

Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Industry, Innovation and Science Portfolio
2016-17 Supplementary Budget Estimates
20 October 2016

DEPARTMENT: DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND SCIENCE

TOPIC: Update on BlueScope

REFERENCE: Question on Notice (Hansard, 20 October 2016, page 145)

QUESTION No.: SI-49

Senator KETTER: Could you provide us with an update on BlueScope?

Mr Power: BlueScope has recently delivered financial results that were very positive. As you know, the business has turned around in the last period. The recent financial results were very heartening. I think that is probably the main thing I could say at this point.

Senator KETTER: On 27 April, it is reported that Minister Pyne said that the government received a recommendation from Defence which was very clear, and that was that the French bid was superior—I am talking about Future Submarines here—and that an all-Australian build with Australian steel, Australian jobs and Australian subs was a recommendation from the Department of Defence. Were you aware of this recommendation from the Department of Defence?

Mr Power: This portfolio, to the extent there was a government process, would have been involved in that process. Personally, I was not involved—I was not in the portfolio at the time—but I expect the department would have been involved and consulted, as we have combined with Defence on a number of committees in relation to defence procurement.

Senator KETTER: Specifically in relation to the use of Australian steel in the Future Submarines project?

Mr Power: I will have to take it on notice, unless others are able to answer. No, I will have to take that on notice.

ANSWER:

These questions refer to Cabinet processes and the Department of Industry, Innovation and Science does not comment on Cabinet processes.