

THE AUSTRALIAN

\$1.3bn committed to fight Islamic State terror in Iraq

SID MAHER THE AUSTRALIAN DECEMBER 16, 2014 12:00AM

SPENDING on national security to counter homegrown terrorism and fight Islamic State extremists in Iraq will top \$1.3 billion over the next four years.

Nearly \$200 million will be spent upgrading security at Parliament House in Canberra while \$649.9m has been handed to security and law enforcement agencies in Australia.

A further \$306.4m has been allocated for operations in Iraq, where Australia is engaged in an air campaign against Islamic State and in training to improve Iraqi security forces.

This includes \$297.5m over three years for the additional cost of conducting Operation Okra, which is the Australian Defence Force's contribution to the international effort to disrupt and degrade Islamic State.

Australia raised its domestic terror alert to high in September, meaning a terror attack was considered likely. Security agencies recommended the increased threat level because of the number of Australians fighting with and supporting terrorist groups in the Middle East.

Much of the increased funding for security forces was announced in August as Australia responded to the escalation in fighting against Islamic State.

In September, Tony Abbott told parliament: "We will more than match the resolve of our adversaries in all things except malice, because our military, police and security personnel have goodwill towards everyone except those who are plotting to hurt us."

Joe Hockey said the defence and national security commitments totalling \$1.3bn "are more than offset by savings in our foreign aid budget of \$3.7bn".

The extra funding for a raft of security organisations, including the Australian Security Intelligence Organisation and the Australian Security Intelligence Services, is aimed at strengthening monitoring and disruption activities in Australia and overseas.

The government aims to increase intelligence collection and threat assessment capabilities, enhance border protection, improve technical capabilities and provide resources to engage those at risk of radicalisation. Biometric screening will be introduced at international airports.

Over the next four years, ASIS will receive \$106.9m, ASIO \$139m, the Australian Crime Commission \$21m and the Australian Customs and Border Protection Service \$71.8m.

National security spending on Parliament House in Canberra is forecast to be \$198.7m, including \$109.1m in capital funding and \$89.6m in expense funding for the Department of Parliamentary Services and the Australian Federal Police to enhance security.

The closed-circuit television system and the parliamentary access systems will be upgraded

and extra parliamentary protective service staff employed. The AFP presence will be upgraded.

The government will also provide \$88.3m over four years to enhance security arrangements at parliamentary offices and increase close personal protection services for commonwealth office holders and foreign dignitaries.

Extra funding of \$7.3m over four years will be provided to the Attorney-General's Department to enhance the ASNet communications system which allows law enforcement agencies to communication over a secure network.

×

Share this story

Facebook ([http://facebook.com/sharer.php?u=http://www.theaustralian.com.au/in-depth/terror/bn-committed-to-fight-islamic-state-terror-in-iraq/story-fnpdbcmu-1227157250031&t=\\$1.3bn committed to fight Islamic State terror in Iraq](http://facebook.com/sharer.php?u=http://www.theaustralian.com.au/in-depth/terror/bn-committed-to-fight-islamic-state-terror-in-iraq/story-fnpdbcmu-1227157250031&t=$1.3bn%20committed%20to%20fight%20Islamic%20State%20terror%20in%20Iraq))

Twitter ([https://twitter.com/intent/tweet?url=http://www.theaustralian.com.au/in-depth/terror/bn-committed-to-fight-islamic-state-terror-in-iraq/story-fnpdbcmu-1227157250031&text=\\$1.3bn committed to fight Islamic State terror in Iraq](https://twitter.com/intent/tweet?url=http://www.theaustralian.com.au/in-depth/terror/bn-committed-to-fight-islamic-state-terror-in-iraq/story-fnpdbcmu-1227157250031&text=$1.3bn%20committed%20to%20fight%20Islamic%20State%20terror%20in%20Iraq))

LinkedIn ([http://www.linkedin.com/shareArticle?mini=true&url=http://www.theaustralian.com.au/in-depth/terror/bn-committed-to-fight-islamic-state-terror-in-iraq/story-fnpdbcmu-1227157250031&title=\\$1.3bn committed to fight Islamic State terror in Iraq](http://www.linkedin.com/shareArticle?mini=true&url=http://www.theaustralian.com.au/in-depth/terror/bn-committed-to-fight-islamic-state-terror-in-iraq/story-fnpdbcmu-1227157250031&title=$1.3bn%20committed%20to%20fight%20Islamic%20State%20terror%20in%20Iraq))

Google (<https://plus.google.com/share?url=http://www.theaustralian.com.au/in-depth/terror/bn-committed-to-fight-islamic-state-terror-in-iraq/story-fnpdbcmu-1227157250031>)

Email ([mailto:?body=http://www.theaustralian.com.au/in-depth/terror/bn-committed-to-fight-islamic-state-terror-in-iraq/story-fnpdbcmu-1227157250031&subject=\\$1.3bn committed to fight Islamic State terror in Iraq](mailto:?body=http://www.theaustralian.com.au/in-depth/terror/bn-committed-to-fight-islamic-state-terror-in-iraq/story-fnpdbcmu-1227157250031&subject=$1.3bn%20committed%20to%20fight%20Islamic%20State%20terror%20in%20Iraq))