

COMMITTEE INQUIRY QUESTION

(Question No.13)

Senator Marielle Smith asked the Department of Defence, upon notice, on 17 November 2021:

Senator Marielle Smith: Thank you. The shipbuilding Australia fact sheet provided in response to question on notice 66 notes that 5,000 jobs in South Australia by 2030. Can you provide the 2030 estimates that were current for each financial year from 2014–15 to present and can you tell me who made the estimate of those 5,000 jobs?

Mr Fraser: Senator, again I think that's in the question that was provided to Mr Byrne, and we should be able to address that in the question on notice response. I will check that.

Senator Marielle Smith: That fact sheet and subsequent comments made by Senator Birmingham to the Adelaide Advertiser in November note this figure of 5,000 jobs so I want to know whether the 5,000 jobs estimate was developed post AUKUS or pre-AUKUS.

Mr Fraser: I understand your question and we'll get that information for you. I don't have that response for you, sorry.

Senator Marielle Smith: I also want to know if that will be reviewed for the new baseline?

Mr Fraser: Understood. Understood, Senator. Thanks.

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

The Department of Defence has only developed consolidated workforce demand forecasts in their current format since early 2020. Previous iterations of these forecasts were provided to the Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee in February 2020 and October 2020.

The Department of Defence has included preliminary workforce demand forecasts for a nuclear powered submarine program in its latest workforce demand forecast (refer to October 2021 Supplementary Budget Estimates Question No. 4). This was the basis for the workforce figures cited in the *Shipbuilding in South Australia* fact sheet. More refined workforce demand forecasts for the nuclear-powered submarine program will be developed over the next 18 months.