

Department of Defence

Senate Economics References Committee – Inquiry into the future of Australia's Naval Shipbuilding Industry - 30 September 2014

Question on Notice No. 4 - Expenditure

Senator Xenophon asked on 30 September 2014, Hansard page 49:

CHAIR: How much was spent of the \$220 million?

Mr King: I am not sure.

Senator XENOPHON: Rear Admiral, can you tell us how much was spent?

Rear Adm. Sammut: There has been allocated about—I would rather take that on notice so I have the full figures for you. One point I would make is that it does take time to invest that amount of money to start getting it to generate information as well. We have been able to build up a large body of information through that investment but in the time frame available, in the time frame we have used it to assemble expertise and so forth, there are lead times involved in generating the knowledge of the work that comes out of that.

Mr King: Committed funds—this was current in June—the figure was \$132. Not spent, but committed; either spent or to be spent.

Senator XENOPHON: I do not want to get bogged down on this, so on notice would be good to get those details.

Response:

As at 1 October 2014, \$68.1 million or 32 per cent of the budget (excluding contingency) for planned work has been expended. There has been no expenditure of contingency.

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Question on Notice No. 5 - Discussions or visits with other countries

Senator Xenophon asked on Tuesday, 30 September 2014, Hansard page 51:

Senator XENOPHON: I have a final question—on notice, because I know my time is basically up. Mr King, I do not want to be too forensic about it, but I want to be fair to you. I think Senator Edwards made this point. You have gone to Japan on several occasions. You have also spoken to other submarine makers. Can you provide the committee with a thumbnail sketch of the countries you have been to and the communications you have had in broad terms—whether it is with German, French, Scandinavian or Japanese submarine makers—in the last three years, for instance, if that is not too onerous?

Mr King: No. I can do that.

Senator XENOPHON: Particularly if you have gone overseas.

Mr King: Some of them were visits to me, but I can do those.

Senator XENOPHON: I would be grateful for that.

Response:

Representatives from Defence have had discussions on several occasions over the past three years with representatives from the Governments, Navies and industries of France, Germany, Sweden, Spain, and Japan in support of work on the Future Submarine Program. There have also been discussions with representatives from the United Kingdom and the United States of America in relation to the Future Submarine Program. These discussions have been occurred in Australia and overseas.