



Australian Government

Defence

PO Box 7900 CANBERRA BC ACT 2610

EC25-003406

Dr Caralee McLiesh, PSM
Auditor-General
ANAO
PO BOX 707
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Dear Dr ~~McLiesh~~ *Caralee*

Auditor-General Proposed Report – Sustainment of Canberra Class Amphibious Assault Ships (Landing Helicopter Dock)

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Proposed Report for the Auditor-General performance audit *Sustainment of Canberra Class Amphibious Assault Ships (Landing Helicopter Dock)*.

Defence acknowledges that planning and procurement processes, sustainment management arrangements and performance monitoring and reporting were assessed as partly effective.

Defence is committed to ensuring the through-life sustainment of the Canberra Class amphibious assault ships deliver the best possible capability outcomes for the Australian Government and the Australian public.

Defence also welcomes the ANAO's separate engagement with industry through the provision of relevant extracts of the proposed report. This initiative supports Defence's ability to maintain its strong working relationships with our strategic industry providers.

Attached to this letter are Defence's proposed amendments, editorials and comments (**Annex A**), response to requests for information (**Annex B**), response to proposed recommendations (**Annex C**) and Defence's summary response (**Annex D**). These constitute Defence's formal response to the Auditor-General Proposed Report.

Our point of contact is the ANAO Liaison Officer who can be contacted via email at:
anao.lo@defence.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

s22

Matt Yannopoulos PSM
Acting Secretary

11 June 2025

s22

David Johnston AC
Admiral RAN
Chief of the Defence Force

13 June 2025

Annexes:

s22

s7

D) Defence's Summary Response

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Annex D

**AUDITOR-GENERAL S19 PROPOSED REPORT: SUSTAINMENT OF
CANBERRA CLASS AMPHIBIOUS ASSAULT SHIPS (LANDING
HELICOPTER DOCK)**

AGENCY RESPONSE

The Department of Defence acknowledges the findings contained in the Auditor General's report on the sustainment of the Canberra Class amphibious assault ships.

Defence acknowledges that planning and procurement processes, sustainment management arrangements and performance monitoring and reporting were assessed as partly effective.

Defence supports the recommendations. Defence is committed to ensuring the through-life sustainment of the Canberra Class amphibious assault ships deliver the best possible capability outcomes for the Australian Government and the Australian Public.

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