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MEDIA RELEASE

Joint Standing Committee on Treaties

Public Hearing

Issue date: 7 March 2017

Maximising local industry opportunities: Treaties Committee reviews Submarine Agreement

Tuesday 7 March 2017

Australia's Future Submarine Program with France will be examined on Wednesday as the Joint Standing Committee on Treaties holds a public hearing in Adelaide.

The Committee is reviewing the [Framework Agreement for the Future Submarine Program](#) which provides for the transfer of technology, Australia's sovereign operation, local industry engagement, research and development and the governance and performance of the contract with DCNS.

[Committee Chair, the Hon Stuart Robert MP](#), says the Future Submarine Program will provide Australia with a regionally superior, sovereign submarine capability and the Framework Agreement under review is critical for the Program's success.

"Submarines are an integral element of our maritime security strategy. By developing a skilled workforce and building the submarines here in Australia, we are securing the long term future of the Australian Navy," Mr Robert said.

"The Agreement commits France and Australia to maximise the engagement of Australia's local industry in the development and construction of the Future Submarine. It is important that Australia begins working towards developing the necessary skill sets and workforce capabilities in preparation for the largest defence acquisition in Australia's history."

Details of the hearings are as follows:

Wednesday 8 March 2017, Balcony Room, Parliament of South Australia, Adelaide

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| 1.00 pm | BAE Systems Australia |
| 1.45 pm | Australian Submarine Corporation |
| 2.15 pm | Defence SA |
| 3.00 pm | University of Adelaide – Defence and Security |
| 3.30 pm | Australian Industrial Transformation Institute, Flinders University (to be confirmed) |
| 4.00 pm | Australian Industry and Defence Network WA (<i>via teleconference</i>) |



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Background:

- The FSP Framework Agreement is not an agreement to design or build the Future Submarine.
- The FSP Framework Agreement establishes a framework for cooperation to support the delivery of the Future Submarine Program on:
 - the transfer, ownership and use of technology and information;
 - asserting Australia's sovereign operation and security of supply;
 - local industry engagement and cooperation;
 - research and technology development; and
 - governance and contract performance matters.
- The contract for the design and construction of the Future Submarine was awarded to the French-Government owned company DCNS in April 2016 and signed in September 2016.
- The Government confirmed in April 2016 that the submarine fleet will be constructed in Adelaide.
- DCNS has stated that over 90 per cent of the build will occur in Australia.

Information about all treaties under review, including treaty texts, is available from [the Committee's website](#).

The public hearing will be live broadcast (audio only) and available [here](#).

Media enquiries:

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Joint Standing Committee on Treaties

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