



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA

Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade
Defence Sub-Committee

MEDIA RELEASE

Issued: 28 October 2014

Chair: Senator David Fawcett
Deputy: Senator Deborah O'Neill

Committee recommends reform to Defence capability management process

The Parliament's Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade today tabled the report for its *Review of the Defence Annual Report 2012-13* recommending the development of a single, contiguous and whole-of-life approach to Defence capability management.

Chair of the Defence Sub-Committee, Senator David Fawcett (SA) said, "Reviews of Defence annual reports have been conducted annually by the Committee in successive Parliaments since 2002. It is an important Parliamentary oversight process which allows the Committee to inquire into a range of Defence activities."

The Committee makes a number of recommendations in its report including that the Department of the Defence:

- review procurement processes to ensure payments flow to small and medium sized enterprises subcontracted by primes in a timely manner;
- review the process by which Defence properties are placed on the Commonwealth Heritage List and that, where properties are listed, they are suitably funded;
- make increased use of private sector expertise in areas of test and evaluation, risk management, review and business case development; and, most important
- coordinates into a contiguous process the oversight and review functions currently exercised by the Capability Development Group, the Defence Materiel Organisation and the Service groups of the Australian Defence Force.

Senator Fawcett said, "Through the course of the review, the Sub-Committee became aware of some very positive developments in areas such as the Navy's Seaworthiness System. However, it also became apparent that Defence's approach to capability management is fragmented. A single contiguous system which Defence could use to conduct capability-assurance from definition to disposal would facilitate more effective capability management across groups within Defence."

A copy of the report and information about the inquiry, including submissions, can be obtained from the Committee's website www.apf.gov.au/jfadt.

For media comment: please contact the Defence Sub-Committee Chair, Senator David Fawcett, on (08) 8205 1040 (Electorate Office) or (02) 6277 3418 (Parliament House)

For further information: please contact the Committee Secretariat on (02) 6277 2313, via email at jscfadt@aph.gov.au or visit the inquiry website at www.apf.gov.au/jfadt