



KYLEA TINK MP

Independent Federal Member for North Sydney



Dr Caralee McLeish PSM
Auditor-General for Australia
Australian National Audit Office
GPO Box 707
CANBERRA ACT 2601

By email: ag1@anao.gov.au

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Dear Dr McLiesh,

I refer to Australia's military export regime with respect to public transparency and Australia's obligations under the Arms Trade Treaty.

The Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) came into force 10 years ago, establishing global standards including forbidding arms sales where there is a risk of them being used to violate human rights.

However, concern has been expressed by both experts and community members that Australia's military industry lacks relevant transparency – Government Departments report vastly different information using different methodologies and data sources. In 2023-24 the Department of Defence issued permits for over \$100 billion of exports; and DFAT reported \$2.7 billion of actual exports.

Neither the Australian public nor the parliament know what weapons (including components) are being exported, by what companies, or for what purpose. It is my understanding that even the Department of Defence, who issues export permits, lacks information about what is being exported. For these reasons, The Arms Trade Treaty Monitor has noted that Australia's ATT reports lack meaningful transparency, and that European countries with similar or higher levels of military exports fulfill their obligations more effectively than Australia.

Australia has recently exported to regimes where there are serious human rights concerns, including Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Israel, Sudan, and South Sudan. Because of this lack of information, it is unclear whether these exports have directly facilitated human rights abuses.



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I ask that you consider an audit of the defence export permit approvals process, and that you review whether current arrangements are sufficiently transparent for both public accountability and meeting our obligations under the Arms Trade Treaty.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and I look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely,

Kylea Tink MP
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