



**Senator the Hon David Johnston
Minister for Defence**

MA14-002841

Senator Sam Dastyari
Chair
Senate Economics References Committee
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Chair

I write to advise you that the Government Response to the recommendations of the Senate Economics References Committee's report *Part I – Future of Australia's naval shipbuilding industry - Tender process for the navy's new supply ships* will not be tabled within the three month timeframe outlined in the Senate guidelines.

The Committee's report was tabled on 27 August 2014 and contains four recommendations relating to the tender process for the Royal Australian Navy's new supply ships; procurement of future naval acquisitions; support to Australian Industry and release of the independent review of the Air Warfare Destroyer project.

The Department of Defence has advised that a number of factors, including complexity of the subject matter, delays in the clearance process and administrative oversight contributed to the delay in providing the reply within Senate guidelines. That said I am committed to ensuring the Government's response to this important and complex matter receives careful consideration by Government.

I intend to table the Government's response in the first sitting week of 2015.

Yours sincerely

David Johnston

27 Nov 2014