

Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit
Comments on Additional Written Questions to the
Department of Defence provided on 25 August 2023
**Audit Inquiry into 2020-21 and 2021-22 Major Projects Report and
Hunter Class Frigates**

Questions:

1. What progress has Defence made on its internal investigations and inquiries in light of the report it referred to in the public hearing?
2. Has Defence found the missing minutes from the 15 March 2018 Defence Committee yet?
3. Does Defence intend to make a further submission addressing its procurement of the Hunter Class Frigates noting the Committee expanded the terms of reference of its inquiry to include these issues after Defence provided its initial submission, and if so when?

Independent assurance and other external reviews

The Committee is aware that a number of external reviews and assurance activities have been undertaken as part of or in relation to the Hunter Class Design and Productionisation program. Some have been publicly mentioned or can be discerned from AusTender and other sources including Systems Requirement Review (SRR), Mission System Systems Definition Review, Mission System Systems Definition Review, Support System Systems Definition Review, System Readiness Review, Prototype Readiness Review, Integrated Baseline Review 1, Integrated Baseline Review 2 and Ship Acquisition Surface Combatants Engineering Team's report.

4. In a table or other sensible format please provide details of all independent reviews and assurance reviews that have been conducted for each review:
 - What was the title?
 - What was the scope and purpose?
 - What date was it commissioned and completed on?
 - Who undertook it and what did it cost?
 - Which were part of the Head Contract's Key Milestones, and which were separately commissioned?
 - Please briefly summarise the key findings of each review.
 - Please advise the security classification of each review and advise if there are any concerns with providing a copy in confidence to the Committee Secretariat for review.

ANAO Comment:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the questions to the Department of Defence.

1. The ANAO has not been approached by the Department of Defence in relation to the internal investigations and inquiries referred to at the Committee's public hearing on 19 May 2023. As the Auditor-General noted at that hearing, it would be a concern if, following the conclusion of the audit process, Defence was able to locate key records that it did not provide during the audit.
2. See response to Question 1.
3. This question is for Defence.
4. The ANAO performance audit reported on a number of reviews, which were considered of relevance to the audit objective. Defence is best placed to provide the level of administrative detail sought by the Committee.