



Senate Economics References Committee

28 August 2015

Senator the Hon Stephen Parry
President of the Senate
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Mr President

Pursuant to Senate standing order 38(7), I present to you an interim report of the Economics References Committee's inquiry into the Future of Australia's naval shipbuilding industry.

On 25 June 2014, the Senate referred the matter of the future of Australia's naval shipbuilding industry to the Senate Economics References Committee for inquiry and report by 1 July 2015. The term of reference for the inquiry is straightforward yet comprehensive in its coverage—the future sustainability of Australia's strategically vital naval ship building industry.

To date, the committee has tabled the following three reports and is due to present its final report on 28 August 2015:

- Part I—Tender process for the navy's new supply ships;
- Part II—Future submarines; and
- Part III—Long-term planning.

Conduct of inquiry

The committee advertised its inquiry on its website and in *The Australian* seeking views directly from a range of people interested in the future of Australia's naval shipbuilding and repair industry. In addition, the committee wrote to, and invited submissions from, shipbuilders, suppliers, unions, professional associations and individuals engaged in the shipbuilding industry such as engineers and architects as well as academics and economists. The committee also invited state governments and relevant Commonwealth government departments to lodge written submissions.

Submissions and hearings

The committee received 38 submissions, eight supplementary submissions as well as additional information. The committee also received over 250 brief messages supporting strongly Australia's naval shipbuilding industry and urging the government to ensure that the future submarines would be built in Australia. In all, the committee has held eight public hearings. The following were held in 2014:

- 21 July in Canberra, which concentrated solely on the tender for the navy's two new supply ships;
- 30 September in Canberra, which focused on the acquisition of the future submarines;
- 8 October in Newcastle;
- 13 October in Melbourne; and
- 14 October in Adelaide.

The committee also held three hearings in 2015 on 19 February in Canberra; 6 March in Melbourne; and 14 April in Adelaide.

Reporting

The committee is intending to hold another public hearing, and as a consequent has agreed to present this report as an interim measure with the intention of tabling its final report on or before 26 February 2016.

Yours sincerely

Senator Sam Dastyari
Chair