



Australian Government

**Government response to the Senate Economics
References Committee**

**Australia's sovereign naval shipbuilding capability –
Future Submarine Acquisition: A shambles - we
don't think, we know**

May 2024

Recommendation 1

The Committee recommends that the Government reviews the size of the ADF in order to ensure a more sustainable and credible conventional force is available for future military operations, particularly sustained operations.

Response:

The Government notes the recommendations. However, given the passage of time since this report was tabled, a substantive Government response is no longer appropriate.

Recommendation 2

That the Department of Defence provide in a manner suitable for publication:

- an explanation as to why the Department informed the Parliament that the cost of the Future Submarine Program was \$50 billion out-turned when the Department of Finance already had put that figure significantly higher; and
- an explanation for the claim that the original tender for the Attack-class was \$20 billion—\$25 billion range in 2016 dollars rather than the \$50 billion that has since 2016 consistently been cited by both the Government and the Department.

Response:

The Government notes the recommendations. However, given the passage of time since this report was tabled, a substantive Government response is no longer appropriate.

Recommendation 3

With the aim of increasing its staff's awareness of their democratic responsibilities:

- the Department of Defence re-examine its induction and training programs and corporate culture regarding its role as a department answerable to the Australian people through the processes of the Australian Parliament; and
- report back to the Parliament on the progress it making on those induction and training programs.

Response:

The Government notes the recommendations. However, given the passage of time since this report was tabled, a substantive Government response is no longer appropriate.