



Australian Government

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

**Australia's Sovereign Naval Shipbuilding Capability:
Interim Report**

May 2024

Recommendation 1

The Commonwealth Government and the Department of Defence report to the Parliament on what discussions were or are being undertaken with Saab/Kockums, or any other alternative submarine builder, about the provision of a Collins-class derivative boat, or any other design, as part of a 'Plan B' should the Naval Group agreement be cancelled.

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 the Senate Economics References Committee, on a confidential basis, an un-redacted version of the renegotiated Strategic Partnership Agreement with Naval Group for scrutiny.

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.

Recommendation 4

That the Department of Defence provides to the committee in un-redacted form all the documents requested under the Senate's Order of Production of Documents (General Business Motion, No. 786).

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.