

Defence Portfolio

COMMITTEE INQUIRY QUESTION

(Question No.37)

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

When was the Nuclear Submarine Taskforce established?

Did the Taskforce provide advice on the AUKUS decision?

Please provide the membership on this taskforce?

Can you provide an organisational chart of the taskforce?

Can you advise how members of the taskforce are being remunerated? Please disclosure full details and tender notices (if applicable).

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

The Nuclear-Powered Submarine Taskforce was established on 16 September 2021. This is the same day that Prime Minister Scott Morrison, President Joe Biden and Prime Minister Boris Johnson announced AUKUS - a new enhanced trilateral security partnership between Australia, the United Kingdom and the United States.

The decision to establish an enhanced trilateral security partnership was made through existing decision-making mechanisms, including approval through Cabinet and the National Security Committee of Cabinet.

An organisation chart of the Nuclear-Powered Submarine Task Force is attached.

Taskforce members who are Australian Public Servants are remunerated in accordance with the provisions of the Defence Enterprise Agreement or equivalent agreements in other agencies who are providing staff to the Taskforce. Taskforce members who are Australian Defence Force members are remunerated in accordance with the Australian Defence Force Workplace Remuneration Arrangement. Contractors employed within the Taskforce will be contracted through relevant Standing Offer Panels and remunerated in accordance with agreed panel rates.