

Senate Economics Reference Committee

Future of Australia's naval shipbuilding industry - 20 June 2017

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Defence

Topic: Future Frigate

Question reference number: 8

Senator: The Committee

Type of question: provided in writing

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 14 July 2017

Question:

What is the status of the Future Frigate Competitive Evaluation Process? When are the Competitive Evaluation Process submissions due? Will there be a down selection to one or to two contenders?

- a) If one is down selected, can you confirm the response to the Competitive Evaluation Process is non-conditional and binding?
- b) If two are down selected, what process will follow to down select to one? When will this down selection occur? What are the Intellectual Property transfer requirements for the Future Frigate Competitive Evaluation Process? Noting a decision has been made to build the Future Frigates in Adelaide, please confirm that ASC (i.e. Australia's sovereign Adelaide shipyards) will have substantive involvement in the Future Frigate build?

Answer:

The Future Frigate project is on schedule and currently progressing through the Competitive Evaluation Process leading up to Gate 2 Government Approval no later than Quarter 2, 2018.

The Government is committed to building all nine Australian Frigates at Osborne Shipyard in Adelaide, independent of the design chosen. The decision to build the Future Frigates is part of the broader Naval Shipbuilding Plan, which aims to support ongoing opportunities at Osborne for Australian jobs in this sector over the long term.

As the Competitive Evaluation Process is ongoing, it would be inappropriate to provide details of what is contained in the Request for Tender.