



Chief Commissioner

Our reference: File reference: 2025-013

23 April 2026

Ms Tanya Spisbah
Committee Secretary
Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs References Committee
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600
Via email: seniorclerk.committees.sen@aph.gov.au | LegCon.Sen@aph.gov.au

Dear Ms Spisbah

ATSB SUBMISSION: INQUIRY INTO THE MRH-90 TAIWAN HELICOPTER INCIDENT

Thank you for the invitation to make a submission to the Legal and Constitutional Affairs References Committee inquiry into the fatal MRH-90 Taipan incident occurring in the Whitsundays on 28 July 2023. The Australian Transport Safety Bureau (ATSB) provided assistance to the Defence Flight Safety Bureau (DFSFB) for its investigation. The purpose of the ATSB submission is to confirm the assistance provided should the information be relevant to the Committee's inquiry.

Memorandum of Understanding between the ATSB and the DFSB

The ATSB and the DFSB have an MOU documenting a framework for the agencies to provide each other with support when investigating transport safety matters. A copy of the MOU is available on the ATSB's website here: [Memoranda of understanding | ATSB](#).

Assistance provided by the ATSB

As a Defence aircraft, the investigation into the accident was initiated and carried out by the DFSB. Consistent with the MOU between the agencies, the DFSB sought assistance from the ATSB, and the ATSB provided support related to:

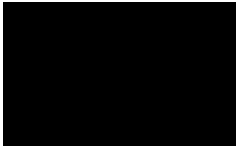
- recovery of the flight data recorders
- laser scanning an exemplar aircraft to create a 3D model
- liaison in the early stages of the DFSA analysis.

The ATSB published advice on its website to acknowledge the technical assistance provided under the *Transport Safety Investigation Act 2003*. The advice can be accessed here:

[Technical assistance to the Defence Flight Safety Bureau in support of MRH-90 Taipan helicopter accident, near Lindeman Island, Queensland on 28 July 2023 | ATSB](#)

As this was a DFSA investigation and the ATSB only provided some technical assistance, questions about the investigation would be best directed to the DFSA. However, where it can, the ATSB is willing to assist the Committee with understanding its role in relation to the DFSA investigation and more broadly with respect to the investigation of Defence aviation accidents under the MOU.

Yours sincerely



Angus Mitchell
Chief Commissioner