



**Australian Government**  
**Department of Defence**

**FOI 027/16/17 – SENATOR NICK XENOPHON - STATEMENT OF REASONS  
UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT**

1. I refer to the application by Senator Nick Xenophon under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (FOI Act), for access to:

*1. Any analysis held by SEA 1180 project staff or CASG management, up to and including General Manager Ships, on the cost/project/risk impact of splitting the SEA 1180 build between South Australia and Western Australia.*

*2. Any emails, notes, documents, correspondence held by either the General manager Ships or the Deputy Secretary CASG that go to the political considerations of splitting the SEA 1180 build between South Australia and Western Australia.*

*Item 2 is bound to emails, notes, and documents etc, that were generated in this calendar year. Duplicate emails are not required.*

**FOI decision maker**

2. I am the accredited officer pursuant to section 23 of the FOI Act to make a decision on this FOI request.

**Decision**

3. I have decided to refuse access to the requested documents under section subparagraph 24A(1)(b)(ii)[Requests may be refused if documents cannot be found, do not exist or have not been received] of the FOI Act.

**Material taken into account**

4. In making my decision, I had regard to:

- a. the terms of the request;
- b. the content of the identified documents in issue;
- c. relevant provisions in the FOI Act;
- d. the Guidelines published by the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner under section 93A of the FOI Act (the Guidelines); and
- e. advice received from Ships Division, Capability and Acquisition Group.

**Reasons for decision**

5. I have been advised that no analysis of the cost/project/risk of splitting the SEA1180 build between South Australia and Western Australia exists within Defence nor has any such analysis been undertaken. I have also been advised that no documents are held that go to the

political considerations of splitting SEA 1180 between South Australia and Western Australia.

6. A comprehensive Competitive Evaluation Process (CEP) has commenced with Phase One being completed (ship design alternatives) and an analysis of project costs and risk will be undertaken during Phases Two and Three, yet to be commenced.

7. I am satisfied that a comprehensive search of the records, both electronic and paper files has been undertaken and all relevant record keeping systems have been reviewed.

Mr Mark Worrall  
Accredited Decision Maker  
Capability Acquisition and Sustainment Group

24 August 2016