

Senate Economic References Committee

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

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Defence

Topic: Use of Standing Offer Panels

Question reference number: 14

Senator: Xenophon

Type of question: asked on Tuesday, 20 June 2017, Hansard page 29

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

Question:

Senator XENOPHON: I just want to go back—and if this has to be taken on notice then so be it—on the ICCPM solutions issue. The contracts were tendered through the Border Force services panel rather than the Defence services panel. How unusual is that, to go to Border Force? Is it common?

Rear Adm. Sammut: We use Finance panels for the acquisition of certain skills and services. We use other government panels for that.

Senator XENOPHON: On notice, can you tell me why it is that something goes to one panel rather than another panel?

Mr Ablong: It depends on the specific skills or requirements that you have. It may be that the Defence panel associated with particular sets of skills had lapsed and was going through the process—

Senator XENOPHON: So, on notice, can you tell me why it was that we chose this particular panel rather than the Defence services panel?

Mr Ablong: We can do that.

Answer:

Government agencies establish standing offer panels and make them available for use by all Commonwealth agencies. On this occasion, the services sought were available from the Australian Border Force panel.