



**Australian Government**  
**Department of Defence**  
Defence Materiel Organisation

AEWC Program

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22 March 2007

Dr Kathleen Dermody  
Secretary  
Senate Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade  
Department of the Senate  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Dr Dermody

I write to clarify evidence that I gave at the Senate Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Additional Budget Estimates hearing on 14 February 2007.

In session, Senator Bishop asked about delivery dates and some confusion arose between him and myself about the dates to which Senator Bishop was referring. I wish to correct the record as follows:

There are two sets of dates on the public record: Delivery of First Aircraft and In Service Date. In the case of the Wedgetail Project, the In Service Date is defined as the date of Service Release of the first aircraft.

At the time of contract signature in December 2000, Delivery of First Aircraft was November 2006, with an In Service Date of 2007. As a result of the schedule delay announced by The Boeing Company on 1 February 2007, Delivery of First Aircraft is now March 2009 with an In Service Date of 2009.

Further, while Defence still has some analysis to do on the impacts of the schedule delay, the department is planning internally on establishing an Initial Operating Capability (IOC) in the mid-2010 timeframe and Final Operating Capability (FOC) in the mid-2011 timeframe, noting that IOC and FOC are not previously defined.

I apologise for any misunderstanding that may have arisen.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Deeble'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'C'.

**C. DEEBLE**  
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