



**Australian Government**  
**Department of Defence**

HLS/OUT/2020/241  
SQ20-000660

Secretary  
Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Committee  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Ms Beverly,

I am writing to provide clarification on evidence that I gave at the hearing for Budgets Estimates held on 27 October 2020.

During discussion relating to the Hawkei entering full rate production recorded in Hansard 27 October 2020 (Page 44) Senator Patrick stated:

*I think that was ahead of schedule. Have any concessions been granted to enable the vehicle to do that?*

In response I stated:

*No, that's not ahead of schedule. It was always dependent upon achieving the required reliability levels, which were confirmed at the production reliability acceptance test and the subsequent mandated systems review, which we've now moved to. We were always trying to get into full-rate production as quickly as possible, but it was contingent upon meeting all those reviews, which we've now done.*

The statement that the project is not ahead of schedule is correct, however, may have implied that there were no concessions granted. This is not the case.

Concessions were granted to offset specification non-compliances against 'Vehicle Payload' and 'External Air Transportability Preparation Time', to enable the Hawkei vehicle to enter full-rate production. Thales provided additional capability inclusions as value for money offsets against these non-compliances.

Thank you for the opportunity to clarify my evidence.

Yours sincerely

Andrew Bottrell  
Major General  
Head Land Systems

20 November 2020