

## COMMITTEE INQUIRY QUESTION

(Question No. 5)

Senator Rex Patrick asked the Department of Defence, upon notice, on 06 August 2021:

**Senator PATRICK:** I have some follow-on questions in relation to that. You say that, if you start before 2026, it would reduce the life. We're only trying to bridge a gap here. My understanding or my initial thought on that is that that would be true for the hull, for the whole examination, perhaps. But, for example, purchasing the MTU diesels, as you are, and the new main motor, they're not going to be constrained in terms of longevity by perhaps starting earlier, or if you did start earlier. I understand you're saying *Farncomb* is the first boat that needs it. I'm actually just thinking about de-risking the full-cycle docking, where you might, in the prior full-cycle docking, do some of the work in a smaller batch on whichever submarine is in the dock before that. Is that being considered?

**Mr Dalton:** No, Senator. But I would say that full-cycle dockings are looking at a range of things. There are elements being replaced on each full-cycle docking. There's a program looking at now replacing DC motors with AC motors, and that has already started. So there are elements of obsolescence management that get done all of the time across the fleet, but the planning to replace the three main elements that make up the core work package for life-of-type extension is planned to be put into the first boat, in *Farncomb*. We haven't done any planning to bring any of that forward.

**Senator PATRICK:** I don't think the evidence we received at the last estimates was that there were three. I thought there were at least four. I would have thought propulsion, the diesels, the switchboards and the hull were at least named.

**Mr Dalton:** There are a range of activities in the life-of-type extension work. Again, I would defer to Mr Sammut, and we could certainly take it on notice, but the key elements are replacing the diesel generators, replacing the DC switchboard and replacing the main motor. There will, clearly, be hull survey work. There will be lots of other activities that happen inside a full-cycle docking, but they were the key equipment changes associated with the life-of-type extension.

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

The Collins class submarine life-of-type extension core work package will replace the following systems:

- main motor and propulsion control system
- diesel generators
- power conversion and distribution system

Ongoing hull survey work will be managed using an updated monitoring process that will be introduced as part of the life-of-type extension, along with updated maintenance required to achieve the extended life.