

Defence Portfolio

INQUIRY QUESTION

(Question No. 1 - 3)

Mr Julian Hill MP asked the Department of Defence the following question, upon notice, on 20 November 2023:

1. Can you take on notice to give us a list of all the former and current senior officers who were consulted as part of the review, including their position at the time and now? We'll certainly take that on notice and provide the committee with a full list of people that were spoken to by the review team.
2. [The review was conducted by Mr Greg Sammut and Mr Craig Bourke. Greg Sammut is a retired rear admiral and former public servant. He did not have any direct engagement with the Hunter Class Frigates Program, but he's well known to the committee]. Has Mr Sammut been under contract to Defence or any other agency in the Defence portfolio since his retirement? He has been under contract just to us. I'd have to take on notice whether he was under contract with any other agency.
3. We're always very sensitive to not publishing things that have adverse national security implications, but if you could take on notice to give us a copy of any summary of findings prepared as part of the review on which you based your revised submission to the committee.

The Department of Defence has provided the following answer to Mr Hill's questions:

1. The following persons were interviewed in connection with the relevant role they held at the time:
 - a. Then Mission System Sub-Tender Evaluation Working Group Lead;
 - b. Then Future Frigate Tender Evaluation Working Group Lead;
 - c. Then Program Management Sub-Tender Evaluation Working Group Lead;
 - d. CDRE Andrew Quinn RAN, then Director Surface Combatants Capability Development Group and then Director Frigates;
 - e. Dr David Kershaw, then Chief of Maritime Division, Defence Science and Technology Group;
 - f. Dr James Taylor, then SEA5000 Phase 1 Science and Technology Lead, Defence Science and Technology Group;
 - g. CDRE Robert Elliott RAN, then Director General Maritime Development, Capability Development Group and then Director General Surface Combatants and Aviation, Navy;
 - h. Then Capability Lead Mission System Sub-Tender Evaluation Working Group;
 - i. CDRE Andrew Willis MVO RAN, then Director Frigates, Navy;
 - j. Then Project Director SEA5000 Phase 1, Capability Acquisition and Sustainment Group;
 - k. Then Acquisition Director SEA500 Phase 1, Capability Acquisition and Sustainment Group;

- l. RADM Peter Quinn AO CSC RAN (rtd), then Head Navy Capability, Navy;
 - m. VADM Timothy Barrett AO CSC RAN (rtd), then Chief of Navy;
 - n. VADM Jonathan Mead AO RAN, then Head Navy Capability, Navy;
 - o. Mr Tony Dalton AM CSM, then Acting General Manager Ships, Capability Acquisition and Sustainment Group;
 - p. Mr Kim Gillis, then Deputy Secretary, Capability Acquisition and Sustainment Group;
 - q. Mr Cyril Karo, then Acting First Assistant Secretary, Contestability;
 - r. VADM Ray Griggs AO CSC RAN (rtd), then Vice Chief of the Defence Force;
 - s. Mr Dennis Richardson AO, then Secretary of the Department of Defence; and
 - t. Mr Greg Moriarty, Secretary of the Department of Defence.
2. No. Other than this engagement, Mr Sammut has not been contracted with Defence nor has he any engagements with any other Commonwealth agency since his retirement from the Australian Public Service.
3. The Submission provided to the Committee reflects the Findings and Recommendations of the review. There were two additional recommendations that were not included in the Submission as they were not directly relevant to the Committee's inquiry, one in relation to Navy Engineering and a second recommendation that suggested consideration of a change in responsible officers during different stages of the procurement cycle.