

Economics References Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Future of Australia's naval shipbuilding industry 22 July 2015

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet
Outcome/Program: Prime Minister and Cabinet
Topic: Competitive Evaluation Process

Senator: Senator the Hon Stephen Conroy

Question reference number: 1

Type of question: 22 July 2015 p.51

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 7 August 2015

Number of pages: 1

Question:

Senator CONROY: When and how did you first become aware of the competitive evaluation process?

Mr Sadleir: We were aware for quite some time that Defence was building up an acquisition strategy for the future submarines. Of course, there was a decision-making process that was part of that. As to the precise time, that is something which I am happy to take on notice.

Answer:

Mr Sadleir became aware of the competitive evaluation process on 8 February 2015 through media reporting.

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Senator: Senator the Hon Stephen Conroy

Question reference number: 2

Type of question: 22 July 2015 p.52

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 7 August 2015

Number of pages: 1

Question:

Senator CONROY: Can I ask: has the Prime Minister's office contacted you in the last 12 months about this issue?

Mr Sadleir: Yes.

Senator CONROY: Was that before or after 8 February?

Mr Sadleir: Again, I will take that on notice.

Answer:

Mr Sadleir had a series of discussions with the Prime Minister's Office about the acquisition of submarines both before and after 8 February 2015, but in relation to the competitive evaluation process only after that date.

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Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

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Topic: Competitive Evaluation Process

Senator: Senator the Hon Stephen Conroy

Question reference number: 3

Type of question: 22 July 2015 p.53

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 7 August 2015

Number of pages: 1

Question:

Mr Sadleir: Mr Shearer and the PMO obviously are regularly briefed on these issues. There are regular updates. I just want to make that clear, in clarification.

Senator CONROY: Mr Dewar and Mr Moore, at any stage did you advise the government that 500 new jobs would be created as a consequence of this process?

Mr Dewar: As International Policy, we would not advise on job creation.

Senator CONROY: I would not have thought so, but I am just being rigorous. Mr Sadleir, 500 new jobs in Adelaide?

Mr Sadleir: I will take that on notice.

Answer:

The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet did not advise the Government that 500 new jobs would be created.

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Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet
Outcome/Program: Prime Minister and Cabinet
Topic: Drafts about an announcement of Japan as successful party

Senator: Senator Nick Xenophon
Question reference number: 4
Type of question: 22 July 2015 pp.55-57, 60
Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 7 August 2015

Number of pages: 2

Question:

Senator XENOPHON: ...It is a very straightforward question. There were rumours prior to 8 February that the decision-making process had progressed, in terms of the future submarines, far enough that press releases, media releases and speeches had been drafted. I am giving you, and indeed any other witness here who may have any knowledge whatsoever in relation to this, this opportunity to identify whether those rumours were false or not. You can put those rumours to bed. Were there any draft speeches or draft media releases about an announcement of Japan being the successful bidder or the successful party in respect of the future submarines?

Mr Sadleir: The Prime Minister has clearly and publicly confirmed that there are no secret agreements regarding the future submarine program.

Senator XENOPHON: I did not ask you about secret agreements. I did not ask you that.

Mr Sadleir: I cannot confirm any of those rumours. I cannot comment on those rumours. You are putting some rumours to me. I cannot comment on them.

...

Senator XENOPHON: Were you aware of any draft statements, draft media releases or any drafts being prepared in relation to an announcement about the future submarine project at any time prior to 8 February 2015?

Mr Sadleir: I am happy to take that on notice.

...

Senator XENOPHON: I will help. It is a very straightforward question: is it within your knowledge that there were draft documents, materials, media releases or speeches prepared in respect of the future submarine project, the SEA 1000 project, at any time prior to 8 February 2015?

...

Senator XENOPHON: ... Mr Sadleir, are you aware of any draft materials—draft media releases, draft speeches, draft statements—prepared in respect of the SEA1000 Future Submarine project at any time prior to 8 February 2015?

Mr Sadleir: I am aware of some work that has been done, but that would be done at officials level.

...

CHAIR: ... Mr Sadleir, there are two questions that have been asked of you. One is: was the department aware of draft media releases, speeches or preparatory material regarding making an announcement prior to the intervention of Senator Edwards and others from 8 February? The second question It is: whether or not you personally were aware of any such information?

Answer:

Mr Sadleir has refreshed his memory and confirms that he was not personally aware of any draft media releases or speeches or other preparatory material regarding making a possible announcement that Japan was successful in relation to the future submarine procurement. Mr Sadleir has also undertaken a search for any such documents and caused enquiries to be made of relevant officials concerning any such documents. The Department is not aware of any such documents.

In relation to the broader question concerning draft documents prepared in respect of the SEA 1000 Future Submarine project at any time prior to 8 February 2015, Mr Sadleir is aware of a range of draft documents in relation to the project. These include draft media releases none of which regarded making a possible announcement that Japan was successful in relation to the future submarine procurement.

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Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet
Outcome/Program: Prime Minister and Cabinet
Topic: Awareness of imminent announcement

Senator: Senator the Hon Stephen Conroy

Question reference number: 5

Type of question: 22 July 2015 p.59

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 7 August 2015

Number of pages: 1

Question:

Senator XENOPHON: Were you aware that there was an imminent announcement due to be made in relation to the submarine project?

Mr Sadleir: I have said that I will have to take that on notice.

Answer:

No. Mr Sadleir was not aware of any imminent announcement due to be made in relation to the submarine project.