

Defence Portfolio

## COMMITTEE INQUIRY QUESTION

(Question No.110)

Senator Anthony Chisholm asked the Department of Defence, upon notice, on 18 October 2021:

What is the total expenditure and investment by ASC and ANI related to the Future Attack Class Submarine program to date (or latest available information)?

What new investment is now required in ASC and ANI's facilities for the nuclear powered submarine project?

The Department of Defence has provided the following answer to the Senator's question:

The trilateral effort between Australia, the UK, and US on nuclear-powered submarines over the next 18 months will intensively examine the full suite of requirements that underpin nuclear stewardship, with a specific focus on safety, design, construction, operation, maintenance, disposal, regulation, training, environmental protection, installations and infrastructure, industrial base capacity, workforce, and force structure.

ASC has not made any investment or expenditure in the submarine yard that was being developed to construct the Attack class submarine fleet. ANI has advised the total expenditure on the yard as at the end of September 2021 was \$371.1 million.

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## COMMITTEE INQUIRY QUESTION

(Question No.111)

Senator Anthony Chisholm asked the Department of Defence, upon notice, on 18 October 2021:

What is the timeline for construction and delivery of the nuclear-powered submarine capability?

The Department of Defence has provided the following answer to the Senator's question:

Over the next 18 months, Australia will work closely with the United Kingdom and the United States to identify the optimal pathway to deliver at least eight nuclear-powered submarines for the Royal Australian Navy.

In order to acquire a nuclear-powered submarine capability as soon as possible, the multi-agency taskforce, led by the Department of Defence, will intensively examine a variety of considerations, including but not limited to: Submarine design, construction, workforce, training, Australian industry participation, infrastructure, and costs.

As the Prime Minister stated on 16 September 2021, the first submarine 'will be in the water, we believe, before the end of next decade'.

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## COMMITTEE INQUIRY QUESTION

(Question No.112)

Senator Anthony Chisholm asked the Department of Defence, upon notice, on 18 October 2021:

Does Defence intend to lease foreign submarines to mitigate any potential capability gaps?

Does Defence intend to station foreign submarines in Australia, if so, at which bases?

At those bases, will any infrastructure works need to be undertaken to accommodate those submarines?

Have those works been costed?

The Department of Defence has provided the following answer to the Senator's question:

Over the next 18 months the trilateral effort between Australia, the UK, and the US will examine the full range of options that will enable the delivery of a nuclear-powered submarine capability to Australia at the earliest achievable date. As part of this body of work, infrastructure requirements to support nuclear-powered submarines will be considered.

The Australian Government will make the necessary investments required to ensure they have the best capability available to deliver on its mission to defend Australia and its national interests. To this day, the Collins class submarine remains one of the most capable conventional submarines in the world. The planned life-of-type extension, through the replacement of key systems, will help avoid a capability gap and deliver on Defence's strategic objectives.

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## **COMMITTEE INQUIRY QUESTION**

(Question No.113)

Senator Anthony Chisholm asked the Department of Defence, upon notice, on 18 October 2021:

The day after the AUKUS announcement was made, the UK began work on a project to find a successor to their Astute class. How can we be assured the Australian Nuclear Submarines will have the most current capability

The Department of Defence has provided the following answer to the Senator's question:

No decision has been made with respect to which nuclear-powered submarine Australia will acquire. As we determine the optimum pathway to a nuclear-powered submarine capability, Australia will leverage the technology, capability, and design expertise from the United Kingdom and United States.

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# COMMITTEE INQUIRY QUESTION

(Question No.115)

Senator Anthony Chisholm asked the Department of Defence, upon notice, on 18 October 2021:

Will submariners be required to have specific nuclear engineering qualifications in order to serve on the nuclear submarines?

How will that education be delivered without an Australian Nuclear industry?

[if this must be a US qualification] does this mean that Australia will not have autonomy over its own fleet?

The Department of Defence has provided the following answer to the Senator's question:

The Australia, UK, and US trilateral effort on nuclear-powered submarines over the next 18 months will examine the full suite of requirements that underpin nuclear stewardship, with a specific focus on: safety, design, construction, operation, maintenance, disposal, regulation, training, environmental protection, installations and infrastructure, industrial base capacity, workforce, and force structure.

Your question on the technical expertise and specific qualifications required for Australian submariners, including the development of educational pathways will be specifically addressed during the Trilateral effort.

It is common practice for the Government to purchase Defence capabilities from our security partners. The acquisition of nuclear-powered submarines will not change our independent command and control of operations, and need for sovereign support of that capability.

## COMMITTEE INQUIRY QUESTION

(Question No. 116)

Senator Anthony Chisholm asked the Department of Defence, upon notice, on 18 October 2021:

In November 2017, former Defence Industry Minister Chris Pyne promised that shipbuilding projects would create 8,000 direct jobs (3500 in shipbuilding and 4550 in directly related industries) in South Australia, with another 20,000 to 25,000 jobs created indirectly. Regarding South Australia, can the Minister representing the Defence Minister:

- a. Confirm that 8,000 direct jobs is still the estimated direct jobs? If not, what is the current estimate?
- b. Provide the breakdown of those direct jobs into shipbuilding and directly related industries?
- c. Provide the most recent estimates of the number of direct jobs (broken down into shipbuilding and directly related industries) created for each of the following projects and the year in which the number of jobs will peak:
  - i. Future Frigates (Hunter Class)
  - ii. Future Submarines (Attack Class)
  - iii. Offshore Patrol Vessels
  - iv. Pacific Patrol Boats
  - v. Other (please specify)
- d. Provide the most recent estimates of jobs created broken down into maritime sustainment, submarine sustainment, and others.

The Department of Defence has provided the following answer to the Senator's question:

Refer to question number 92.

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## COMMITTEE INQUIRY QUESTION

(Question No. 117)

Senator Anthony Chisholm asked the Department of Defence, upon notice, on 18 October 2021:

Provide the current (or latest available) numbers of direct jobs (broken down into shipbuilding and directly related industries) created for each of the following projects:

- a. Future Frigates (Hunter Class)
- b. Future Submarines (Attack Class)
- c. Offshore Patrol Vessels
- d. Pacific Patrol Boats
- e. Other (please specify)

The Department of Defence has provided the following answer to the Senator's question:

Refer to question number 93.

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## **COMMITTEE INQUIRY QUESTION**

(Question No.118)

Senator Anthony Chisholm asked the Department of Defence, upon notice, on 18 October 2021:

Provide the most recent estimates of indirect jobs created in South Australia associated with the shipbuilding projects?

- a. Who conducted the estimate of indirect jobs?
- b. When was the last revision to the number of estimated indirect jobs conducted?

The Department of Defence has provided the following answer to the Senator's question:

The Department of Defence does not provide estimates of the number of indirect jobs when forecasting future workforce demand in South Australia.



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## COMMITTEE INQUIRY QUESTION

(Question No.119)

Senator Anthony Chisholm asked the Department of Defence, upon notice, on 18 October 2021:

The 2017 Naval Ship Building Plan states “From 2022, workforce demand in South Australia will increase rapidly to meet the start of the future frigate and future submarine projects. Demand for construction workers will reach a peak of around 5,200 in 2026”. Please confirm: CASG

- a. When the current peak of construction workers is expected, and what the peak number is estimated to be?
- b. If the timing of the peak, and/or the estimated peak construction workforce has changed since the 2017 Plan, what are the reasons for the change in Estimates?
- c. When was the estimated peak working and timing last re-evaluated? Who did the revised estimate?

The Department of Defence has provided the following answer to the Senator’s question:

Refer to question number 94.

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# COMMITTEE INQUIRY QUESTION

(Question No.120)

Senator Anthony Chisholm asked the Department of Defence, upon notice, on 18 October 2021:

At FADT Estimates, 29 November 2019, then-Minister Reynolds stated: I can say that, at the last estimates, I did indicate that from next estimates—early next year—we would prepare a new baseline. So the figures we gave at the last estimates we said that we're still working on. But then, from the next estimates and every estimates from then, we will have that as a baseline so that we can see progressively what the changes are as we move into greater fidelity as the projects stand up. Please confirm:

- a. If the revised baseline occurred? If so, when?
- b. What effect did that have on the revised estimates of direct jobs?
- c. Has there been additional revisions to the baseline since Senator Reynolds' comment? If so, when did each revision occur?
- d. When is the next revision of the baseline expected to occur?

The Department of Defence has provided the following answer to the Senator's question:

Refer to question number 95.

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**COMMITTEE INQUIRY QUESTION**

(Question No.124)

Senator Anthony Chisholm asked the Department of Defence, upon notice, on 18 October 2021:

What compensation arrangements are being put in place to support Australian industry displaced, or that have incurred costs, as part of the Attack Class program that have now had that pathway cancelled?

The Department of Defence has provided the following answer to the Senator's question:

Refer to Question No.63.

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## **COMMITTEE INQUIRY QUESTION**

(Question No.128)

Senator Anthony Chisholm asked the Department of Defence, upon notice, on 18 October 2021:

Will the 18-month consultation be considering if there be mixed crews on leased and/or newly built submarines?

The Department of Defence has provided the following answer to the Senator's question:

The Australia, UK, and US trilateral effort over the next 18 months will examine the full suite of requirements that underpin nuclear stewardship, with a specific focus on safety, design, construction, operation, maintenance, disposal, regulation, training, environmental protection, installations and infrastructure, industrial base capacity, workforce, and force structure.