

**Question on notice no. 234**

**Portfolio question number: SQ24-000339**

**2023-24 Additional estimates**

**Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Committee, Infrastructure,  
Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts Portfolio**

**Senator Susan McDonald:** asked the Australian Maritime Safety Authority on 23 February 2024—

The article "Government loses its way over navigation" cites national security, and the discrepancy between spending billions on nuclear submarines and defence hardware to defend Australian waters, yet not awarding a contract for the maintenance of the Aids to Navigation network which provides national safety and security to the international shipping lane between the Great Barrier Reef and basically the entire eastern seaboard, through which 18000 vessels navigate each year.

- (a) Is it correct that AMSA has not renewed the Navigation Aid contract to AMS Group, which has provided this safety, security and maintenance service with a 100% KPI performance since 2001?
- (b) Is it correct that AMS Group was the only tenderer?
- (c) Is it correct that 13 other companies put in expressions of expressed interest?
- (d) Which organisation has been awarded the contract?

**Answer —**

Please find answer attached

**Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport**

**QUESTION ON NOTICE**

**Additional Estimates 2023 - 2024**

**Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts**

**Committee Question Number: 234**

**Departmental Question Number: SQ24-000339**

**Division/Agency Name: Agency - Australian Maritime Safety Authority**

**Hansard Reference: Written (23 February 2024)**

**Topic: AMSA - Canberra Times article - "Government loses its way over navigation" - security issues**

**Senator Susan McDonald asked:**

The article "Government loses its way over navigation" cites national security, and the discrepancy between spending billions on nuclear submarines and defence hardware to defend Australian waters, yet not awarding a contract for the maintenance of the Aids to Navigation network which provides national safety and security to the international shipping lane between the Great Barrier Reef and basically the entire eastern seaboard, through which 18000 vessels navigate each year.

- a) Is it correct that AMSA has not renewed the Navigation Aid contract to AMS Group, which has provided this safety, security and maintenance service with a 100% KPI performance since 2001?
- b) Is it correct that AMS Group was the only tenderer?
- c) Is it correct that 13 other companies put in expressions of expressed interest?
- d) Which organisation has been awarded the contract?

**Answer:**

- a) The Aids to Navigation (AtoN) maintenance contract held by AMS Group expires on 30 June 2024.
- b) Yes.
- c) Prior to the approach to market, AMSA issued a Request for Information. This was not part of the approach to market process. AMSA received fourteen (14) responses to that Request for Information. Those responses informed the approach to market that was issued.
- d) The approach to market did not result in the award of a contract for AtoN maintenance services, the current contract remains in place until 30 June 2024.