

Reform of Amphibious and Afloat Support Ship Repair and Management Practices

Terms of Reference

Advice on the Landing Platform, Amphibious (LPA) Class of Ships, HMAS *Manoora* and *Kanimbla* of 9 February 2011, provided to the Minister for Defence by the Secretary of Defence and the Chief of the Defence Force, identified a number of causal factors that led to the early decommissioning of the *Manoora* and the extended unavailability of the *Kanimbla*.

The factors identified may also have contributed to temporary unavailability of the *Tobruk* in February 2011, and may have also adversely affected the maintenance and sustainment of the other support units (The amphibious and afloat support ship component comprises five ships – HMA Ships *Manoora*, *Kanimbla*, *Tobruk*, *Success* and *Sirius*).

To implement essential change in the management and repair of the units, an Independent team headed by Mr Paul Rizzo will develop a plan to reform these practices, and oversee early stage implementation of those reforms.

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Mr Rizzo will be supported by Air Vice Marshall Neil Smith (rtd) and Rear Admiral Brian Adams (rtd) who have relevant experience in defence administration, engineering, maintenance, logistics, systems engineering, safety certification and the operation and support of amphibious ships.

Many of the causal factors identified have been or are being addressed by substantial reform initiatives underway in Defence as a result of:

- the Strategic Review of Naval Engineering;
- the operation of the new Seaworthiness Board; and
- the Strategic Reform Program.

Mr Rizzo's Team will address the causes of the problems facing the availability of the amphibious and support ships, in the context of reforms already underway.

The Team will also consider how these reforms should be applied to the maintenance and sustainment of other naval vessels.

The Team will also consider the maintenance concept being developed for the new Air Warfare Destroyers and the Landing Helicopter Docks to ensure its suitability to sustain these vessels for whole of life.

The Team will focus on the causal factors already identified and any other factors it considered played an influence in the current condition of amphibious and afloat support ships.

The Team will consult with relevant members of the Defence Organisation, the ship maintenance community and the contracting community.

An initial report will be prepared for consideration by the Minister for Defence and the Minister for Defence Materiel within three months of commencing work. At that time, Mr Rizzo will recommend whether further reports are required.

The Team will be supported by a small secretariat located in the Office of the Secretary and the CDF in the Department of Defence.