

Joint Committee on Public Accounts and Audit

2015-16 Defence Major Projects Report – Supplementary – 22 June 2017

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Defence

Topic: Tiger Sustainment Organisation – Constrained Engineering Capacities

Question reference number: 3

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 addressing how staff turnover and retention issues and constrained capacities have affected the Tiger project. The Department's response refers to reduced staffing creating additional pressure and increased workload. What work has been deprioritised as a result, or required the use of contractors?

Answer:

During the transition from the extended project acquisition period to the in-service team arrangements, Commonwealth staff numbers were reduced accordingly. Remaining Commonwealth positions (Military and Australian Public Servants) have always been challenging and problematic to fill, due to the limited availability of people with the required technical and specialist skill sets. Many of these positions were filled by using Industry service providers for packages of work over defined periods. Due to the number of rectification programs and new capability enhancements, work has always been programmed to meet Army's highest priorities and safety requirements. Some lower priority activities were delivered later than planned.