

Senate Economics Reference Committee

Future of Naval Shipbuilding in Australia

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Defence

Topic: SERC - Future of Australia's Naval Shipbuilding Industry - Q4 - Claim about Pump-Jet by Naval Group - The Committee

Question reference number: 4

Senator: Chris Ketter

Type of question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 3 April 2018

Question:

4. The official Naval Group website (<http://naval-group.com.au/futuresubmarines/barracuda.php>) for the Shortfin Barracuda makes a claim that "In a confrontation between two otherwise identical submarines, the one with pump jet propulsion always has the tactical advantage."

a. Are there targets other than another diesel-electric submarine, or other operational roles or missions where the pump-jet also confers an advantage sufficient to outweigh the reduced underwater range and endurance that a pump-jet would (according to Mr Morrison's report) necessitate?

b. Or is anti-submarine warfare of particularly special importance for the design of Australia's future submarine?

Answer:

a. Defence does not agree that a pump-jet necessitates reduced underwater range and endurance.

b. Anti-submarine warfare is a key role for the Future Submarine.