

Defence Portfolio

COMMITTEE INQUIRY QUESTION

(Question No.96)

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

According to a report in The Australian on July 31, 2021 Defence Minister Dutton confirmed the Future Frigates project was delayed by 18-months, noting the delay is “directly related to the UK’s Type 26 frigates design maturity which flows through to our program. It is frustrating to see an up to 18-month delay to the start of construction of ship one but, importantly, this delay will be recovered over the term of the project”. Has the 18-month delay in the Frigates program been factored into revised direct job estimates? What impact has the delay had on direct jobs associated with the Frigates and the estimated construction peak?

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

The extended prototyping period for the Hunter Class frigate has been factored into the workforce demand predictions. The Hunter Class workforce demand is predicted to peak at 2200 direct jobs.