

Senate Economics References Committee

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

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Defence

Topic: Next Generation Technologies Fund

Question reference number: 2

Senator: The Committee

Type of question: provided in writing

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

Question:

At previous public hearings, the committee heard about the Next Generation Technologies Fund and witnesses who were applying for funding. The committee understands that Next Generation Technologies Funding for the 2016-17 financial year has been allocated. Were any shipbuilding initiatives funded?

Answer:

The Next Generation Technologies Fund was established under the Defence White Paper and the Defence Industry Policy Statement 2016. The nine priority technology areas of the Next Generation Technologies Fund are: cyber security; space capabilities; quantum technologies; trusted autonomous systems; enhanced human performance; medical countermeasures; multi-disciplinary material sciences; integrated intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance; and advanced sensors, hypersonics and directed energy capabilities. Several of the technology areas listed above are of direct relevance to surface and undersea warfare, and therefore, shipbuilding.

The focus of the Next Generation Technologies Fund is to enhance collaboration between Defence, industry, academia, and publicly-funded research agencies to produce game-changing technologies which will feed the innovation pipeline for Defence industry. Consequently Defence expects that research and development will provide advances in technology of benefit to both submarine and surface ship capability.