

Department of Defence

Senate Economics References Committee - Inquiry into the future of Australia's Naval Shipbuilding Industry - 30 September 2014

Question on Notice No. 6 - Future Submarine Industry Skilling Plan

Senator Carr asked on 30 September 2014, Hansard page 56:

Senator KIM CARR: As part of the Future Submarine skills plan, an expert industry panel—comprising representatives of the government, of industry, the Department of Defence and the Department of Industry—was established for the implementation of the SEA 1000 project. Is that not the case? This was only May last year. The panel was to meet for three months for the first year and six months thereafter to provide feedback on the development of the naval shipbuilding plants in preparation for the Future Submarine program.

Mr King: If it was activated, other things came into play then. You will recall, I am sure, that the Future Submarine Industry Skilling Plan was as much about the shipbuilding plan—

Senator KIM CARR: Sure, but this was specifically about a future submarine industry skills plan. I will let you in on a hint here: I am referring to an old ministerial brief of my own. So this did exist, as of 3 May 2013. And it mysteriously disappeared.

Vice Adm. Jones: I do not think it actually met, but we could take that on notice.

Senator KIM CARR: It did not meet?

Vice Adm. Jones: I do not believe it did, but we will take that on notice to confirm.

Response:

The Expert Industry Panel met five times between May 2012 and February 2013 to contribute to the formulation of the Future Submarine Industry Skilling Plan (FSISP). The Panel was chaired by David Mortimer and comprised 25 members from Industry, Unions, State and Federal Governments, and peak bodies.

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Question on Notice No. 9 - Consultation with and advice to former Government

The Committee provided in writing:

- (a) How often did the former government consult with you in relation to the Future Submarine program?
- (b) What advice did you provide the former Minister on scheduling?

Response:

- (a) On the basis of cabinet submissions, ministerial submissions and meeting briefs, there were approximately 70 interactions with the former Government in relation to the Future Submarine Program.
- (b) The predicted schedule for the Program to a general level of detail was included in Cabinet Submissions.