

Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit

Defence Sustainment Expenditure – 31 March 2017

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Defence

Topic: Sustainment Reporting – Planned vs Achieved

Question reference number: Supplementary Q1

Senator: The Committee

Type of question: provided in writing

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 7 July 2017

Question:

The Committee requests a more detailed response, detailing how a ‘clear read’ has been achieved in documents relating to sustainment.

Answer:

Defence provides an update on project performance and variance explanations (from forecast expenditure) for the top 30 Defence Sustainment products in the Defence Portfolio Budget Statements (PBS), the Defence Portfolio Additional Estimates Statements (PAES) and the Defence Annual Report (DAR). These top 30 projects account for approximately 75 percent of the total sustainment expenditure.

An example of reporting the 2015-16 top 30 sustainment products is outlined below:

- Defence 2015-16 PBS pages 190-202;
- Defence 2015-16 PAES pages 108-115; and
- Defence 2015-16 DAR Web Table 8.2, which can be viewed at www.defence.gov.au/annualreports/15-16.

Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit

Defence Sustainment Expenditure – 31 March 2017

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Defence

Topic: Public Disclosure – Project Level and Sustainment Outcomes

Question reference number: Supplementary Q2

Senator: The Committee

Type of question: provided in writing

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 7 July 2017

Question:

The Committee requests a more detailed response. The question asks whether there are any ways to increase public disclosure of project level and aggregate information on sustainment outcomes. Please answer that part of the question.

Answer:

Defence is of the view that the current reporting arrangements are appropriate, and provide a necessary balance between public parliamentary scrutiny and national security.

Defence provides an update on project performance and variance explanations (from forecast expenditure) for the top 30 Defence Sustainment products in the Defence Portfolio Budget Statements (PBS), the Defence Portfolio Additional Estimates Statements (PAES) and the Defence Annual Report (DAR). These top 30 projects account for approximately 75 percent of the total sustainment expenditure.