunity to discuss global LGBTI rights within a UN context. There have been significant developments within the UN to express concern about violence and discrimination against sexual minorities and call on the UN Human Rights Commission to document violence and discriminatory laws. These moves in June of 2011 represented a historic breakthrough to LGBTI issues on the UN agenda. These UN debates occurred with significant debate and some conflict noting that a number of states walked out of discussions – while many others shared experiences and best practice, agreeing that significant violations of human rights are taking place.

We held further discussions about the UNs strategies to build further progress internationally on rights for sexual minorities and how Australia can contribute as well as the importance of support for LGBTI human rights work in the Pacific region.

It was notable that many of the countries in disagreement with rights for sexual minorities are the same countries also in conflict over gender, gender based violence and reproductive rights. There will be an ongoing need to work on strategies to not only make advances but to defensively protect human rights gains in relation to both sexuality and gender issues.

UNFPA – Kate Gilmore, Deputy Executive Director

This meeting focused on sexual and reproductive health issues with the UN and how Australia’s Aid agenda fits in. There is a need for further work to better integrate family planning and midwifery with and STI prevention, testing and treatment. There is a need for further political work to take place to provide a mandate for best practice policy and service delivery noting religious and social conservatism has undermined progress – needs to be seen as a health issue rather than an ideological one.
UN Women - Ms Patience Stephens, Director

We discussed the appointment of Australia and the Solomon Islands to the board of UN Women. This is important given the significant disadvantages faced by women in the Pacific. We discussed the challenges for the Convention on the Status of Women and the possible role Australia could play to support its further advancement.

Conclusions

I look forward to further developing the issues pursued within this overseas study trip through my work as convenor of the Parliamentary Liaison Group for HIV/ AIDS and as a member of the Ministerial Advisory Committee for Blood Borne Viruses and STIs, through my policy interests in Australia’s Aid Program and DFATs international human rights advocacy. I also have plans to as a result of these meetings work more closely with the Global Fund, UN AIDS, UN Women and AllOut. I also intend to work with the organisers of the next Global AIDS conference to take place in Melbourne to support good participation of Parliamentarians around the world.

It’s notable that many of the meetings undertaken as part of this study tour highlighted that while there have been considerable global successes in building sexual and reproductive health rights and human rights for women, LGBTI people and people living with HIV there are significant common challenges in tackling human rights abuses, stigma and discrimination. Many of the global forces against the advancement of rights in these areas are collaborating. Australia, including government agencies such as DFAT and AusAid, Parliamentarians and civil society need to build on Australia’s existing contribution to global efforts to protect these rights as there remain considerable international risks to the global gains already made.

Some briefings were of a confidential nature and not for publication – but will inform further policy development and discussion.
MS SHARON GRIERSON MP

Spain, the Netherlands, Belgium, Germany and France
24 July – 11 August 2012
25 March 2013

The Hon. Mark Dreyfus QC MP
Special Minister of State
PO Box 6022
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Minister

In accordance with the requirements of Clause 9.2(b) of Remuneration Tribunal Determination 2006/18 (the Determination), I submit the following statement reporting on my recent overseas study travel.

I note that, in accordance with Clause 9.5 of the Determination, a copy of this statement may be obtained from you upon request by any Senator or Member. I also note that this statement will be tabled in the Parliament at your discretion, including as part of the six monthly tabling of entitlements expenditure for Senators and Members by the Department of Finance and Deregulation.

Yours sincerely

Sharon Grierson MP
Federal Member for Newcastle
Overseas Study Travel Report:

Port-Cities: Examining Urban Development in Barcelona, Valencia, Amsterdam, Rotterdam, Antwerp and Hamburg

Sharon Grierson MP, Federal Member for Newcastle
July – August 2012

1. Purpose:

To study port-cities and urban development at the following port locations: Barcelona, Valencia, Amsterdam, Rotterdam, Antwerp, and Hamburg, examining:

- port operations and planning in each designated port;
- the integration of port development with city planning and economic and infrastructure development;
- maritime centres as tourism destinations and heritage facilities and any integration with the relevant port authority;
- the approach adopted to providing seafarers welfare centres in designated ports; and
- the work of the Organisation of Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in Paris regarding their Port-Cities Programme (2012-2013).

Additional activities undertaken:
- visit the Renew Rotterdam project (which is linked to Renew Newcastle, using creative enterprises as a catalyst for urban renewal); and
- inspect a glasshouse food production nursery using coal seam gas which is similar to that which DART Energy is proposing for Fullerton Cove, Newcastle.
### Detailed Itinerary Schedule

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<th>Activity</th>
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<td>Meeting</td>
<td>Manager Business Development, Grup TCB</td>
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<td>26 July 2012</td>
<td>Meeting</td>
<td>Site visit Grup TCB (Container Terminal)</td>
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<td>26 July 2012</td>
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<td>Site visit Estibarna</td>
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<td>29 July 2012</td>
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<td>Senior Policy Adviser, Nautilus International</td>
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<td>Education and Participation Manager, Renew Rotterdam</td>
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<td>Amsterdam to Hamburg</td>
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<td>Business Development Manager, Hamburg Port Authority and Tour of Hamburg Port</td>
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<td>Head of Directorate-General for Urban and Landscape Planning for the City State of Hamburg</td>
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<td>German Seamen’s Mission of Hamburg-Harburg</td>
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3. Key Meetings and Outcomes / Findings

3.1 Barcelona

3.1.1 Meeting
Presentation by Manager Business Development, Grup TCB, Mike Dekker assisted by Javier Gonzales.
Site visit to Grup TCB Container Terminal.
Thursday 26 July 2012

Findings:
• Established in 1972, Grup TCB is Spain’s leading international terminal operator and
aspire to be a leading global maritime and container terminal developer. It also
specialises in developing rail and intermodal terminals.
• Grup TCB offers a global portfolio of specialised port solutions such as port
infrastructure design, equipment acquisition and management, planning for intermodal
connections and implementation of customer-tailored online solutions.
• A family based business, Grup TCB prefers to invest in green-field sites, focussing on the
management of efficient container terminal operations and related logistics with each
port development being independently viable.
• Grup TCB has operations in Europe, Turkey, Africa, North and South America and India
and is planning expansion into the Golden Triangle of Asia, with China and Australia as
specific targets.
• Grup TCB has been in negotiation with the NSW government since October 2011 to gain
approval for the development of a multi-purpose terminal in the Port of Newcastle.
These have been protracted, difficult and frustrating.
• Grup TCB terminal has capacity of 1.4 million Twenty-foot Equivalent Units (TEUs) with
anticipated expansion to 2.2million TEUs in 2013.

Conclusion
GrupTCB is an excellent fit for the Port of Newcastle. It specialises in smaller ports, is risk
averse, collaborative and outcomes-driven with a proven commitment to efficiency
demonstrated through significant investment in technology and innovation. Its customer focus
and engagement in supply and logistics chains makes GrupTCB a highly competitive company.

3.1.2 Meeting
Site visit to Estibarna with briefing
Thursday 26 July 2012

Findings:
• Estibarna is a private agency developed in consultation with port operators and the
union. It organises labour hire for terminal operators and stevedores. The Port Authority
is a minor shareholder and along with each stevedore has board representation,
although the union does not seem to be represented on the board.
• Terminal operators retain a reduced workforce to provide a skills and services anchor for
their operations and source additional dockers from Estibarna on a demand basis,
thereby gaining the flexibility to scale their workforce up and down to match supply with
demand. GrupTCB claimed that although their fixed workforce was smaller it was now more highly skilled and devoted to value-adding because of the use of Estibarna for dockers.

- Stevedores request labour twice per day and are assigned teams from the 1,200 pool of dock workers by Estibarna which has 20 employees. All dockers are given basic induction training by Estibarna, then ongoing training to become multi-skilled for use in different parts of the operations. Peak demand would be for approximately an additional 3,000 workers per month. Dockers work 6 hour shifts with a maximum of 2 consecutive shifts allowed. Dockers are only paid for the hours worked and have a retirement age of 55.

- Safety is a priority with only one fatality in the past ten years. A drug testing regime agreed to by the unions is in place with rehabilitation programs preferred to dismissal.

**Conclusion**

Whilst there are advantages to terminal operators and stevedores being able to access a fixed labour pool on need, it appears that being in Estibarna’s labour pool also has advantages for dockers who seem to have some degree of employment certainty and a guaranteed retirement age of 55. However I was unable to have direct discussions with dockers working for Estibarna in the Port of Barcelona.

**3.1.3 Meeting**

*Site visit to the Barcelona Regional Agency*

*Thursday 26 July 2012*

**Findings:**

- The urban development of Barcelona began at the municipal scale with small projects. Projects became more complex and greater in size, requiring agreements with other levels of government and the private sector. In 1993, the Barcelona Regional Agency was founded. This sequence and response is recognised as the “Barcelona model” for creating a city.

- The Barcelona Regional Agency is a limited company, created by entities and companies from the public sector with the aim of providing a common technical instrument, stable in nature that would enable co-operation between the different public agents acting in the metropolitan area of Barcelona. It is set up as the shareholders’ direct management body and its main function is to provide specialist services to its members and other public agents linked to or dependent on areas of urban planning, the environment and infrastructure of all kinds.

- It provides a holistic framework for proposed works and for issue development and resolution, organising its activities in a threefold framework - Areas, Networks, Environment. Land planning integrates across all three frames. ‘Areas’ include the major physical areas, precincts and strategic elements of the city of Barcelona. Networks include transport, electricity and telecommunications. Environment includes water, energy and territory.

- The presenters talked extensively about the benefits of belonging to the European Union in planning terms and were enthusiastic regarding European citizenship.

**Conclusion**

The Barcelona Regional Agency successfully provides oversight and advice on the planning of Barcelona. It is well-respected and successfully acts as a broker for strategic planning and urban development within an embedded framework. Because it works across all agencies involved in
urban planning and services it appears to be effective at influencing better outcomes for the
city of Barcelona and its people. This is a model that would serve the city of Newcastle well.

3.1.4 Meeting
Meeting and briefing with the Barcelona Port Authority (Autoridad Portuaria de
Barcelona)
Friday 27 July 2012 (CHECK DATE)

Findings:
• The Port Authority is an agency of the national government and one of 28 Port
Authorities in Spain. It operates on a landlord management model with charges and
fees covering operating expenses and factoring in profitability to finance future
investments and debt repayment. Investments are self-financed using port revenue plus
bank loans. No state subsidies are received. Annually an amount is paid to the central
government on a profit-based formula.
• The President of the Board is paid for by the central government but appointed by the
regional government. The board includes representatives from three levels of
government, the Chamber of Commerce, terminal operators and trade unions.
• The Port employs 32,000 people in direct and flow-on jobs. Every 100 Euros of income
produced in the Port produces 58 Euros of additional income in the rest of the
economy. The Port Authority strives for a diversified model, is experiencing growth and
attracting foreign investment. Containers, Vehicles, Roll-on/Roll-off traffic and Cruise
Ships dominate activity with private yacht maintenance recently introduced.
Interestingly although the Port of Barcelona is the leading port in the Mediterranean,
the Cruise Ship activity is not profitable for the port. However, as a home port
considerable benefit flows into the city.
• Some frustration is experienced because of competing National and European Union
priorities, however strategic cross-border logistics planning is contributing to reduced
congestion and lower carbon emissions across Europe.
• Barcelona is a 24 hour port operating 361 days per annum. It is considered a safe port
with 2 lines of security in place – general security organised by the Port Authority and
specific security organised by private operators. People smuggling is always a
consideration but controls were in place.
• The Port Authority plays an important role in developing port lands and precincts that
complement city development – the Port Vell; the Fisherman’s Dock; the Cruise ship
terminals, passenger Hotel and World Trade Centre; the Public Marina which includes
the Museum of Catalanian History, university research area, maritime professional
college and restaurants; the Urban Waterfront; and the Commercial Centre which
includes an Aquarium, Imax cinema, Multi-cinemas, private marinas and extensive
underground parking.

Conclusion
The Port Authority has a representative structure and engages directly in the development of
port related activities and complementary urban development linked to city planning. It has a
strong focus on diversification and connectivity to major supply and logistic chains. It plays a
central part in the development of the city of Barcelona and is well aware of the benefits that
flow to the city from the port operations. Cost benefit analysis looks beyond the port authority
operations to city wide benefits and this approach in turn influences financial and investment decisions.

3.1.5 Meeting
Site Visit and Briefing at Stella Maris Barcelona
Friday 27 July 2012

Findings:
- The hall of residence has a maximum capacity of 32 beds per day with annual occupancy rate of approximately 60%, the majority of whom were sailors. Accommodation is also extended to fishermen, maritime students, families of sailors, divers, catering personnel from cruise ships, Stella Maris members and unemployed and retired seamen.
- With the use of 3 nine seater vans donated by the International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF) and the services of many volunteers, daily visits (except on Sundays) are made to vessels to welcome seafarers, ascertain their needs, provide them with information, offer services and drive them to the city and the Stella Maris centre.
- The club opens every day from 6am to 11pm. Amenities include bar, games, free internet, telephone, money exchange, library, mini shop and publications. Foreign newsletters from 12 countries are available via email.
- A Barcelona newsletter is published three times per week and distributed to 81 ports for distribution to Spanish seafarers. Sports activities, welfare support to the needy and religious assistance is organised from the centre. As are consultations, counselling and assistance from other agencies.
- Ecumenical cooperation and interfaith approaches are central to the centre's operation.
- A welfare committee meets quarterly and includes representatives from Estiibarna, the ITF, the Port Authority and other maritime organisations. Its major goal is the establishment of a shared approach to maintaining seafarers' welfare. It organises guest speakers, conferences on seafarers' welfare, round tables and recreational activities as well as responding to individual cases on need.

Conclusion
Stella Maris Barcelona is an active welfare and social centre accessed regularly by seafarers. The physical centre and its varied functions and services are an asset to the seafarer community providing direct and relevant interaction and support.

3.1.6 Meeting
Meeting with Grup TCB Management
Friday 27 July 2012

Comments:
On the morning of 27 July it was announced by the NSW government that the Port of Newcastle would not have approval to develop a multi-purpose terminal with container terminal capacity and that instead Port Kembla (Wollongong) would be privatised along with Port Botany (Sydney) with increased container terminal capacity. Both the management of Grup TCB and I were shocked by this announcement. Grup TCB had been in negotiations with the NSW
government since October 2011 and had been given no prior indication of this announcement, learning it from media reports.

Prior to entering a consortium to develop a multi-freight terminal in Newcastle, GrupTCB had investigated the suitability of Port Kembla for expansion and had concluded that any terminal operator would be required to make considerable investment into port and logistic infrastructure, which would normally be provided by government. They had also concluded that the Illawarra escarpment provided significant constraint on efficient supply and logistic chains to and from Port Kembla.

In contrast, the site under negotiation in the Port of Newcastle is a green-field site with deep water wharves and berths in place. It is well linked to the Hunter Valley hinterland and to potential new markets in northern NSW and is located close to major highways and a large airport. It was Grup TCB’s view that the Port of Newcastle was suitable for mixed freight including a container terminal and unlike Port Kembla which would take many years to develop could be operational within 2 years.

The idea of a privatised port was not one that applies in Europe and was seen as an undesirable development that would favour very large multi-national port operators.

As the Federal Member for Newcastle, it is my view that the decision taken by the NSW government undermines the economic diversification and development of the city of Newcastle, constitutes a serious restraint of trade and competition and is a betrayal of the interests of the people of Newcastle. The decision also ignores the potential of new export markets in the northern parts of NSW and the ability of this area to significantly contribute to food security in Asia. The attitude shown to serious international investors such as Grup TCB by the current NSW government does little to give confidence that “NSW is open for business”!

Note:

- A planned visit to the Maritime Museum Drassanes was cancelled because of unavailability of staff and the extensive renovations underway at the Museum.
- My hosts took me to the mountain area of Barcelona, the site of the stadium for the 1992 Barcelona Olympic Games. The entire area had been redeveloped at the time, with an extensive Botanical Gardens included. The area features picnic areas, walking and cycling tracks and remains a very active centre for leisure activities for Barcelona families and their visitors.
3.2 Valencia

3.2.1 Meeting

Valencia Port Authority Presentation by Manuel Guerra Vazquez, Sub-director General, Director de Planificacion de Infraestructuras.
Monday 30 July 2012

Findings:

- The Port Authority is a state owned entity under the Public Works Ministry of the central government in Madrid. It interfaces with the regional government but is largely autonomous. It reports annually to the central government which approves its growth plan.
- All port revenue belongs to the state/national government but the port is required to be self-sufficient to fund all operations and growth infrastructure. In Spain it is expected that the larger ports contribute to a compensation fund to support the growth of smaller ports.
- The Port Authority of Valencia manages 3 ports, one to the north and one to the south of Valencia. These are small ports with developing alternative cargo and markets.
- Valencia has 3 main container terminals and is experiencing rapid growth with the throughput volume doubling in the last ten years to 59.5 million tons or 4.327 million TEUs in 2011.
- Valencia ranks 1st in Spanish and Mediterranean ports, 5th in European ports and 26th in World Ports, with over 140 regular shipping lines connecting Valencia Port to over 850 ports in five continents.
- This dominating volume of cargo through Valencia which includes major car cargo is driven by its central location along the Mediterranean coastline and the excellent links via all major road and rail arteries between Valencia and Madrid. The hinterland for Valencia Port is half of Spain’s population and 55% of GDP.
- Over 22 cruise companies called at the Port of Valencia in 2011 with current passenger capacity 400,000. Planning is underway for the extension of the cruise ship terminal to 4 berths in 2 stages. Valencia is not a home port such as Barcelona but is a "call" port with daily stopovers. The improved High Speed Rail link to Madrid makes the "home" port goal more possible.
- Tug operations (18 tugs) are owned and managed by one company appointed via public tender.
- An IT network integrated across the entire logistics chain, links all companies and the port authority. It is used to manage all transactions, operations and customs activities. It is considered by the Port Authority and by TCV to be cutting edge and a very important driver of the efficiency of the port. It is highly secure and IP protected. Apparently at one stage it was offered for sale to the Port of Sydney but there was no interest. Trucks entering the terminal use a bar code system at an automated gate which minimises driver movements and gains valuable turnaround time.
- A logistics and marketing precinct is located on land adjacent to the port.
- A similar labour hire system to that used in Barcelona is in place for its 24 hour operations.
- The Port of Valencia has adopted the innovative “Quality Mark” registered system which provides quality outcome measures across a range of port related services.
- Environmental control monitoring is continuous and with co-location to Valencia’s popular beaches it is seen as very important to maintain high water quality. The Port
Authority receives full cooperation from shipping companies and terminal operators in this quest.

- The Port Authority appears responsible for the Juan Carlos Marina which is available for yachting and public use and was developed as part of the bid to host the America’s Cup. It also has an involvement in some lands used for the Formula One race event.

Conclusion:
Quality management of planning measures have allowed Valencia to increase its competitiveness and achieve the leading position among Mediterranean Ports. Its state of the art intermodal logistics services provides significant benefits to the economic and social stakeholders within its area of influence. Because of its reach and ability to value-add, the Port of Valencia is highly competitive with all Mediterranean ports but is also pushing the competition barrier in some areas with the Northern European ports. Although it was very much aware of the need for integration with city planning and the sensitivities of its interface with the city, the main focus of the Port Authority was on the port’s operations and future development.

Additional Comments:
An additional presentation on the history of the Port of Valencia by the Port Authority illustrated the historic importance of the port. More importantly a clear understanding of the historic drivers of change in Port Valencia and the motivations and outcomes attached to that change has laid strong foundations for port planning. In fact the Port itself embraces major infrastructure planning initiatives.

Historically in Spain cities were built inland between 5 and 10 km from the ocean. This provided some degree of security from African pirates and from health problems associated with the low wetlands areas particularly mosquito borne diseases. If the city was located on the sea then it usually meant the existence of some topographical feature that afforded the city protection. In 1925 the Port of Valencia was developing but was separate from Valencia city. In 1950 the port area increased due to post war industrial activity. In 1957, major river flooding inundated the city. The flooding was so devastating that it was eventually decided to divert the river to assist better integrated planning of the port and the city. It was this decision that determined the actual extent of the port boundaries and changed the form of Valencia from two separate cities to one integrated port city.

Deviation of the river allowed the building of new infrastructure and improved connectivity to the port. All the breakwaters for port expansion were paid for by public money but the new terminal was put out to public tender with the market able to determine whether the terminal would be built under a Public Private Partnership and the ratios involved in any PPP arrangements. In 1986 barriers were removed and promenades were open to the public. The city then allowed new access routes to be built. The old port area was given back to the city, allowing a new maritime and recreation area to be planned with the old river becoming a green corridor. The new channel for the maritime and recreation area was separated from commercial port operations. This was an excellent design with regard to supporting security and the new leisure market. The Port and the city worked closely together to support a bid to host the America’s Cup. After several bids the hosting rights were won for 2007. During excavation for the associated construction program 1670 ruins were found.
Future planning included another Americas cup bid, a Concourse international ideas competition, and a Formula 1 circuit. But that was before the Global Financial Crisis. At this stage only Expressions of Interest were held for the Competition with two winning designs chosen but all designs still in the mix for future consideration. The circuit for the Formula One was built and has been used 4 or 5 times with the last occasion in mid-2012. In future it will be hosted every second year because of cost.

Public perception is that they have paid through their taxes a very high price for the infrastructure to support these ventures, which will only return dividends over a very long period of time.

3.2.2 Meeting

Briefing and site inspection of the Port of Valencia and Grup TCV Terminal Conducted by Jose Luis Alabau, Director General TCV and Miguel Ruiz, Director Commercial
Monday 30 July 2012

Findings:

• In 1999, when the original terminal operator relocated to a new site, Grup TCV merged with three other small terminal companies and won the tender for the old terminal area. It has been a very successful operation and is now solely a container terminal with only 5% land capacity available for other cargos.
• Grup TCV services major shipping lines between Valencia and all continents other than Australia and the Pacific. It has 3 berthing lines for large vessels up to 22 containers wide with a further berthing line for these vessels planned. A further 2 berthing lines cater for the smaller Panamax and Feeder vessels. The lines are serviced by 9 gantry cranes of varied capacity.
• Grup TCV operations handled 736,239 TEUs in 2011, matching its growth rate with that of the Port of Valencia. It has 550 connections for refrigerated containers and offers a daily rail service from Valencia to Madrid. In fact, rapid container growth has been experienced between the port and Madrid through TCV Railway subsidiary.
• The rail link from Madrid is therefore a vital one to Grup TCV operations. Although it is not a completely separate freight line, a one way separation system is used.
• Similar to Barcelona, all dockers are drawn from a pool managed by a private company but unlike Barcelona, Grup TCV has no permanent docker workforce. Grup TCV described their relationship with the union and industrial harmony as being very good.

Conclusion:
Grup TCV operations impress. They have made considerable investment into modern facilities and equipment and into expanding the size and features of the container stacking areas. A success factor has been their collaborative approach and co-investment to increase connectivity to the Spanish hinterland thereby linking freight to major supply routes in Europe. They are particularly well located in the Mediterranean and have fast turn-around of vessels. Their competitive and proactive approach is demonstrated by their growth rates which match port growth rather than lag behind.

3.2.3 Meeting

Meeting with Planning Manager, Valencia Planning Authority
Monday 30 July 2012

Findings:

- Valencia was originally a river city. The 1988 plan was the first strategic approach to open the city to the sea and connect the waterfront to the city. Since that time old wharf buildings have been recycled, industrial areas relocated out of the city centre and port related industry retained. The decontamination of the old river bed was paid for by the European Union and the river has been recycled as a green corridor. Arts and science precincts have been developed and two major garden areas constructed. Different sections of the reclaimed river have different activities with some undertaken by private investors conditional on regenerating the green corridor at the same time as construction with the council taking over maintenance and ownership of green spaces. New residential is planned for a section of the river with 30% affordable housing mandated.

- Regeneration of community services, culture and arts, young entrepreneurs and creative activities is underway with some particular similarity to Renew Newcastle’s regeneration but it is subsidized by local government.

- While land acquisitions are occurring the ten year plan has been delayed by the Global Financial Crisis (GFC).

- The 1999 World Expo and the America’s Cup have been major drivers of public and private investment across a holistic approach to city planning.

- The planning authority stressed the importance of retaining heavy rail into the city but is seeking a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) arrangement to put the heavy rail underground and redevelop the surface land as a major park.

- An integrated public transport strategy has been developed which include cycleways and bike hire. This is a long term plan.

Conclusion

Valencia has undergone major urban redevelopment and planning over many years. It is a beautiful city which embraces its port, the natural environment and its community life. Valencia has aggressively sought major sporting and tourism event such as the America’s Cup, the World Expo and Formula One to drive public and private investment into new infrastructure and urban renewal. While the port is expanding rapidly the regeneration of the city has been stalled by the GFC in Europe. Valencia was rated 5th best city in the world to visit by Lonely Planet when Newcastle was rated 9th.
3.3 Amsterdam

3.3.1 Meeting

Director Collections, National Maritime Museum (Het Scheepvaartmuseum)

Wednesday 1 August 2012

Findings:

- Amsterdam Maritime Museum was founded in 1916 and is located in the inner city. It houses a significant collection of 250,000 items dating from the 15th Century and operates as a private concern through the support of shipping companies and banking firms. The collection is owned privately and loaned to the state which retains responsibility for the collection and the museum building.
- The Museum has a foundation for membership and has a target for 200,000 visitors per year. It aims to achieve 50% self-funding and 50% state funding. It has actively targeted families, maritime lovers as well as those who wouldn’t usually attend.
- Its west wing is specifically designed for families with appropriately themed exhibitions, story-telling and displays for toddlers. The east wing collections are central for museum and maritime enthusiasts and the north wing is targeted at ‘beginners’. A major attraction was a “Sea Voyage” experience-based, multi-media exhibition.
- Facilities include a specialised library owned by the museum, a restaurant and shop. The museum is leased out for special events, weddings, meetings and conferences. It employs a chef but uses caterers for large events for up to 1,000 people.
- The Museum recently reopened after building renovation and refurbishment at a cost of 60 million Euros and 19 million Euros respectively. Major funds, commercial companies and private donors assisted and generous tax concessions annually over five years were provided as incentive. The Museum set up an exclusive “Lords and Ladies 17” club. This special group had to attract 16 others who funded 35,000 Euros each. It has been able to triple staff and exhibits 1,000 objects. They do not use volunteers.
- A collection of 40,000 Library items is stored in an adjoining government building for which the museum pays rent to the Ministry of Finance. The government has attempted to introduce fees on a full cost recovery basis. Although the Museum finances all its activities and paid for the refurbished building with benefactors it strongly believes that the government must remain responsible for the collection and the building.
- To guide the redevelopment and marketing, the museum collaborated with a private consultancy which undertook focus group and demographic research. As a result strategic and innovative approaches have been adopted within a complete contextual change to make the museum relevant to the demands of a modern society. It now has an online presence for integrated tourism and information exchange, and the public can access the collection online at a common website for a network of maritime museums.

Conclusion

The Amsterdam Maritime Museum has adopted a very modern and strategic marketing approach to its operations, based on advice from a private consultancy. In its refurbished heritage building it offers an excellent visitor experience and its magnificent facilities enhance its operation and income. It is embraced by its community and has strong benefactor support. It is a very popular tourist, education and research destination.
3.3.2 Meeting
Assistant Project Manager, Port of Amsterdam
Wednesday 1 August 2012

Findings:

- Amsterdam is the 4th port in Europe and the largest cocoa port in the world. It is a
diverse port - liquid bulk, dry bulk, roll on-roll off, containers, river and ocean cruise
ships. Its annual throughput of 93m tons generates turnover of between nineteen and
twenty million Euros and it employs 54,000 people directly and indirectly, value adding
5.8 billion Euros to the regional economy via the maritime sector.
- Port Vision 2008-2020 guides its activities and it has undertaken an ambitious initiative
to create one integrated transport system on water of a unique scale. It is organised on
four levels- national cargo, regional cargo, cargo transport in the central port region and
international sea transport. This system allows higher loading levels to be achieved thus
reducing costs per container and offers possibilities for innovative logistics solutions to
bring about further cost reductions and environmental improvements in the entire
chain.
- The ports immediate goal is to consolidate by gaining twice the current volume on the
same amount of land.
- Efficient integration of intermodal transport remains key to reducing CO2 emissions.
The port is becoming a renewable energy hub. It hosts wind mill parks which deliver the
largest on land capacity generation in Europe of 65 megawatts which is enough to
provide energy to 40,000 households. It has a focus on bio energy with waste converted
to electricity.
- Commercial bio energy producers are located in the port - Blue Ocean (bio diesel
components) and Greenmills (recycling edible oils and waste). Biomass is seen as the
best method of reaching the EU’s renewable energy targets. Wood chips, pellets,
residues and waste are all seen as commercial cargoes and are generally transported on
bulk vessels.
- Under the Port of Amsterdam Sustainability Fund worth 2 million Euros per annum,
companies can apply twice per year for subsidies for projects that contribute to a
sustainable and innovative development of the port area.

Conclusion
Amsterdam is a large innovative port. It embraces sustainability and innovation as ways to not
just fulfil EU priorities but also to gain a competitive edge over other competing ports in
Northern Europe. It works closely with the city government to achieve its goals and is delivering
on the shared mission: “Port of Amsterdam. Make it yours.”

3.3.3 Meeting
Urban Planner, Municipality of Amsterdam
Wednesday 1 August 2012

Findings:

The Port

- The Port of Amsterdam was originally cut off from the city. Much change has occurred in
the port since World War 2 with major land reclamation, precinct developments and
new channels. The city and the port have been brought together through strategic planning efforts and close cooperation between the port and the municipal government.

- The port is central to Amsterdam's prosperity with its hinterland being the most urbanized and industrialized zone stretching from London to northern Italy. The Rhine River is considered the economic heart of Europe.
- As containers dominate freight movements related infrastructure has also developed to match this demand.
- To compete with Rotterdam, the Port of Amsterdam chose diversification and a strategy to link to the wider regional economy. It has invested into innovation to become a sustainable port through an energy chain strategy, working with the municipal government to develop on port land a wind turbine park generating 65 megawatt for the port and city area.
- It reflects the city’s focus on biomass as a major renewable energy source and manages waste and biomaterial as an energy chain in the way it manages other bulk cargoes. Similarly a sewageage plant is used for energy production.
- Noise, dust and pollution minimization are challenges that are taken seriously by both the port and city.
- The opportunity provided for food security by the glasshouse industry is also considered important to future expansion of the port.

**The City**

- The City of Amsterdam has developed the Amsterdam Plan which is a strategic vision for 2010 to 2040. Amsterdam 2040, or 'The Structural Vision' is a framework of analysis for spatial plans and provides the basis for setting the city’s investment agendas.
  Amsterdam has deliberately chosen densification and transformation in response to the growth of urbanisation and the increasing competition for space. While the city is the preferred residential area and the core of the strategy, it also looks beyond the city to the region for economic growth.
- The Structural Vision was a result of genuine consultation processes using an internet campaign and an extended series of challenging public discussions with the involvement of all municipal departments concerned with spatial development. It is a long term strategy and makes the point that although the vision is continuously readjusted for current events, the vision for the future should not be swayed by the issues of the day. Instead it should map out how the city responds to those issues.
- Traditionally in Amsterdam half of the housing stock in the city was social housing which in the Netherlands caters for the lower and middle class. Policy changes favoured home ownership and allowed the housing stock to be purchased. Today 65% of the city residents live alone although during the GFC that shifted to an average of 1.8 per household.
- The city has chosen to encourage individual development over large scale development. They have relaxed planning laws and regulations only mandating maximum heights and connection to utility and pipeline networks. Variations on the traditional townhouse are encouraged and shared public domain is favoured with new developments required to deliver public domain at the same time as the actual development. Home offices and studios are encouraged and innovative and experimental approaches are welcomed.
- Integrated multi modal transport is planned with trams and buses servicing newer areas and light rail dedicated as a rapid system. Buses are privatised but tram and metro are not after public outcry against such a proposal.
• To overcome the separation from the harbour by the rail station and heavy rail, they are currently locating their many lines underground with the station linking to a bus and ferry terminal and through a dedicated tunnel for bikes to the ferry. A bike parking station for 10,000 bikes is incorporated.
• Public anchors drive investment in the port precincts – Music academy, universities, court of justice, film school, museum. To retain a Shell research centre the city refinanced a new building and bought their land.
• One portside renewal project is a festival and cultural area retaining students and bohemian influences. Squatters were enjoined rather than evicted and small creative entrepreneurs and micro businesses encouraged by the municipality through competitions and cash injections. MTV has been attracted to the festival zone plus major publishing and media companies.
• Place making has been encouraged.

Conclusion
Amsterdam has a visionary focus on the future and has developed a strong instrument Structural Vision: Amsterdam 2040 to implement that vision. The municipal government is willing to develop innovative and flexible solutions through genuine and extensive public consultation and collaboration with stakeholders. It sees renewal and densification as a constant but is guided by the plan and a commitment to retaining the human scale of the city which was a tenet expressed emphatically by the public.

Comment
A former planner from Amsterdam, Peter Drover, is now working at the University of Newcastle and was recommended for further consultation.
3.4 Rotterdam

3.4.1 Meeting
Head Collections, Maritime Museum Rotterdam.
Thursday 2 August 2012

Findings:
- The Rotterdam Museum began in 1873 under the auspices of the Royal Yacht Club of Rotterdam which was founded by the then King’s brother. Since 1997 it has been organized through a Foundation. The collection remains owned by the city which pays the museum to maintain and manage the collection. Cuts of 15% are anticipated for 2013.
- The downturn in the economy has also meant an increased drive for sponsors. Private benefactors, foundations and lotteries are used to raise funds as well as company sponsors. The proportion of sponsorship changes annually but currently it is approximately a third of all revenue.
- The collection has 550,000 objects, including photos and technical drawings. It includes many heritage items of significance, rivalled only by Greenwich. Atlases are a significant feature of the collection. The main collection is from the 19th and 20th centuries, with only 1 or 2% actually displayed. The museum has one storehouse within the building and another off site which is a shared facility with other museums and is managed and subsidized by the city.
- The Museum’s goal is to showcase and explain the impact of maritime industry on everyone in Rotterdam - past, present and future.
- The museum has no permanent exhibition. Some are exhibited for several years but on average exhibitions change every 3 months.
- While a regular program is organised for schools no structure exists to coordinate the integration of schools into the environmental heritage and cultural fabric of the city of Rotterdam.
- The current exhibitions which I saw briefly were:
  - The most important icon reflecting 50 main maritime themes;
  - An interactive whaling exhibition;
  - Multi-media exhibition Pirates - good guys or bad guys?; and
  - A special pre-schoolers exhibition.
- Next year the museum is planning a joint exhibition with Greenwich on a shared theme of ‘maritime lust’. Last year a highly successful maritime exhibition on maritime fashion was staged in a partnership with the Maritime Museum in Paris.
- The museum had a café and shop and a major children’s playing area constructed around a maritime theme which was very popular with families and grandparent carers. The waterside area adjacent to the museum showcased many historic tugs and water craft which were managed by a separate group of maritime enthusiasts.

Conclusion
The Rotterdam Museum had modern attractive facilities and hosted relevant and popular exhibitions while maintaining a significant collection dating back to the 1800s. The ‘Icon’ exhibition in particular demonstrated a way to exhibit important items from across the vast collection in a manner which was affordable and popular. The Museum embraced change and innovation and actively pursued local patronage and partnerships with other museums to sustain its operations.
3.4.2 Meeting
Project Manager, Sustainable Development, Port of Rotterdam.
Thursday 2 August 2012

Findings:
• Beginning over 800 years ago as a fishing village, Rotterdam is now the largest port in Europe.
• Port turnover is approximately 588 million Euros with total added value estimated at 16 billion Euros. Three thousand companies operate in the port. Annually 420 million tonnes of cargo is handled, including 100 million tonnes of crude oil, mineral oil products, LNG and other bulk liquids, coal, agribulk, iron ore and scrap, other dry bulk, containers totalling 11.9 million TEUs, 270,000 cars, roll on-roll off and other general cargo.
• The Port Authority, The Port of Rotterdam, is the manager, operator and developer of the port and its industrial area. It employs 1,220 people with indirect employment estimated to be 350,000, of which approximately 140,000 are drawn from within the Rotterdam region.
• The aim of the Port of Rotterdam is to enhance the port’s competitive position as a logistics hub and world-class industrial complex, not only in terms of size, but also quality. The core tasks of the Port Authority are to develop, manage and run the port in a sustainable way and to maintain an efficient and safe service for shipping.
• The Port has been ‘carbon neutral’ since 2011 and employs a Sustainability Project Manager.
• It’s fleet uses low-sulphur fuel, soot filters and catalytic converters are installed on new vessels, ‘Green’ flights are encouraged and it uses a green fleet of cars. It also has a clear assessment framework for air-related measures and sustainability underpins its allocation policy.
• The vision for the future is embedded in ‘Port Compass 2030’ and was adopted by the municipality of Rotterdam in 2011. The main areas of strategic management are:
  - the people: in and outside the company;
  - the planet: the environmental consequences; and
  - prosperity: the production of goods and services and consideration of the economic and social impacts.
• While the economic value of the port is well identified, the strategic value was studied by the Rotterdam School of Management, leading to the following conclusions:
  - With its many connections (strategic connectivity), the port offers businesses in the Netherlands relatively quick and cheap access to foreign markets, promoting import and export. Businesses and consumers benefit from this.
  - The port and the surrounding industrial zone are home to many global concerns which have high expectations of suppliers and services, promoting innovation in a great number of areas. The suppliers and service providers can in turn export their innovative products and evolve into global market players themselves.
  - The port makes a substantial contribution to the quality of Rotterdam as an attractive location for the headquarters of big corporations, which are vital if the Netherlands is to compete on the world stage. This strategic value can be
increased by advancing the dynamics, competitiveness and innovation in the
port and by further developing the connectivity between the port of Rotterdam
and other Dutch ports, foreign ports and other key logistics hubs.

- The researchers drew the following conclusions:
  - Rotterdam can develop with a dual focus (instead of the more usual single
    focus) on efficiency and innovation.
  - Innovation requires networking: establishing contacts and partnerships
    between businesses, knowledge institutions and governments. Technical
    innovations make up only an estimated 25% of overall innovation success;
    social innovations account for 75%.
  - Organisation, procedures, structures and regulatory flexibility are all of vital
    importance.
  - Rotterdam can become a hub for three new freight flows: LNG, Biomass and
    CO2.

- The Port of Rotterdam offers three cycle routes for the public to inspect the port, as
  well as boat tours. They also have an information centre for the public to experience
  the redevelopment being undertaken in the port.

Conclusions
The Port of Rotterdam has a proactive and progressive approach to its development and
operations. It has pursued both river and sea trade, promoted diverse capability and cargoes,
and adopted a sustainability focus to become an energy hub. It emphasises the importance of
innovation and knowledge based approaches to its competitiveness, pursuing diverse
partnerships to advance this strategy. In undertaking major extensions of the Port it has worked
in partnership with the municipal government to plan the new areas to complement both port
and city operations and offers public tours by water and bicycle for the public.

Comment
I include the following direct quote from Port Vision 2030 because of its relevance to the global
energy challenge and because of my perception that Australian ports are not proactively
planning for this strategic opportunity and imperative:

"The Rotterdam industrial complex plays a very important role when it comes to energy
provision in the port, the region, the Netherlands and Northwest Europe. For decades, large
energy flows such as crude oil and coal have been delivered to the port and processed, either
there or in the hinterland, into energy products such as (transportation) fuels and electricity. In
recent years, new flows such as biofuels have been added to the mix.

Energy is essential to our economy and our lifestyle. Global demand for energy is expected to
rise sharply in the future. With its combination of technology, knowledge and capacity, the
Rotterdam energy port plays an important role in securing continuity of supply in the region,
the Netherlands and Northwest Europe. Energy production in the port is growing exponentially.

In the last decade, the capacity installed in power plants and processing industries doubled to
almost 4,000 MW. When the power plants currently under construction become operational,
this will increase to almost 7,000 MW by 2013 and to more than 9,000 MW by 2030."
The aim is to promote more sustainable energy sources, in addition to cleaner use of fossil fuels. This is an important aspect of the drive to become the most sustainable seaport by 2030. A sustainable, strategic energy mix must be achieved through an energy carrier transition – on the one hand by making fossil energy more efficient and reducing the CO2 (natural gas, including cogeneration; coal with carbon capture and storage), on the other hand through the growth in sustainable non-fossil fuels, such as biomass, wind and solar power.

Rotterdam’s energy mix must grow from 10% now to 30% in 2030. The fossil energy carrier containing the least amount of CO2 (natural gas) will make up roughly 40% of the energy mix, while coal (carbon-neutral in 2030, thanks to carbon capture and storage) will account for about 30%. Thanks to these measures, the port and industrial complex will also play its part in halving CO2 emissions by 2025 (compared to 1990), which is the goal of the Rotterdam Climate Initiative.”

3.4.3 Meeting
Communications, Urban Development, Municipality of Rotterdam
Thursday 2 August 2012

Findings:
• The City of Rotterdam Council and the Port of Rotterdam Authority are undertaking an ambitious programme to extend the port and renew Stadshavens Rotterdam. This aims to give both city and port a stronger economic structure and provide more attractive, high-quality living and working environments.

• The plan is described thus; “There will be a new, logical progression from west to east: starting at the Maasvlakte the logistic and petrochemical industries will be followed by knowledge-intensive companies, service providers and educational institutes, gradually giving way to residential and working environments for pioneers, then moving to luxury living accommodation before ending up in the centre of Rotterdam. Cutting across this, a knowledge axis will run north to south, from the Technical University (TU) in Delft via Erasmus University Rotterdam (EUR) and the University Rotterdam/University for applied sciences to the Drechtsteden, with the offshore and dredging industry in Sliedrecht and the Greenery in Barendrecht. Stadshavens will become the new focal point: knowledge development and innovative manufacturing will come together and enhance one another.”

• The Council and the Port of Rotterdam have drawn up five strategies after considerable stakeholder consultation. The five strategies which define the future are:
  - re-inventing delta technology;
  - volume & value;
  - crossing borders;
  - floating communities; and
  - sustainable mobility.

• The long term objectives for Stadshavens are:
  - 5,000 new residences up to 2,025 in a quiet urban location on or near the water;
  - 60 hectares of maritime services on the east side of the Waalhaven, with approximately 1.2 million square metres of office and commercial space;
  - 30 hectares of redevelopment on the former RDM sites;
  - 40 hectares of delta technology and creative industry in the Merwehaven and Vierhavens;
- 10 hectares for urban functions in the Rijnhaven and Maashaven area;
- Doubling of the container transhipment to 2.4 million TEU by 2025, increasing to 3.6 million TEU thereafter;
- Intensification of distribution of 'piece-goods', including fruit, in the docklands;
- Educational facilities for at least 1,000 students;
- New urban attractions like the SS Rotterdam with 200,000 visitors per year; and
- 13,000 new jobs

Conclusion
The Municipal government of Rotterdam and the Port of Rotterdam have developed an agreed way forward to redevelop and restructure the port lands so they complement identified needs of the city and the port. They rightly see the port as the driver of economic growth and as such the port certainly dominates. However they also recognise the importance of other key drivers of Rotterdam’s success, such as the knowledge institutes and large international companies. There are some inevitable tensions between city and port amenity so only time will tell if both are achieved.

3.4.4 Meeting
Senior Policy Adviser, Nautilus International
Thursday 2 August 2012

Findings:
- Nautilus International (NI) represents a combination of maritime unions and has its headquarters in London. It is committed to safety and living conditions onboard ships and represents workers in the inland, merchant, offshore, engineering and other shipping companies. In Rotterdam it pays particular attention to the inland waterway traffic which represents more than 50% of all cargo in Europe.
- NI concludes collective bargaining agreements, represents the interests of seafarers with regard to pensions, sickness and accident and general sailor welfare. NI also administers 2 major pension funds for seafarers.
- It advocates on behalf of individual members in the field of work and income, seeks legal representation and taxation advice for its members and mediates in disputes and in the satisfactory implementation of agreements.
- Concerns raised included the employment of foreign workers when European workers are available. Employers must show they have advertised and attempted to access local labour hire pools. Prosecutions have occurred for breaches. NI had also acted in cases where international crews were being paid below the EU standard. One case was before the court at the time of this briefing regarding the hiring of Philippine and Indonesian workers ahead of European workers.
- They had also encountered major problems with the international cruise ship operators with regard to the payment of social security and pensions. NI had found it difficult to organise as cruise workers often remained on board and were involved in seasonal operations. NI had combined with the ITF on this matter.
- Although the Netherlands government has ratified the 2006 International Labour Organisation (ILO) convention which includes an obligation to seafarers’ welfare, the Dutch government has not been willing to finance seafarers’ welfare centres. NI would like to see one major committee formed with representatives from all stakeholder
groups and organisations to genuinely tackle seafarers' welfare and for governments to contribute to the cost of setting up and operating seafarers' welfare centres.

- Another major need identified was the need for affordable accommodation for port workers in close proximity to the port. The unaffordability of central accommodation and housing necessitated commuting and extended travel times.

**Conclusion**

The issues raised by Nautilus International reflect the same concerns held by local unions for seafarers working in Australian waters. The perception that governments were not fulfilling their obligations to seafarers' welfare as intended in the 2006 ILO Convention is a theme echoed around the world. While unions and many port authorities are actively supporting seafarers welfare, the major capital costs of constructing centres is seen as one that is being ignored by governments which benefit enormously from the income derived from their major ports. Similarly major commercial stevedore companies operating in the ports were in some cases unaware of the existence of and services provided by seafarers' welfare centres.
3.5 Antwerp

3.5.1 Meeting
Chief Commercial Officer, Antwerp Port Authority, Brussels
Friday 3 August 2012

Findings:
• The Port of Antwerp has embraced the energy hub concept. It offers concessions to make land available for renewable energy production and has set up a separate company of the port authority to manage wind energy developments.
• Currently the Port Authority was considering a tender process to enter into a PPP to develop a site for 60 wind turbines for energy sold back into the grid for energy trading certificates.
• Nuclear power is used close to the port area. It was to be phased out by 2015 but will now continue until 2020. Brussels is 60% nuclear dependent.
• Biomass wood chips are used for energy as well under the same structure which will be used for wind turbines.
• Antwerp also installs solar on all surfaces but as carbon trading certificate prices have fallen encouraging investment has been more difficult.
• The Port Authority Chair is always the Vice Mayor of Antwerp. He was recently awarded for his commitment to seafarers’ welfare. The Port CEO is selected by the Port Authority.
• Antwerp experiences a 5m tidal variation which poses particular challenges. The river requires constant dredging and the annual maintenance of the river worth $100 million is paid for by the Flemish Govt.
• Antwerp is a value adding port. ‘Nate’ concept companies are attracted via concessions for major value-adding activities. Concessions are given to attract the best companies but it is traditionally considered a very attractive option to be a ‘Nate’ company at the Harbour. Different ventures store, process, package and distributes many cargos. For example coffee is ground and blended, fruit is chopped and packaged. Tobacco is stored and blends prepared.
• Antwerp has considerable container traffic. The Port of Singapore Authority operates out of here as does a major Dubai company. The two main terminal operators are MSC and Mersk.
• The port has an extensive area for break bulk cargos, including a small coal loader. Interestingly, compressed olive seed cakes, a product sourced from Algeria, are blended with the coal to make the coal go further. The coal terminal was very small and very wet.
• Antwerp is also an intermodal hub. It has a large marshalling area with 250 trains through per day and constant flow of trucks.
• The Port of Antwerp is the second largest port in Europe. Its maritime freight volume in 2010 was 178 million tonnes (58% container, 23% liquid bulk, 11% dry bulk, 8% other conventional/breakbulk).
• The port employs 64,004 (fte) directly and about 150,000 indirectly. For decades, Antwerp’s Port labourers have been renowned for their high productivity and the people working in the petrochemical industry are known for their expertise.
• Antwerp hosts the largest petrochemical cluster in Europe and is the largest European port for steel, fruit port and forest products. It imports more coffee than anywhere in the world.
• It markets its provision of Extensive logistics and storage solutions for each cargo and product and its Fast customs clearance for Europe.
• It is an International Ship and Port Facility Security (ISPS) compliant port and actively engages in supply chain security initiatives and operates an Intelligent Port Community System providing an electronic data interchange between all the parties involved in the supply chain.
• Activities in The Port of Antwerp provide an added value of about 18 billion Euros. To further strengthen this capability, the Port of Antwerp strategically focuses on being a multifunctional port and clusters countless maritime, logistics and industrial companies which attract a lot of cargo.

Conclusion
The Port of Antwerp has invested into becoming an energy hub with wind and biomass actively pursued. The GFC and the resultant collapse in the value of the carbon trading permits have slowed investment into this area. Antwerp is also a port that actively encourages value-adding to its diverse cargoes. This has considerable benefits for the local economy and for employment.
3.6 Hamburg

3.6.1 Meeting

*Business Development Officer, Hamburg Port Authority and Tour of Hamburg Port*

*Monday 6 August 2012*

**Findings:**

- The Port of Hamburg was corporatized in 2005 and is an institution under law with one shareholder – the City of Hamburg. The board is appointed by the city and the Chairman is always the Minister of Economic Affairs. Revenue derived from the port is invested back into the port. The state does subsidize the port but generally this is dedicated to infrastructure which benefits the entire city, for example roads and drainage.
- The Port has developed four key strategic goals: Value adding, Quality, Efficiency and Sustainability. They are attempting to encourage more sustainable energy for the port with more than half of local wind turbines located on port land. They are considering innovative ways to produce petrol such as combining hydrogen, which could be made using wind energy from the North Sea, with carbon to create fuel.
- As in other European ports, they are more focussed on consultation with stakeholders to build a competitive strategy and port development plans. Clustering, infrastructure development and integrating into a first class supply chain are central to the focus.
- Hamburg Port manages diverse cargo and actively attracts major international companies to embed their operation into the supply chain.
- Major restructuring of the port is underway particularly to expand container terminals and manage their “home port” role for cruise ships. Hamburg is the cruise ship home port for the Baltic. The Port appreciates the importance of the cruise ship trade to the city’s economy and its accelerator affect on city development.
- Managing environmental issues – minimisation of noise, light and carbon emissions, is a constant challenge for the 24 hour port. This is also a guiding factor in the restructuring of the port.
- The port encourages civic pride in the port. It hosts an open night at the port once per year with industry to showcase and attract young people into port-related employment. It holds a special Day of Logistics once per year with presentations and guided tours, hosts a 3 day annual port festival and holds major naming ceremonies which include fireworks and public activity. A tourism agency of the city coordinates port promotions particularly of cruise ship arrivals and departures – again with on board tours, water craft parades and fireworks when departing. Guided boat, cycle and bus tours of the port are a daily feature of the tourism program for Hamburg.
- The port is conscious of its major value-adding role. It creates 133,000 direct jobs in Hamburg, 22,000 in the region and a further 106,000 across Europe. It generates 700 million Euros per annum.
- Hamburg is doing more work around building a service economy into the port, with advanced maritime services aggressively pursued.

**Conclusion**

Hamburg Port is tackling the challenges of port cities in a collaborative and holistic way. It recognises the value of the Port to the city, the region and the nation and strives to value-add to its performance through knowledge based approaches, logistics planning, embedding into international supply chains and by building a service economy around its operations. It is very conscious of the need to have public support and is managing the restructuring of the port with
the needs of residents in mind. It organises many activities to build the port into city life in cooperation with the city’s tourism section.

3.6.2 Meeting
*German Seaman’s Mission of Hamburg-Harburg*
*Monday 6 August 2012*

**Findings:**

- The Seafarers Welfare Centre in Hamburg was an outstanding facility. It is sponsored by the Hamburg Port Authority, donations from seamen, shipping companies, sponsorships and individual donations as well as donations from the ITF Seafarers Trust and the North-German Lutheran Church.
- On average the Centre hosts approximately 114 guests per day from 8-20 countries with Philippine seamen making up 49% of visitations.
- The centre offers club room, coffee bar, snack bar and shop, money changing and international money transfer service, postal service, free bus transfers to and from the port, recreation area, multi-denominational silent room of worship, inexpensive telecommunication services, recreational outings, international library, media room, dressing and showering facilities.
- Permanent staff included 2 chaplains, 7 support staff, an administrator and house manager as well as two housekeepers. The staff was complemented by 2 temporary staff members, 5 young people on a voluntary gap/social year as well as many volunteers.

**Conclusion**

I found this centre to have a very welcoming and professional culture which was embraced and appreciated by visiting seafarers. The commitment of all personnel to their task was quite inspiring.

3.6.3 Meeting
*Architect HafenCity Hamburg GmbH and Head of Directorate-General for Urban and Landscape Planning for the City State of Hamburg*
*Monday 6 and Tuesday 7 August 2012*

**Findings:**

- Hamburg City wants to use its growing population within a sustainable vision and within clear guidelines to become a Metropolis of talent, sustainability and responsibility for the future. An international design competition was held for the spatial redesign.
- Its five core objectives are: more city in the city, building on existing qualities, using expertise to build the region’s economy, a creative city with lifestyle, the metropolis is city and region.
- Spatial organisation is central: integration with the port, fashioning public and open spaces, varied mixes of uses and building types, business improvement districts,
significant buildings - ‘string of pearls’- located on the waterfront, improved public transport, a growing harbour and a growing city in “co-opetition”.

- Hamburg city had the most innovative approaches to city living. With the GFC impacting development investment it encouraged people to bid for to develop apartment blocks themselves. So instead of a developer approach they encouraged and assisted like-minded people to plan and finance a building to suit their lifestyle. For example a block for young people with smaller bike friendly and technology capable apartments. A block for families of young children with central communal courtyards and observable playgrounds. A child care centre was located on the top of a residential apartment block. People could purchase tree planting in areas of their choice which would be matched by the city in a concerted approach to greening the city and reducing carbon emissions.

**Conclusion**

Hamburg City like Amsterdam has an innovative approach to future planning. It also has adopted an inclusive approach to city planning and places the port at the heart of the city. Building an inner city lifestyle around new waterfront areas has similarities to the Honeysuckle development in Newcastle and provides a useful example for our planners.

### 3.6.4 Meeting

**Inspector, International Transport Workers’ Federation**  
**Tuesday 7 August 2012**

**Findings:**

- The intense international competition around shipping has escalated attempts to drive down fees and conditions within the shipping industry. The ITF acts on the same issues that the Australian ITF is constantly engaged in – adherence to the Maritime Labour Convention of 2006 and the International Maritime Organisation standards on ship safety, security and quality ship management.

- Advocating for and protecting seafarers’ rights and welfare is central to their operations. In Europe the monitoring of flags of convenience ships and of the welfare and safety of crews on board and ashore is a constant operation.

- The ITF has a very informed and collaborative international approach made more effective by information sharing across their networks. They were very well informed about the Australian shipping scene, the work of the ITF in Australia and the shipping legislation passed by the Australian Government.

- They continue to fund seafarers' welfare centres around the world to improve and increase their advocacy of seafarers' rights.

**Conclusion**

The ITF is a proactive organisation that takes its mission of advocating for seafarers’ rights under the Maritime Labour Convention of 2006. Cases discussed show that the need for their work has increased not decreased in the very busy ports of Europe.
3.7 Paris

3.7.1 Meeting
Policy Analyst, Port Cities, Urban Programme, OECD
Thursday 9 August 2012

Findings:
- The work of the OECD in promoting the synergies of ports and their cities to increase economic and productivity growth is well established and regarded.
- The most successful port cities are working strategically to value-add to each other’s performance.
- Although all ports are aware of the need to work in collaboration with city planning the major focus has been on managing port-side land use and development as well as infrastructure provision and maintaining maximum port operations.
- All port cities visited were engaged across the city and port management divide to some degree to improve city amenity and growth as well as port operation effectiveness.
- Port authorities have increased their focus on the public image of the port and public accessibility and engagement.
- Planned redevelopment of port areas into new residential and other city functions has been delayed by the GFC although the strongest synergies seen were driven by the planning of tourist amenities to accommodate the cruise ship industry.

Conclusion
Clearly the work of the OECD is driving a more collaborative approach to port and city planning and cooperation. In Europe this is also supported by the European Union focus on sustainability and major transport infrastructure development.
4. Recommendations

Overview

In the ports visited it was evident that the growth of container-based cargo was the major driver of port activity. Aggressive competition was driving new infrastructure, logistics and supply chains.

It was also evident that ports were adopting new approaches to value-adding, energy efficiency and related service sector development.

Each port and their cities were trying to come to terms with maximising their integration to drive productivity, economic growth and city amenity, each to varying degrees. Maximising public accessibility and engagement with their port was occurring in each port with a concerted effort to make their port a major tourism attractor.

1. The NSW government should facilitate the urgent development of the Port of Newcastle as a container terminal to drive new markets in the north of the state and facilitate infrastructure development.
2. The Port of Newcastle, the state government and the city of Newcastle need to work closely together to develop and implement the strategic approaches that will maximise the synergies that exist to accelerate growth, productivity and amenity. Lobbying for a container terminal is critical to a strategic approach.
3. The provision of a seafarers’ welfare centre in the Port of Newcastle is essential. The Newcastle Port Corporation and its steering committee must continue to explore sponsorships and donations to make this possible.
4. The Maritime Centre in Newcastle has great tourism potential and needs to find innovative and cost effective ways to enhance the visitor and tourist experience it offers.
5. The Port of Newcastle is historically the economic heart of this city, as such it should be central to a strategic approach to tourism for the city of Newcastle.
MR LUKE HARTSUYKER MP

United States of America, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom
24 August – 9 September 2012
Luke Hartsuyker MP
Shadow Minister for Regional Communications, Shadow Minister for Youth and Sport
Federal Member for Cowper

Overseas Study Travel Report

Special Minister of State
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Minister,

In accordance with the requirements of Clause 9.2(b) of Remuneration Tribunal
Determination 2006/18 (the Determination), I submit the following statement reporting on my
recent overseas study travel.

I note that, in accordance with Clause 9.5 of the Determination, a copy of this statement may be
obtained from you upon request by any Senator or Member. I also note that this statement will be
tabled in the Parliament at your discretion, including as part of the six monthly tabling of
entitlements expenditure for Senators and Members by the Department of Finance and
Deregulation.

Yours sincerely,

Luke Hartsuyker MP
The Nationals Member for Cowper
Shadow Minister for Regional Communications, Youth, and Sport

20 September 2012
LH:JY
Purpose of Journey

The purpose of my overseas study trip was fourfold: First, to meet with government bodies and private sector organisations involved in telecommunications, particularly in relation to the provision of services in regional areas; second, to visit Pozieres and other significant World War One battlefields on the Western Front as the patron of the Pozieres Remembrance Association; third, to inspect cycling infrastructure in Amsterdam, a city well known for its cycling culture; and fourth, to attend the Paralympic Games in London.

With regard to telecommunications services, I met with the following organisations:

- US Federal Communications Commission
- Intelsat
- US Department of Agriculture (Rural Utilities Service)
- US Satellite Industry Association
- Rural Cellular Association
- Openreach (British Telecom)

Items for discussion included:

- US Government policies related to improving broadband availability in rural areas of the United States;
- Regulatory issues affecting the use of femtocell technology;
- The structure of the international satellite industry;
- The Australian Government’s decision to build and operate two satellites through NBN Co;
- Use of satellite services by the Australian Defence Forces;
- British Telecom’s fibre-to-the-cabinet rollout, and how BT is expanding its broadband network into rural areas.

With regard to Pozieres, I am the patron of the Pozieres Remembrance Association which is based in my electorate. The Association exists to commemorate the extraordinary sacrifices made by Australian soldiers at Pozieres in World War One. I was invited to visit Pozieres by the town’s Mayor.

With regard to my brief trip into the Netherlands, the role of cycling infrastructure is a hotly debated issue in Australia’s major cities. My purpose in visiting Amsterdam was to investigate how that city reconciles its cycling culture with centuries-old infrastructure and architecture.

With regard to the Paralympics, I was invited to attend by the Australian Paralympic Committee. I attended a range of events over three days, and was part of two medal-presentation ceremonies at the aquatic centre.
Detailed Itinerary and Schedule

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<td>29 August 2012</td>
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<td>2 September 2012</td>
<td>Travel</td>
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<td>3 September 2012</td>
<td>Event</td>
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<td>3 September 2012</td>
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<td>Wreath laying ceremony in Pozieres</td>
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<td>4 September 2012</td>
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<tr>
<td>5-7 September 2012</td>
<td>Event</td>
<td>Paralympics, including athletics, wheelchair rugby, and Swimming</td>
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<td>(participation in medal presentation ceremony on 6/9/12)</td>
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<td>7 September 2012</td>
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<td>Arrive in Sydney</td>
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Key Meetings and Outcomes / Conclusions

FCC
27 August 2012. R Somers, J Schlicting, P Halley, K Kensingar

We discussed the American President’s commitment to expand high-speed wireless broadband to 98% of Americans by 2016. The so-called “Wireless Innovation and Infrastructure Initiative” is being managed by the FCC.

As part of the US Government’s commitment to improve the availability of broadband, the FCC has completely reformed America’s Universal Service Fund to create the new Connect America Fund, focused on broadband. As part of this new program, the FCC has created new funding schemes to support the delivery of broadband infrastructure in rural areas: the Mobility Fund (to expand mobile coverage) and the Remote Areas Fund (to fund alternative broadband delivery services).

We also discussed the regulatory challenges surrounding the use of femtocells and microcell technology to improve localised mobile phone coverage.

We also discussed the role of the satellite industry in the delivery of broadband services to rural residents.
**Satellite Industry Association**  
27 August 2012. *Patricia Cooper (President), Sam Black (Director of Policy)*

We discussed current trends in the international and Australian domestic satellite markets, and the role of satellite technology in the Government’s NBN project.

**Intelsat**  
28 August 2012. *S. Spengler (Exec VP, Sales, marketing, Strategy), A. Futch (Assistant General Counsel), Don Brown (VP, Hosted Payload Programs)*

Intelsat is one of the world’s leading providers of satellite services. I met with senior executives at the company’s Washington DC headquarters.

We discussed Intelsat’s history of service provision in Australia, and ways in which Intelsat could provide services to the Australian Government. In this context, we talked about the use of shared payloads to deliver less expensive services for defence purposes (a measure already used by the Australian Defence Force to some extent).

We also discussed the impact of the Gillard/Rudd Government decision to build and operate its own satellites and ground stations through NBN Co, rather than sourcing services commercially to agreed specifications.

**Rural Cellular Association**  
29 August 2012. *Tim Donovan (VP, Legislative Affairs), R. Thompson (General Counsel)*

The Rural Cellular Association is an industry body representing the smaller, rural mobile phone carriers in the United States.

We discussed the failure of the current Australian Government to invest in improved mobile phone services and issues relating to the challenges of expanding coverage in rural areas.

We also discussed ways in which new technology could assist in improving mobile phone coverage, including the potential for privately operated booster systems, including femtocells.

**USDA Rural Utilities Service**  
29 August 2012. *Nita Contreras*

The Rural Utilities Service is a division of the United States Department of Agriculture. The RUS helps utilities expand and keep their technology up to date, helping establish new and vital services such as distance learning and telemedicine.

We discussed the services provided by the RUS, including concessional loan programs that help private providers expand and improve services in the most rural and remote parts of the United States.

**Openreach (British Telecom)**  
30 August 2012. *Jim Jackson and staff*
Openreach operates the local access network in Britain. It is currently rolling out fibre-to-the-cabinet across much of Britain.

We discussed the progress of the FTTN network, challenges and effectiveness of the project, and challenges of providing FTTH. We also discussed ways in which Openreach is expanding broadband services to smaller villages, and the hardware used in the project. We also discussed how technology improvements are constantly extending the effective life of the copper network.

Amsterdam – Inspection of Cycling Infrastructure
1 September 2012

Amsterdam enjoys several key advantages with regard to cycling culture, including a flat landscape, high population density, lack of mandatory helmet laws, and a road network that is not conducive to high levels of vehicular traffic in downtown areas. In addition, the local authorities have made a concerted effort to promote and facilitate cycling.

Amsterdam residents have embraced cycling, instead of viewing cyclists as a nuisance. Australia’s major cities are not in a position to facilitate cycling in the same way as Amsterdam, but there are lessons Australia could learn from the Dutch experience, including consideration of relaxing helmet rules, increasing the number of accessible bike racks, and improving education and information campaigns about cycling.

Pozieres
3 September 2012

I am the patron of the Pozieres Remembrance Association, which is based in my electorate. The Association is committed to commemorating the sacrifices of Australian soldiers at Pozieres in World War One. I was invited to visit Pozieres by the town’s mayor, and was privileged to lay a wreath at the cenotaph in the town, after touring the battlefields with a British veteran who is an expert in WWI history. Unfortunately, Pozieres does not receive the same level of Government attention as more well-known battlefields on the Western Front, despite being “more densely sown with Australian sacrifice than any other place on earth” according to historian Charles Bean. I have spoken with the Minister for Veterans Affairs about ways in which more prominence could be afforded to Pozieres.

Paralympics
5-7 September 2012

I attended the Paralympics as a guest of the Australian Paralympic Committee. It was a privilege to attend the athletics, powerlifting, swimming, wheelchair rugby, and wheelchair basketball. I was also involved in two medal presentation ceremonies at the swimming, one including our 8-time gold medallist Jacqui Freney.

Londoners gave magnificent support to the Paralympics, with each event I attended filled to capacity. Australia’s athletes did our nation proud with their achievements, but also with their attitude and demeanour throughout the competition.
Overseas Study Tour to Burma 25TH August to 3rd of September 2012 (inclusive of travel)

**The Purpose:** The purpose of the visit was threefold as for the first study tour. I decided to use my study tour allocation, to stay strongly engaged in Burma, and to deepen relationships and knowledge, particularly of the transition process that is currently underway. To further this I have planned three visits this year, and the last one to take place will be in December. I shall also take a group of Australian Women Leaders with me on the third visit, so as to deepen our understanding of women and their networks and to understand how to best direct our policy efforts including ODA.

This is an excerpt from my first visit and I wish to restate it here as it is current and apt. “Firstly to study the nature of the democratic transition taking place in Burma/Myanmar, following on from the official visit with the then Foreign Minister Kevin Rudd MP, in June 2011, and based on my long standing engagement and action regarding Burma/Myanmar, and secondly to explore how best, if at all, that the many parties, actors, organisations and government organs that had asked for training, skills development and development assistance could be aided, and advice regarding the government and ODA, and thirdly to strengthen relationships, people to people. To do this it was necessary to explore and understand how the parliaments were established, and working, the office of the President and current military structure and operations. I had done the preparatory work and then was able to follow it up in country.

**Background:** I do this based on some twenty years engagement in Burma, with expertise in the legal, constitutional and political system. My advice and input is frequently sought and it has been useful in terms of Australia’s current engagement with Burma, notably the Government and leader that people have self chosen, the Chair of the National League for Democracy (NLD), and the Ethnic Nationalities Peoples. I have worked with most groups and organisations both inside and outside the country and engaged with all countries that have taken a strong interest in Burma, and been involved and lead some 2nd track diplomacy.

**Approach:** I had organised a number of meetings before I left Australia, leaving room for opportunistic meetings in country, which arose; I had many materials to take with me, and was able to also secure some in country.

The meetings in the public domain that I had were as follows:

The Speaker of the Upper House U Khin Aung Myint and all Upper House Committee Chairmen; The Deputy Speaker of the Lower House U Nanda Kyaw Swa and Lower House Committee Chairmen; Political Parties National League for Democracy (NLD), Union Solidarity Development Party (USDP), Myanmar Business Chamber representatives, private legal practitioners, local business people, NGO representatives, Advisers of the President H.E. U Thein Sein, Minister U Aung Min Minister for Rail
Transportation, H.E. Derek Mitchell US Ambassador, UNDP, Dr. Sid Naing Marie Stopes, and of course Ms. Bronte Moules our Ambassador and other staff from our Embassy.

**The main issues canvassed were:** The same as before some particular programmes and Parliamentary issues. The will and the want to continue to make the political changes? If so, what were the challenges, the roadblocks, the people who opposed and/or were uncomfortable with change. What laws were going to be changed, for example? What programmes were put in place in terms of reform? The FDI law and the Constitutional issue as well. Was constitutional change being discussed, along with electoral law reform, mining laws and more.

**The main findings were:**

The Government was willing and would make more changes, but there were some obstacles, some who wanted to change and were not sure of what and where, mainly by way of some who oppose change and who worked against it, therefore working to persuade the military that it was not in their interest to change, so some things had to go more slowly; but that there was no intention of going back, that budget conditions will increase money for health and education and other ministries, so that some good work can begin, that there is a lack of skilled up people in the civil service to do the work that is required to even put in place changes coming from above, requests abounded for assistance, still do, and some are able to be done seriatum, but many need to be factored into a development assistance framework and I send them to our AusAID Counsellor Mr. Michael Hassett in Rangoon, and to our Ambassador Ms. Bronte Moules.

**Saturday 25th August 2012**

Arrived in Rangoon in the evening, and had a dinner meeting with NLD MPs and Senior Staff, and discussed their by-election and issues arising around the Union Election Commission—the things that were done to try and stop certain events, the lack of a proper appeal process and having the UEC as the final decision maker, with no appeal rights to a court of law. We discussed also how the Parliament was working and what challenges it faced and constituency work. I suggested that MPs needed to remind people that the Government had the power to deliver services and the MPs had the power to give their needs a voice.

**Sunday 26th August 2012**

Breakfast meeting with Leon de Riedmatten, former ICRC-HD officer, peace worker and consultant. We discussed the peace process, what was working, what was not working, who the actors were being brought in, and what needed to be done.

Meeting with Land Core Group people to discuss the situation land and ownership, and displacement. It is common across Burma, and the absence of a proper functioning legal and judicial system, is a major problem.
Meeting with a colleague who had done political adviser’s course in Australia, and was planning to come to Australia to study for an undergraduate degree.

Attended the Australia Club to meet Aussie expatriates

Monday 27th August 2012

Meeting with U Hla Saw Oo executive member of the Rakhine Nationalities Development Party, and discussed politics, political party development, their role in the parliament, community and discussed issues regarding Rakhine State and Rohingyas.

Meeting with U Mya Thein Senior Advocate and Businessman, and member of the Legal Affairs and Special Cases Commission, and discussed law, rule of law, the Commission work and so on. I got a nice briefing on where matters were at. I had known his elder brother who was a fine and highly respected Advocate.

Had a working lunch with someone from one of the International NGOs and discussed the work with and for Internally Displaced People.

Meeting with U Ba Kyaing, a senior and respected Advocate, who also is a legal adviser at one of the banks. He is a legal writer and someone who has a wealth of knowledge to draw on.

Meeting with U Thu Wai

Meeting with U Min Sein, a leading corporate and commercial lawyer, and discussed legal reform.

Dinner meeting with our head of AusAID Counsellor Michael Hassett

Tuesday 28th August 2012

Meeting with Dr. Phone Win of the Mingalabar Myanmar organisation. We discussed the Sydney University Law School’s Sydney Myanmar Project, where higher education was going, what reforms needed to happen. He and his family are associated with Johns Hopkins University, who are in the process of concluding an MOU with Rangoon University. Many Australian Universities have expressed frustration in not being able to get access to Unis, and then being directed to certain ones, even if they have no common interests. The higher education system still comes under the direct control of the Ministry of Education. To seek a meeting with academics and to visit the university, one has to write to the Minister for Education. It is a hangover from the military dictatorship, and has not changed to this day. These are some areas that are ripe for reform; low hanging fruit that could be fixed by an active Minister. There is no one who says it has to be like this, but equally academics could begin to exercise academic freedom as well, and disentangle themselves from such nonsense. It seems they are waiting for each other to do so, even if the Ministry is aware. I did discuss with some
Ministers and MPs. It might seem trite but it is this sort of stuff that needs to change, and it needs leadership as well.

Meeting with Dr. Simon Tha executive member of the Kayah Peoples’ Party, to discuss where they are at, that is the Karen people, and what the needs are, as well with the political party development.

Meeting with Zozam executive member of the Chin Nationalities Party to discuss where they are at, that is the Chin people, and what the needs are, as well as the political party development. We also discussed a new group that had formed comprising of the Ethnic Nationalities Parties that were represented in the parliament. They had called it The Brotherhood. I said it was an unfortunate name and that it needed to be inclusive in 2012, and that it would be hard to support it. We had quite a discussion and he said he could see it clearly and that he would go back to the group to get it changed. He said the suggestion had come from him. I said I understood but as political leaders we have to lead on all issues and be inclusive. He came back from Australia after attending the Centre for Democratic Institutions course, and said he was excited about proportional representation voting system. He had taken it to the President, by way of a meeting and he said he had had a favourable response. I said yes many were talking about it and that the USDP as I understood it, were working on a law around it.

Meeting with U Khin Maung Swe executive member of the National Democratic Front. We discussed the issues as above and of course how they felt after having left the NLD to run in the 2010 election. Some want to reconcile and I said that would be hard politically with their party. I visited their HQ.

Meeting with our Ambassador Ms. Bronte Moules, Deputy Ms. Ruth Stewart and Counsellor Mr. Michael Hassett

Meeting with the US Ambassador Mr. Derek Mitchell, his Deputy and others

Meeting with senior Advocate U Aung Thane. He was still trying to get his lawyer’s licence back, that had been taken for political reasons, dressed up in legal ones, the contempt of court one. It is a bit like being fitted out by police here, with resist arrest, offensive behaviour, etc. He had also had his passport confiscated at Rangoon airport when he recently arrived back from a visit overseas where he had had some medical treatment. He is another well respected lawyer of high standing. We discussed the Burma Lawyer’s Association, the Bar Council, the needs of the profession, and more. I said I would make representations to the Attorney-General when I met him and I did. I am pleased to report that he has his passport back and his lawyer’s licence. (more on this later)

**Wednesday 29th August 2012**

Travelled to Nay Pyi Taw by road
Meetings with Australia Myanmar chamber of Commerce people to discuss the organisation and its establishment.

Meeting with Trevor Wilson, and Dr. David Kinley, who were there doing an AusAID supported scoping mission on human rights. We exchanged information, contacts, findings and ideas regarding this.

Meetings that afternoon with NLD MPs Phyo Min Thein and Daw Sandar Minn at the hotel and then at their accommodation, which is like a military camp, with three MPs to a room. One Senior NLD Adviser and husband of an NLD MP even got bitten by a snake there, when out on an evening stroll near their living quarters. We met other MPs there as well.

Went to the Pagoda as well, and also saw the white elephants there. It was very sad, as they are kept in the smallest of areas, and not enough shelter. It was completely unsuitable.

Meetings with Deputy Speaker Pyithu Hluttaw U Nanda Kyaw Swa and his Legal Cases and Special Affairs Commission members, of which he is Chair and at that time he was Chair of the Hluttaw Impeachment Committee concerning the Constitutional Tribunal. Also present for part of the meeting was U Hla Myint Oo MP and Chair of the Pyithu International Relations Committee, and six Pyithu Hluttaw staff. I appreciated very much their meeting me as the Hluttaw was in session. He said that the Speaker U Shwe Mann had given permission for them to meet with me and he gave his apologies. We discussed the advances and challenges and needs of the Hluttaw, the constitutional matter and the work of the Legal Cases and Special Affairs Commission.

Meeting AG

Meeting Supreme Court

Thursday 30th August 2012

Meeting 13th January 2012 Myanmar Human Rights Commission

At the National Human Rights Commission, I met U Win Mra the Chair, and two of his Commissioners, one U Hla Myint who used to be an Ambassador to Australia, and U Khin Maung Lay, who used to be a DG in the Dept. of Labour and who used to go the ILO to defend Burma against the practice of slave labour.

I was asked why Western nations and people always raised political prisoners, and it was commented that the west would be pleased with the release of some political
prisoners. I responded that they West raised them as they got representations directly from the Burmese people and their advocates, and I said regarding the West being pleased with the release of some political prisoners, well yes; but not as much as the Burmese, and those directly affected.

Key points: They will subscribe to the Paris Principles, the need to go a bit slow to ensure that the NPT leaders are not too disturbed by their work, but at the same time working towards the Paris Principles. They went through the prison visits, and explained that they found no deprivation of water for the prisoners who were on strike, with one man suffering mental ill health and talking about the past, when he clearly was tortured when interrogated, but not now. He said that things are not great in any gaol, but they are in keeping with regulations, primarily the prison manual, old but current, except that they were getting two eggs not three and they are now assured that it is three. They sent a team to Kachin State and found atrocities and suffering all round, and on both sides they said. They are encouraging a cessation of hostilities. I suggested it might be appropriate to have a team be there, and just letting all know they are can have an impact. It is of course a risk. U Win Mra said that the US had asked to send a delegation there. He said he was not sure, as they did not seem to understand it too well, that is the nature of the conflict both historical and contemporary and concerned how it might look, as it is the US. I said of course form counts, but the key question is, “Can they assist?” If so then it should be considered, if no or too many doubts, then no. MHRC will team up with Thailand, Indonesia and The Philippines who subscribe to the Paris Principles, and will therefore work with the Asia Pacific Forum (Secretariat is supported by Australian Government through the Australian Human Rights Commission), who are soon visiting and meeting them. I gave them some resources from the Australian HRC that I had organised through our Federal Attorney-Generals Office and two books from me, being a law dictionary and an annotated human rights working book. I gave U Win Mra a cable he had sent as a then MFA official in 1988, that I had in my files and I said that when he was PR and Ambassador in NY I used to write to him. One time I had asked him to tell all Burmese what the 68 laws were that he said in one of his intervention to the 3rd Committee, that upheld human rights. I said that I never got answers, but now he was in the key position to locate those 68 laws and uplift them. I did it in a spirit of the times, as it was taken.

Union Solidarity Development Party (USDP) meeting at HQ in Nay Pyi Taw

U Htay Oo Head of the USDP. As we had met before this meeting was more open and we discussed among other things the by-elections and how that was seen and interpreted.

He said that he was focused on doing what was good for the people, it is only for the people now, and party organisations. He said that they wanted political parties training that I was able to offer via the IPDC. He said it would be a free and fair election and understood the need for that.
I had daily meetings with all Political Parties as per my first visit and also many advisers of Government, and NGOs. Also the NLD Legal Committee.

ODA comments

Two issues arise and it is that the countries providing ODA need to engage on this in a deliberative way, and ask, cajole, coerce, what ever. I have recommended this for years to Australia, not just in Burma, but very specifically as part of our enhanced engagement strategy, I wrote in 2008 for the then Prime Minister. I understand they are doing it now, but I am not sure with whom and the manner of it. I raised it with the Speaker of the Upper House, the Deputy Speaker of the Lower House, the Minister for Rail Transportation, Senior Legal Adviser U Sit Aye and the General Secretary of the USDP U Htay Oo. They all assured me it would increase. I said yes but by how much. It needs a ten year plan of escalation, along with health and infrastructure. All friends who provide ODA and support should be pushing this now. Australia should take the lead on this and also on education, which we discussed and do some projects as bilateral aid. (Curriculum, Teacher Training, Post Grad).

General Comments:

There is demonstrable change in the political system in Burma, yet to be really followed up with a demonstrable change in the legal framework. It is the latter that is necessary to bring the changes to a place where they could be described as irreversible, but Burma is not there yet. The brief we must have is a watching one, but with various levels of engagement. The upcoming by elections are to be watched but not to be seen as a major benchmark in terms of relaxing more sanctions, as they are being conducted within a legal framework that is not free nor fair, according to objective international standards.

It is now said, that there are plenty of new second hand cars, and the system has loosened up, but it is still a catch 22 situation and business people and others asked me to ask the Minister for Rail Transportation, under whose portfolio it falls, to change it even more. I did just that, plus some other matters marked for reform and he assured me that within three months certain things would change.

The traffic of course is dreadful, no respect for anyone’s right of way, and pedestrians are not given a go anywhere. I would work to change that if I was here, as if you cannot respect pedestrians the people, you cannot respect them at all, elsewhere. That is my theory anyway.

Findings: As per my first report, but a growing awareness of where some of the gaps are and a process within the Government for some Ministerial and Public Servant responsibility to take that. The judiciary and legal system is still a basket case.

The State Architecture mainly at human resource level, requires rebuilding so as to deliver services, co-ordinate services, plan and develop public policy and to operate within a democratic way.
Political Parties met:

Democratic Party

National Democratic Front

Rakhine Nationalities Democratic Party

Kayah Peoples Party