



NAVY

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVY

Chief of Navy

R1-4-C001, Russell Offices, Canberra. ACT. 2600

CN/OUT/2012/506

Dr Kathleen Dermody

Secretary

Senate Standing Committee on

Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade

Parliament House

CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Dr Dermody

I write to clarify evidence that I gave at the Budget Estimates hearing held on 29 May 12 concerning Royal Australian Navy (RAN) Jet Rigid Hull Inflatable Boats (RHIB).

In addition to my response to Senator Johnston's question on modifications to RHIBs (page six of Hansard), the following information is provided to clarify the difference between the two types of RHIBs in service with the RAN:

There are two types of Jet RHIBs in service in the RAN – the Armidale Class Patrol Boat (ACPB) RHIB and the J3 RHIB, which is in service in most Major Fleet Units (MFUs). The J3 variant developed as a result of a requirement for a RHIB with greater endurance and speed for longer ocean/sea passages and was introduced into service in 2008.

The J3 modifications over the ACPB RHIB included improved engine power, speed, endurance and seating. To increase the durability of the ACPB Jet RHIBs, in 2010 a 'heavy duty collar' was developed and installed to provide a thicker protective skin to those areas of the RHIB that were prone to excess friction when alongside another vessel. This heavy duty collar has always been part of the J3 RHIB.

No further modifications have been made although some additional tactical support equipment has been temporarily installed in MFU RHIBs for the duration of deployed Operations.

I apologise for any misunderstanding that may have arisen.

Yours sincerely



R.J. GRIGGS, AM, CSC

Vice Admiral, Royal Australian Navy

Chief of Navy

↑ June 2012