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To: White Paper
Subject: SEC: UNCLASSIFIED WWW enquiry: Submission: 2. Navy/Sea Power

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Submission: I read an article about the plans to replace the collins class submarines and i beleive that there is a problem with the way it is being planned. The idea of the upgrade was to have a submarine fleet that effectively deals with the criteria bellow:

"The new submarines are expected to be better armed than the Collins class, armed with long-range cruise missiles, which are not currently carried by the Collins class, as well as shorter ranged missiles and torpedoes. The new submarines may also carry midget submarines which will be used to collect intelligence or land special forces troops"

This plan calls on to much for one class and will detriment the submarines ability to effectively operate as its prime role as a attack submarine.

Out of this i see three main requirements:

- Land attack
- Upgraded torpedos
- Landing of special forces

I beleive that to effectivly cover the requirements of this program we would need to have more than one class of sub because to accomedate all this would risk its performance as Australia's only submarine i therefore would like to sugest a reveiw in which we consider three things:

1The division of the submarine force into three classes one of 9(Attack class)and one of 3(Land attack)and 2 collins class submarines(Special forces/amphibious)

2The potential of retaining the collins class submarines for the latter of the two classes with a modernisation/upgrade

3existing plans/nuclear intergration, If we were to operate a larger submarine force which is currently planned due to growing numbers of other counties submarines we would need a advantage over the other submarines, currenty the plan shows that the new submarine will have to deal with being outnumbered by enemy submarines.

"It is not currently known how many submarines will be built and this will be determined by the Navy's research and budget constraints. Former defence minister Kim Beazley has proposed that Australia's submarine force be doubled to 12 boats to keep pace with the increased number of submarines in Australia's region"

Since these submarines must be able to deal with an advancing and growing potential enemy threat we must weight up the options, if we procure 12 multirole submarines then we will aquire a vessel that will have alternate roles to attack and its effectiveness will be detrimented allthough we would have a small numbers advantage for now.

If we take my option then we get advanced job specific submarines that will have the capacity to deal with multiple enemy targets it will not be superceded as quickly due to the fact that it will operate well at its job for longer than a multirole vessel will and it will deal with enemy numbers due to its capacity to better address the threat even though there will be three less submarines(this accounts for both enemy threat,technology, cost(long run) and numbers while still offering the additional roles required under the new plan(land attack and special forces).

But to aquire a good attack submarine there is a local deficit in technology within Australia, The latest and most technologically advanced attack submarines are currently nuclear and this is the direction that the australian submarine program

needs to take to get the longest lasting submarines for its new arsenal.

We should therefore go overseas for these reasons:

1-Proven technology and design

2-No production setbacks

3latest technology now

4fixed cost

5without planning stage which stops technology needing to be upgraded during production (as what happened with the Collins class submarines)

And this is all done while optimising the existing force of submarines for the roles such as special forces deployment which allows us to be cost effective for our money and have a proven amphibious capacity within our submarine force with the current special forces submarine.

We would also be receiving a force of land attack submarines which will allow that aspect to be completely covered to a better capacity than a general multirole vessel.

Although this program is slightly more expensive in the short term it will give a huge amount of capacity to the Australian navy and will not have to be replaced for a very long time because they will not be superseded for longer meaning that we will spend less in the long run with higher amounts of capacity now and in the future.

I agree to my submission being published on the Defence website

I agree to my submission being quoted in the Community Consultation Report