

Senate Environment and Communications References Committee

Inquiry into Australian Antarctic Division funding

Department of Finance

Response to Question on Notice

Hearing of 28 February 2024

Question on Notice 1 (Proof Hansard page 2)

Mr Pelecky: I can talk in broad terms. There is the assurance review process, which involves gateway reviews. I understand the project has gone through a number of gateway reviews.

Senator DUNIAM: Which one? Both of those?

Mr Pelecky: Certainly, the ship.

Senator DUNIAM: The *Nuyina*?

Mr Pelecky: The *Nuyina*. Yes.

Senator DUNIAM: Okay.

Mr Pelecky: I understand the next review is scheduled for this year, 2024. But, in terms of the specifics and details, I would have to take that on notice.

Response

There are two Australian Antarctic Division projects subject to the Australian Government Assurance Reviews process:

- Research Supply Icebreaker Project (Assurance Review completed in February 2024), and
- Macquarie Island Modernisation Project (Assurance Review scheduled to take place in June 2024).

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Hearing of 28 February 2024

Question on Notice 2 (Proof Hansard page 2)

Mr Pelecky: I can talk in broad terms. There is the assurance review process, which involves gateway reviews. ...

Senator DUNIAM: If you could. I had a range of questions to ask of the specific projects around this—in particular, Macquarie Island modernisation, but you're not going to be able to tell me anything.

Mr Pelecky: Unfortunately, I can't assist you with that. I can take it on notice.

Response

The Department of Finance (Finance) has been engaged on the following Australian Antarctic Division (AAD) projects from a project development and delivery perspective:

- The Macquarie Island Modernisation Project – Finance was involved in the steering committee and provided high level advice to AAD on the redevelopment project. This involvement concluded in 2023.
- Macquarie Point Antarctic and Science Precinct – Finance reviewed the detailed business case and provided advice as part of the delivery model peer review in accordance with the Commonwealth Property Management Framework. This involvement concluded in 2023.
- Davis Aerodrome Project (DAP) – Following a decision by the then Prime Minister, the Hon Scott Morrison MP, a joint project team was established between Finance and the then Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment to develop an initial business case for DAP. A decision was made by Government in 2021 not to proceed with the business case or project.
- Macquarie Wharf 6 Project – Finance has had limited direct involvement with this project, however, has met with the Australian Antarctic Division to discuss possible options to support:
 - establishing a negotiation mandate; and
 - advising on potential commercial models.