

Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit

Inquiry into the 2015-16 Defence Major Projects Report – 31 March 2017

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Defence

Topic: Supplementary - Definition of Australianised Military Off-The-Shelf (MOTS)

Question reference number: 2

Senator: The Committee

Type of question: provided in writing

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 7 July 2017

Question:

The Committee requests a more detailed response, confirming whether there is a clear or official definition of Australianised MOTS compared to Modification, or off-the shelf.

Answer:

The answer provided is the official definition of Off-The-Shelf (OTS) as described in the Defence Capability Development Manual, Part 2 para 4.22.

OTS solutions may either be Military Off-The-Shelf (MOTS), or Commercial Off-The-Shelf (COTS). There is no individual definition for MOTS, COTS or Australianised OTS/COTS/MOTS. However, the policy explains these variations of OTS, including 'Australianisation' to meet Australian Defence Force operational requirements.

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2015-16 Defence Major Projects Report – 31 March 2017

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Defence

Topic: Supplementary – System to Track Inputs to Capability

Question reference number: 2

Senator: The Committee

Type of question: provided in writing

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 7 July 2017

Question:

The Committee requests a more detailed response. The question also asks ‘What actions have been taken over the last three years’ to track inputs to capability. Please answer that part of the question.

Answer:

The Capability Life Cycle process was established under the First Principles Review. As a part of the new Capability Life Cycle, the Investment Committee has been established as the key mechanism for reviewing capability proposals. All capability proposals coming to the Investment Committee are required to include detailed considerations of the fundamental inputs to capability. The Capability Manager and the Delivery Group ensure that capability inputs are robustly developed and that the Delivery Group works closely and constructively with the Capability Manager to ensure capability inputs are managed and delivered in accordance with the agreed integrated project plan.

In August 2016 a review of eight projects was conducted by Defence to ensure that the management of inputs to capability were being managed in line with the First Principles Review recommendation 2.5. This recommendation is ‘The Capability Managers specify the fundamental inputs to capability requirements with the Capability Acquisition and Sustainment Group having responsibility for developing and delivering an integrated project plan.’ The review found that all eight projects had appropriately addressed both the Capability Manager and the Delivery Group accountabilities relating to the management of inputs to capability.

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ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Defence

Topic: Supplementary – HMAS Dechaineux Sea Trials

Question reference number: 4

Senator: The Committee

Type of question: provided in writing

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 7 July 2017

Question:

The Committee requests a more detailed response on the outcome of the sea trial.

Answer:

Due to operational security requirements the Navy does not provide specifics on the progress of individual submarine modifications.

Navy can confirm that sea trials have been conducted onboard HMAS *Dechaineux*.

HMAS *Dechaineux* has conducted all sea trials necessary to safely demonstrate capability. Testing involved harbour checks, manned and unmanned trials of equipment, and sea operations to prove operating procedures.