

Defence Portfolio

COMMITTEE INQUIRY QUESTION

(Question No. 7)

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

Senator PATRICK: ... You might have to take my final question on notice, Mr Dalton. ASPI gave evidence and in fact wrote a paper suggesting that for the future submarine we need to define now who is going to do the sustainment so that they can influence the design. They suggested that needed to have been occurring last year, actually. I asked Mr Sammut—he might have been Rear Admiral Sammut at the time—when they were considering making a decision on who would be the sustainment entity. I think he said eight years—I could be wrong about that, and I will check. I wonder if you could take on notice to give us the status of where the navy or CASG are up to in respect of its expectations about being able to go to government to suggest a sustainment entity for the future submarine.

Mr Dalton: We'll take that on notice. We are absolutely thinking about sustainment right now, but I'll take that question on notice.

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

Sustainment of the future submarine fleet will commence from the early 2030s and continue until the last boat is decommissioned in the 2080s. The planned sustainment arrangements for the Attack class submarine will be developed as the design, systems and equipment specifications mature, at which point advice will be presented to Government.