

Appendix 2

Letter from the Minister for Defence to the President of the Senate



SENATOR THE HON LINDA REYNOLDS CSC
MINISTER FOR DEFENCE
SENATOR FOR WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Senator the Hon Scott Ryan
President of the Senate
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

MC20-000471

27 FEB 2020

Dear Mr ^{SRH} President,

I refer to General Business Notice of Motion 415 which was put and passed on 12 February 2020, which *requires members of the Naval Shipbuilding Advisory Board including, but not limited to, the Chair of the Board to appear before the Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee when it meets to consider the 2019-20 additional estimates, at 9 am on 4 March 2020.* You will be aware that the Naval Shipbuilding Advisory Board (NSAB) falls within my area of responsibility.

The Department of Defence has contacted NSAB board members to advise them of this ruling and seek their availability.

All board members are conscious of the significance of the Senate Order but have advised that they have prior interstate or international commitments that would preclude their attendance on 4 March 2020. It is worth emphasising that six of the nine members permanently reside in the United States of America, and as eminent experts in their respective fields, hold multiple board appointments and corporate responsibilities.

The next meeting of the NSAB in Australia is scheduled for the week on 30 March and I have written to the Chair of the Foreign Affairs Defence and Trade Legislation Committee, Senator Abetz, proposing that a supplementary/spill-over hearing might be scheduled at this time to facilitate the appearance of the NSAB before the Estimates committee.

I trust this information will be of assistance to you should the matter come before the Senate chamber again.

Yours sincerely,

Linda Reynolds

