From: Staples, Natalie MS on behalf of Navy Media

To: Johnston, Timothy CMDR 5
Cc: Hiatt, Philip CAPT - RAN; Navy Media

Subject: MEDIA ENQUIRY - INPUT sort - CT-001936-LHD Landing Craft trials [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Date: Thursday, 11 May 2017 2:54:54 PM

Attachments: CT-001936- Delays on projects- s47F .doc

Importance: High

UNCLASSIFIED

Hi Tim,

The Australian has submitted an enquiry on the current capability of the LHD landing craft and the trials carrying the Abrams tank (Q1 and 2) below.

1/ We note the ANAO report earlier this year raised concerns that the trials of the landing craft for the LHD relating to the carriage of the Abrams battle tank had not been completed. We ask have these trials been completed and if so what has been the result alternatively if not then why not?

2/ We ask what is the current capability of the landing craft?

Are you the right SME to respond to these points? I'd be grateful for input before COB today or first thing in the AM if you can manage it? I need to clear through OCN tomorrow morning to meet the midday deadline.

Kind Regards,

Natalie Staples

Acting Navy Media Manager

Royal Australian Navy Fleet Headquarters 14 – 18 Wylde St, Potts Point, NSW, 2011

Tel: +61 2 9359 3429

Email: natalie.staples@defence.gov.au

From: Media

Sent: Thursday, 11 May 2017 14:33 **To:** Navy Media; CASG Media

Cc: Media

Subject: FW: Questions re equipment FOC etc.. [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

UNCLASSIFIED

Good afternoon Navy and CASG

Please see below enquiry from \$47F

Can you please advise who is best placed to respond?

Many thanks

Cheers

Jess

From: s47F

Sent: Thursday, 11 May 2017 12:35 PM

To: Media

Subject: Questions re equipment FOC etc..

Hi The Australian has the following questions re delays about several projects etc

1/ We note the ANAO report earlier this year raised concerns that the trials of the landing craft for the LHD relating to the carriage of the Abrams battle tank had not been completed. We ask have these trials been completed and if so what has been the result alternatively if not then why not?

2/ We ask what is the current capability of the landing craft?

3/ We also note that the budget has revealed that the Land 53 1BR night fighting equipment is now due to have FOC by September 2023. This appears to be a departure from earlier predictions by the government that it would have FOC by about 2020.

Can Defence explain this delay and does it believe this is appropriate given the importance of such equipment to Australian forces currently operating in warzones?

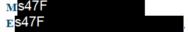
I seek answers by midday tomorrow May 12 and can be contacted on this email or via this mobile s47F

Thanks

s47F

Defence Correspondent

Cnr Mayne Road & Campbell Street Bowen Hills QLD 4006



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requested to contact the sender and delete the email.

Proposed MEDIA Response

Inquiry Number	CT-001936
Subject	Delays on projects-s47F
Contact Name	s47F
Phone / Mobile / Email	s47F
Organisation	The Australian
Due to Defence Media	12/05/2017
	Media queries need to be prioritised as urgent. Please contact Defence Media at least 24 hours prior to the deadline if it is not achievable.
	Extensions will only be granted in exceptional circumstances.
Questions / Query	Hi The Australian has the following questions re delays about several projects etc
	1/ We note the ANAO report earlier this year raised concerns that the trials of the landing craft for the LHD relating to the carriage of the Abrams battle tank had not been completed. We ask have these trials been completed and if so what has been the result alternatively if not then why not?
	2/ We ask what is the current capability of the landing craft?
	3/ We also note that the budget has revealed that the Land 53 1BR night fighting equipment is now due to have FOC by September 2023. This appears to be a departure from earlier predictions by the government that it would have FOC by about 2020.
	Can Defence explain this delay and does it believe this is appropriate given the importance of such equipment to Australian forces currently operating in warzones?
Background / Summary	Please provide a brief background into the media topic/issue using the below questions as a guide.
	Focussing questions (delete upon entry)
	➤ Is this information already in the public domain? If so, where?
	➤ Has the media previously asked questions on this topic? If so, what was the response?

10/10/2017 - 1 -

	>	Was this mentioned in Parliament or at senate estimates recently? FO	OI 136/17/18 m 1 Serial 1
	>	Was this as a result of a policy decision or legislative change?	
	>	Is this in relation to a recent incident that occurred in Australia or overseas?	
Proposed Response			

Clearances

Clearance officers please ensure both date and time are detailed.

Drofted	Nama	Annaintment	Data and Time
Drafted	Name	Appointment	Date and Time
Response Drafted by:			
Clearance	Name	Appointment	Date and Time
Group/Service 1 Star or above			
Strategic Communications			
Adviser			
Minister	Name	Appointment	Date and Time
Ministerial Consultation::			
(To be completed by Defence			
Media)			

10/10/2017 - 2 -

From: Clarke, John MR
To: Navy Media

Subject: FW: Questions re equipment FOC etc.. [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Date: Thursday, 11 May 2017 2:59:47 PM

Attachments: image001.jpg

image002.jpg image003.jpg image004.jpg

UNCLASSIFIED

All for us

John Clarke

Senior Media & Strategic Communications Advisor CASG Media and Communications

Department of Defence | Capability Acquisition and Sustainment Group Russell Offices, R2-5-A102 | PO Box 7904 | CANBERRA BC ACT 2610

T: (02) 6265 1669 | M: **s22**

From: CASG Media

Sent: Thursday, 11 May 2017 14:57 **To:** Clarke, John MR; Pearse, Sophie MISS

Subject: FW: Questions re equipment FOC etc.. [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

From: Staples, Natalie MS on behalf of Navy Media

Sent: Thursday, May 11, 2017 2:56:59 PM

To: CASG Media Cc: Navy Media

Subject: RE: Questions re equipment FOC etc.. [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Auto forwarded by a Rule

UNCLASSIFIED

Hi Sophie and John.

My take is Q1 and Q2 Navy and Q3 is CASG? Let me know if I'm off track here.

Kind Regards,

Natalie Staples

Acting Navy Media Manager Royal Australian Navy Fleet Headquarters 14 – 18 Wylde St, Potts Point, NSW, 2011 Tel: +61 2 9359 3429

Email: natalie.staples@defence.gov.au

From: Media

Sent: Thursday, 11 May 2017 14:33 **To:** Navy Media; CASG Media

Cc: Media

Subject: FW: Questions re equipment FOC etc.. [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

UNCLASSIFIED

Good afternoon Navy and CASG

Please see below enquiry from \$47F

Can you please advise who is best placed to respond?

Many thanks

Cheers Jess

From: s47F

Sent: Thursday, 11 May 2017 12:35 PM

To: Media

Subject: Questions re equipment FOC etc..

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Can Defence explain this delay and does it believe this is appropriate given the importance of such equipment to Australian forces currently operating in warzones?

I seek answers by midday tomorrow May 12 and can be contacted on this email or via this mobile 47F

Thanks

s47F

Defence Correspondent

Cnr Mayne Road & Campbell Street Bowen Hills QLD 4006

мs47F

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From: Clarke, John MR
To: Navv Media

Cc: Chadwick, Zoe CMDR 1 (NZL); Hughes, Stephen CDRE 2; Croser, Peter MR 3

Subject: FW: Urgent questions from The Australian . [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Date: Thursday, 11 May 2017 3:45:45 PM

Attachments: image001.jpg image002.jpg

image002.jpg image003.jpg image004.jpg

UNCLASSIFIED

Natalie,

Terribly sorry, I've been given conflicting advice.

Peter Croser suggests the following...

These questions are Navy Capability questions and Navy Trials. Happy to help but should go to Stephen Hughes and Navy Comms. Regards Peter

John Clarke

Senior Media & Strategic Communications Advisor CASG Media and Communications

Department of Defence | Capability Acquisition and Sustainment Group Russell Offices, R2-5-A102 | PO Box 7904 | CANBERRA BC ACT 2610

T: (02) 6265 1669 | M: s22

From: Clarke, John MR

Sent: Thursday, 11 May 2017 15:30 **To:** Chadwick, Zoe CMDR 1 (NZL)

Subject: RE: Urgent questions from The Australian . [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

UNCLASSIFIED

So what does this mean? Re tasking?

John Clarke

Senior Media & Strategic Communications Advisor CASG Media and Communications

Department of Defence | Capability Acquisition and Sustainment Group Russell Offices, R2-5-A102 | PO Box 7904 | CANBERRA BC ACT 2610

T: (02) 6265 1669 | M: s22

From: Chadwick, Zoe CMDR 1 (NZL) Sent: Thursday, 11 May 2017 15:25

To: Clarke, John MR

Subject: RE: Urgent questions from The Australian . [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

UNCLASSIFIED

Hi John.

I've passed to our team, however, after reading the whole question it will likely be pushed back by the project as the LCC audit came under our umbrella however the trial and the capability is Navy's (if that makes sense).

Regards,

Zoe Chadwick

Chief of Staff - GMShips Ships Division

Department of Defence | Capability Acquisition and Sustainment Group

Russell Offices, R2-5-C066 | PO Box 7903 | CANBERRA BC ACT 2610 T: (02) 6265 7793 |

M: s22

From: Clarke, John MR

Sent: Thursday, 11 May 2017 15:10

To: Chadwick, Zoe CMDR 1 (NZL); CASG LSD Communications and Media Services **Cc:** Stanyer, John MR; Pearse, Sophie MISS; Navy Communications & Media **Subject:** Urgent questions from The Australian . [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Importance: High

UNCLASSIFIED

Zoe/LSD,

The first two are for Ships Div and the third is for LSD on my reading.

Deadline has been given as tomorrow but I have no time.

Please let me know what is achievable.

Many thanks,

jc

The Australian has the following questions re delays about several projects etc

1/ We note the ANAO report earlier this year raised concerns that the trials of the landing craft for the LHD relating to the carriage of the Abrams battle tank had not been completed. We ask have these trials been completed and if so what has been the result alternatively if not then why not? (Ships)

2/ We ask what is the current capability of the landing craft? (Ships)

3/ We also note that the budget has revealed that the Land 53 1BR night fighting equipment is now due to have FOC by September 2023. This appears to be a departure from earlier predictions by the government that it would have FOC by about 2020. (LSD)

Can Defence explain this delay and does it believe this is appropriate given the importance of such equipment to Australian forces currently operating in warzones?

John Clarke

Senior Media & Strategic Communications Advisor CASG Media and Communications

Department of Defence | Capability Acquisition and Sustainment Group Russell Offices, R2-5-A102 | PO Box 7904 | CANBERRA BC ACT 2610

T: (02) 6265 1669 M: **s22**

From: CASG Media

Sent: Thursday, 11 May 2017 14:33 **To:** Clarke, John MR; Pearse, Sophie MISS

Subject: FW: Questions re equipment FOC etc.. [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

From: Media

Sent: Thursday, May 11, 2017 2:33:16 PM

To: Navy Media; CASG Media

Cc: Media

Subject: FW: Questions re equipment FOC etc.. [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

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UNCLASSIFIED

Good afternoon Navy and CASG

Please see below enquiry from \$47F

Can you please advise who is best placed to respond?

Many thanks

Cheers

Jess

From: S47F

Sent: Thursday, 11 May 2017 12:35 PM

To: Media

Subject: Questions re equipment FOC etc..

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Can Defence explain this delay and does it believe this is appropriate given the importance of such equipment to Australian forces currently operating in warzones?

I seek answers by midday tomorrow May 12 and can be contacted on this email or via this mobile \$47F

Thanks



Defence Correspondent

Cnr Mayne Road & Campbell Street Bowen Hills QLD 4006



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 From:
 Clarke, John MR

 To:
 Media

 Cc:
 Navy Media

Subject: RE: Questions re equipment FOC etc.. [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Date: Thursday, 11 May 2017 3:47:06 PM

UNCLASSIFIED

Sorry, conflicting advice received my end.

apparently the first two questions are for Navy. We will take Q3.

John Clarke

Senior Media & Strategic Communications Advisor CASG Media and Communications

Department of Defence | Capability Acquisition and Sustainment Group Russell Offices, R2-5-A102 | PO Box 7904 | CANBERRA BC ACT 2610

T: (02) 6265 1669 | M: s22

From: Clarke, John MR

Sent: Thursday, 11 May 2017 15:11

To: Media Cc: Navy Media

Subject: FW: Questions re equipment FOC etc.. [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

UNCLASSIFIED

All ours with Navy as key stakeholder.

What time tomorrow?

John Clarke

Senior Media & Strategic Communications Advisor CASG Media and Communications

Department of Defence | Capability Acquisition and Sustainment Group Russell Offices, R2-5-A102 | PO Box 7904 | CANBERRA BC ACT 2610

T: (02) 6265 1669 M: **s22**

From: CASG Media

Sent: Thursday, 11 May 2017 14:33 **To:** Clarke, John MR; Pearse, Sophie MISS

Subject: FW: Questions re equipment FOC etc.. [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

From: Media

Sent: Thursday, May 11, 2017 2:33:16 PM

To: Navy Media; CASG Media

Cc: Media

Subject: FW: Questions re equipment FOC etc.. [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

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UNCLASSIFIED

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Cheers Jess

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To: Media

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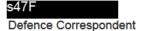
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From: Staples, Natalie MS on behalf of Navy Media

To: Cannell, Simon CMDR

Cc: Legge, Bruce CAPT - RAN 1; Hughes, Stephen CDRE 2; Hiatt, Philip CAPT - RAN; Navy Media

Subject: FW: Urgent questions from The Australian . [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Date: Thursday, 11 May 2017 3:52:33 PM

Attachments: CT-001936- Delays on projects \$47F .doc

Importance: High

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Hi CMDR Cannell.

The Australian has submitted an enquiry on the current capability of the LHD landing craft and the trials carrying the Abrams tank (Q1 and 2) below and attached.

1/ We note the ANAO report earlier this year raised concerns that the trials of the landing craft for the LHD relating to the carriage of the Abrams battle tank had not been completed. We ask have these trials been completed and if so what has been the result alternatively if not then why not?

2/ We ask what is the current capability of the landing craft?

Deadline has been given as first thing tomorrow.

Please let me know what is achievable.

Kind Regards,

Natalie Staples

Acting Navy Media Manager

Royal Australian Navy Fleet Headquarters

14 - 18 Wylde St, Potts Point, NSW, 2011

Tel: +61 2 9359 3429

Email: natalie.staples@defence.gov.au

From: Clarke, John MR

Sent: Thursday, 11 May 2017 15:46

To: Navy Media

Cc: Chadwick, Zoe CMDR 1 (NZL); Hughes, Stephen CDRE 2; Croser, Peter MR 3 **Subject:** FW: Urgent questions from The Australian . [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

UNCLASSIFIED

Natalie,

Terribly sorry, I've been given conflicting advice.

Peter Croser suggests the following...

These questions are Navy Capability questions and Navy Trials.

Happy to help but should go to Stephen Hughes and Navy Comms. Regards Peter

John Clarke

Senior Media & Strategic Communications Advisor CASG Media and Communications

Department of Defence | Capability Acquisition and Sustainment Group Russell Offices, R2-5-A102 | PO Box 7904 | CANBERRA BC ACT 2610

T: (02) 6265 1669 | M ^{\$22}

From: Clarke, John MR

Sent: Thursday, 11 May 2017 15:30 **To:** Chadwick, Zoe CMDR 1 (NZL)

Subject: RE: Urgent questions from The Australian . [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

UNCLASSIFIED

So what does this mean? Re tasking?

John Clarke

Senior Media & Strategic Communications Advisor CASG Media and Communications

Department of Defence | Capability Acquisition and Sustainment Group Russell Offices, R2-5-A102 | PO Box 7904 | CANBERRA BC ACT 2610

T: (02) 6265 1669 | M: \$22

From: Chadwick, Zoe CMDR 1 (NZL) Sent: Thursday, 11 May 2017 15:25

To: Clarke, John MR

Subject: RE: Urgent questions from The Australian . [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

UNCLASSIFIED

Hi John,

I've passed to our team, however, after reading the whole question it will likely be pushed back by the project as the LCC audit came under our umbrella however the trial and the capability is Navy's (if that makes sense).

Regards,

Zoe Chadwick

Chief of Staff - GMShips Ships Division

Department of Defence | Capability Acquisition and Sustainment Group

Russell Offices, R2-5-C066 | PO Box 7903 | CANBERRA BC ACT 2610 T: (02) 6265 7793 |

M: s22

From: Clarke, John MR

Sent: Thursday, 11 May 2017 15:10

To: Chadwick, Zoe CMDR 1 (NZL); CASG LSD Communications and Media Services **Cc:** Stanyer, John MR; Pearse, Sophie MISS; Navy Communications & Media **Subject:** Urgent questions from The Australian . [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Importance: High

UNCLASSIFIED

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Can Defence explain this delay and does it believe this is appropriate given the importance of such equipment to Australian forces currently operating in warzones?

John Clarke

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Subject: FW: Questions re equipment FOC etc.. [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

From: Media

Sent: Thursday, May 11, 2017 2:33:16 PM

To: Navy Media; CASG Media

Cc: Media

Subject: FW: Questions re equipment FOC etc.. [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Auto forwarded by a Rule

UNCLASSIFIED

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To: Media

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I seek answers by midday tomorrow May 12 and can be contacted on this email or via this mobile^{\$47}F

Thanks



Cnr Mayne Road & Campbell Street Bowen Hills QLD 4006



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Proposed MEDIA Response

Inquiry Number	CT-001936
Subject	Delays on projects- s47F
Contact Name	s47F
Phone / Mobile / Email	s47F
Organisation	The Australian
Due to Defence Media	12/05/2017
	Media queries need to be prioritised as urgent. Please contact Defence Media at least 24 hours prior to the deadline if it is not achievable.
	Extensions will only be granted in exceptional circumstances.
Questions / Query	Hi The Australian has the following questions re delays about several projects etc
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Background / Summary	Please provide a brief background into the media topic/issue using the below questions as a guide.
	Focussing questions (delete upon entry)
	➤ Is this information already in the public domain? If so, where?
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10/10/2017 - 1 -

	> Was this as a re-	ned in Parliament or at sensult of a policy decision or not to a recent incident that o	legislative change?	m 1 Seri
Proposed Response				
Clearances Clearance officers pleas	se ensure both date and	time are detailed.		
	se ensure both date and Name	time are detailed. Appointment	Date and Time	

Clearance Name Appointment Date and Time
Group/Service 1 Star or above
Strategic Communications
Adviser Name Appointment Date and Time
Minister Name Appointment Date and Time
(To be completed by Defence Media)

10/10/2017 - 2 -

From: Clarke, John MR
To: Navy Media

Subject: RE: Urgent questions from The Australian . [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Date: Thursday, 11 May 2017 3:55:15 PM

UNCLASSIFIED

I think for info, not clearance unless CDRE Hughes believes otherwise.

Sorry to mess you around Natalie.

John Clarke

Senior Media & Strategic Communications Advisor CASG Media and Communications

Department of Defence | Capability Acquisition and Sustainment Group Russell Offices, R2-5-A102 | PO Box 7904 | CANBERRA BC ACT 2610

T: (02) 6265 1669 | M: **s22**

From: Staples, Natalie MS On Behalf Of Navy Media

Sent: Thursday, 11 May 2017 15:54

To: Clarke, John MR Cc: Navy Media

Subject: RE: Urgent questions from The Australian . [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

UNCLASSIFIED

No probs, I've sent it to CDRE Hughes area for input. Will CASG want to see Navy input before I send back to mediaops?

From: Clarke, John MR

Sent: Thursday, 11 May 2017 15:46

To: Navy Media

Cc: Chadwick, Zoe CMDR 1 (NZL); Hughes, Stephen CDRE 2; Croser, Peter MR 3 **Subject:** FW: Urgent questions from The Australian . [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

UNCLASSIFIED

Natalie,

Terribly sorry, I've been given conflicting advice.

Peter Croser suggests the following...

These questions are Navy Capability questions and Navy Trials. Happy to help but should go to Stephen Hughes and Navy Comms. Regards Peter

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Sent: Thursday, 11 May 2017 15:30 **To:** Chadwick, Zoe CMDR 1 (NZL)

Subject: RE: Urgent questions from The Australian . [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

UNCLASSIFIED

So what does this mean? Re tasking?

John Clarke

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Zoe Chadwick
Chief of Staff - GMShips
Ships Division

Department of Defence | Capability Acquisition and Sustainment Group

Russell Offices, R2-5-C066 PO Box 7903 CANBERRA BC ACT 2610 T: (02) 6265 7793 |

M: s22

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Sent: Thursday, 11 May 2017 15:10

To: Chadwick, Zoe CMDR 1 (NZL); CASG LSD Communications and Media Services **Cc:** Stanyer, John MR; Pearse, Sophie MISS; Navy Communications & Media **Subject:** Urgent questions from The Australian . [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Importance: High

UNCLASSIFIED

Zoe/LSD.

The first two are for Ships Div and the third is for LSD on my reading.

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Please let me know what is achievable.

Many thanks,

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Subject: FW: Questions re equipment FOC etc.. [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

From: Media

Sent: Thursday, May 11, 2017 2:33:16 PM

To: Navy Media; CASG Media

Cc: Media

Subject: FW: Questions re equipment FOC etc.. [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Auto forwarded by a Rule

UNCLASSIFIED

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Please see below enquiry from \$47F

Can you please advise who is best placed to respond?

Many thanks

Cheers

Jess

From: s47F

Sent: Thursday, 11 May 2017 12:35 PM

To: Media

Subject: Questions re equipment FOC etc..

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Can Defence explain this delay and does it believe this is appropriate given the importance of such equipment to Australian forces currently operating in warzones?

I seek answers by midday tomorrow May 12 and can be contacted on this email or via this mobile \$47F

Thanks

s47F

Defence Correspondent

Cnr Mayne Road & Campbell Street Bowen Hills QLD 4006

мs47F Es47F

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From: Cannell, Simon CMDR

To: Hughes, Stephen CDRE 2

Subject: FW: Urgent questions from The Australian . [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Date: Thursday, 11 May 2017 6:25:00 PM

Attachments: CT-001936- Delays on projects \$47F .doc

UNCLASSIFIED

Sir,

PFA the recent media enquiry and proposed response. The response has not been socialised/discussed with FHQ staff.

I have spoken with Natalie Staples and acknowledged receipt.

The response is due first thing tomorrow morning.

Kind Regards,

Simon Cannell

S.J.C. Cannell Commander, RAN Deputy Director Amphibious and Afloat Support

Tel: (02) 62653966 Mob: **s22**

Email: simon.cannell@defence.gov.au

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Sent: Thursday, 11 May 2017 3:53 PM

To: Cannell, Simon CMDR

Cc: Legge, Bruce CAPT - RAN 1; Hughes, Stephen CDRE 2; Hiatt, Philip CAPT - RAN; Navy Media

Subject: FW: Urgent guestions from The Australian . [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Importance: High

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

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Kind Regards,

Natalie Staples

Acting Navy Media Manager
Royal Australian Navy
Fleet Headquarters
14 – 18 Wylde St, Potts Point, NSW, 2011

Tel: +61 2 9359 3429

Email: natalie.staples@defence.gov.au

From: Clarke, John MR

Sent: Thursday, 11 May 2017 15:46

To: Navy Media

Cc: Chadwick, Zoe CMDR 1 (NZL); Hughes, Stephen CDRE 2; Croser, Peter MR 3 **Subject:** FW: Urgent questions from The Australian . [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

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Sent: Thursday, 11 May 2017 15:30

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Cc: Media

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Cheers Jess

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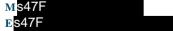
I seek answers by midday tomorrow May 12 and can be contacted on this email or via this mobile s47F

Thanks



Defence Correspondent

Cnr Mayne Road & Campbell Street Bowen Hills QLD 4006



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Proposed MEDIA Response

Inquiry Number	CT-001936
Subject	Delays on projects- s47F
Contact Name	s47F
Phone / Mobile / Email	s47F
Organisation	The Australian
Due to Defence Media	12/05/2017
	Media queries need to be prioritised as urgent. Please contact Defence Media at least 24 hours prior to the deadline if it is not achievable.
	Extensions will only be granted in exceptional circumstances.
Questions / Query	Hi The Australian has the following questions re delays about several projects etc
	1/ We note the ANAO report earlier this year raised concerns that the trials of the landing craft for the LHD relating to the carriage of the Abrams battle tank had not been completed. We ask have these trials been completed and if so what has been the result alternatively if not then why not?
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10/13/2017 - 1 -

Clearances

Clearance officers please ensure both date and time are detailed.

Drafted	Name	Appointment	Date and Time
Response Drafted by:	CMDR Simon Cannell RAN	Deputy Director Amphibious and Afloat Support	11 May 17

Clearance	Name	Appointment	Date and Time
Group/Service 1 Star or above	CDRE Stephen Hughes RAN	DG Littoral	11 May 17
Strategic Communications Adviser			

10/13/2017 - 2 -

Minister	Name	Appointment	Date and Time FC	I 136/17/18
			Ite	m 1 Serial 7
Ministerial Consultation::				
(To be completed by Defence				
Media)				

10/13/2017 - 3 -

From: Hughes, Stephen CDRE 2

To: Navy Media; Cannell, Simon CMDR

Cc: Legge, Bruce CAPT - RAN 1; Hiatt, Philip CAPT - RAN

Subject: RE: Urgent questions from The Australian . [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Date: Thursday, 11 May 2017 6:55:33 PM

Attachments: CT-001936- Delays on projects- s47F (DG Littoral).doc

UNCLASSIFIED

Natalie / Simon, Attached response for LLC progress cleared. Aye,

SJH DG Littoral

x 55065

s47F

From: Staples, Natalie MS On Behalf Of Navy Media

Sent: Thursday, 11 May 2017 15:53

To: Cannell, Simon CMDR

Cc: Legge, Bruce CAPT - RAN 1; Hughes, Stephen CDRE 2; Hiatt, Philip CAPT - RAN; Navy Media

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Importance: High

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

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Acting Navy Media Manager Royal Australian Navy Fleet Headquarters 14 – 18 Wylde St, Potts Point, NSW, 2011

Tel: +61 2 9359 3429

Email: natalie.staples@defence.gov.au

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Cnr Mayne Road & Campbell Street Bowen Hills QLD 4006



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Proposed MEDIA Response

Inquiry Number	CT-001936
Subject	Delays on projects- s47F
Contact Name	s47F
Phone / Mobile / Email	s47F
Organisation	The Australian
Due to Defence Media	12/05/2017
	Media queries need to be prioritised as urgent. Please contact Defence Media at least 24 hours prior to the deadline if it is not achievable.
	Extensions will only be granted in exceptional circumstances.
Questions / Query	Hi The Australian has the following questions re delays about several projects etc
	1/ We note the ANAO report earlier this year raised concerns that the trials of the landing craft for the LHD relating to the carriage of the Abrams battle tank had not been completed. We ask have these trials been completed and if so what has been the result alternatively if not then why not?
	2/ We ask what is the current capability of the landing craft?
	3/ We also note that the budget has revealed that the Land 53 1BR night fighting equipment is now due to have FOC by September 2023. This appears to be a departure from earlier predictions by the government that it would have FOC by about 2020.
	Can Defence explain this delay and does it believe this is appropriate given the importance of such equipment to Australian forces currently operating in warzones?
Background / Summary	Please provide a brief background into the media topic/issue using the below questions as a guide.
	Focussing questions (delete upon entry)
	➤ Is this information already in the public domain? If so, where?
	➤ Has the media previously asked questions on this topic? If so, what was the response?

10/10/2017 - 1 -

	Was this mentioned in Parliament or at senate estimates recently Item 1 Serial 8
	> Was this as a result of a policy decision or legislative change?
	> Is this in relation to a recent incident that occurred in Australia or overseas?
Proposed Response	The twelve LHD Landing Craft were delivered by the shipbuilder Navantia on schedule to Navy in three batches between Oct 14 and Oct 15. Phase 3 achieved Final Materiel Release in Dec 16.
	 JP2048 Phase 3 (LHD Landing Craft) achieved initial operating capability in Aug 15 able to support the humanitarian aid and disaster relief mission and transport the majority of Army's vehicles, with the exception of the heavier M88A2 Hercules armoured recovery vehicle and the M1A1 Abrams main battle tank.
	The Army vehicles transported included unprotected and protected mobility vehicles, Australian Light Armoured Vehicle, M113 Armoured Personnel Carrier and a variety of engineering combat support plant (trucks, excavators, graders and forklifts). The engineering plant was transported routinely during Operation FIJI ASSIST.
	In Jun 16, initial M1A1 Abrams battle tank embarkation trials were conducted. These trials confirmed the ability of the tank to be embarked in the LHD and transferred to the landing craft via the Well Dock. Further trials were scheduled to verify the landing craft ability to transport the Abrams tank ashore.
	The recent LHD defects have impacted the completion of the final trials to support achieving final operational capability for the landing craft project. These trials and the remainder of LHD Naval Operational Test and Evaluation program will be resumed once the LHDs return to service.

Clearances

Clearance officers please ensure both date and time are detailed.

Drafted	Name	Appointment	Date and Time
Response Drafted by:	CMDR Simon Cannell RAN	Deputy Director Amphibious and Afloat Support	11 May 17

10/10/2017 - 2 -

Clearance	Name	Appointment	Date and Time	FOI 136/17/18 Item 1 Serial 8
Group/Service 1 Star or above	CDRE Stephen Hughes RAN	DG Littoral	11 May 17	
Strategic Communications Adviser				

Minister	Name	Appointment	Date and Time
Ministerial Consultation::			
(To be completed by Defence Media)			

10/10/2017 - 3 -

From: Staples, Natalie MS

To: Smith, Christopher CDRE 8; Hughes, Stephen CDRE 2

Cc: Schlegel, Brian CAPT - RAN; O"Grady, Paul CAPT - RAN; Hiatt, Philip CAPT - RAN; Legge, Bruce CAPT - RAN

1; Navy Media

Subject: FW: Urgent questions from The Australian . [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Date: Friday, 12 May 2017 8:45:51 AM

Attachments: CT-001936- Delays on projects-\$47F (DG Littoral).doc

Importance: High

UNCLASSIFIED

Good Morning Sir,

Enclosed is a proposed media response to \$47F at the Austn. DG Littoral has cleared and request your review and clearance.

I have suggested one addition - in red, which still requires CDRE Hughes clearance. In the interest if expediency, I provide to you both concurrently.

Please note deadline provided by the reporter was 0900 today. Grateful for your comments at your earliest convenience.

Kind Regards,

Natalie Staples

Acting Navy Media Manager

Royal Australian Navy Fleet Headquarters 14 – 18 Wylde St, Potts Point, NSW, 2011

Tel: +61 2 9359 3429

Email: natalie.staples@defence.gov.au

From: Staples, Natalie MS On Behalf Of Navy Media

Sent: Friday, 12 May 2017 07:13

To: Hughes, Stephen CDRE 2; Navy Media; Cannell, Simon CMDR

Cc: Legge, Bruce CAPT - RAN 1; Hiatt, Philip CAPT - RAN

Subject: RE: Urgent questions from The Australian . [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Importance: High

UNCLASSIFIED

Sir,

Thanks for the speedy clearance.

Would it be worthwhile including a point about HMAS *Choules* recent trials embarking the M1A1 and M88? My suggested addition is below (and attached) for your advice.

 HMAS Choules has recently conducted trials loading and recovering the M1A1 Abrams tank and M88 Recovery vehicle onto the ship. Choules continues to be Defence's maritime response vessel for humanitarian and disaster relief operations should they be necessary.

Kind Regards,

Natalie Staples

Acting Navy Media Manager

Royal Australian Navy Fleet Headquarters

14 - 18 Wylde St, Potts Point, NSW, 2011

Tel: +61 2 9359 3429

Email: natalie.staples@defence.gov.au

From: Hughes, Stephen CDRE 2
Sent: Thursday, 11 May 2017 18:56
To: Navy Media; Cannell, Simon CMDR

Cc: Legge, Bruce CAPT - RAN 1; Hiatt, Philip CAPT - RAN

Subject: RE: Urgent questions from The Australian . [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

UNCLASSIFIED

Natalie / Simon, Attached response for LLC progress cleared. Aye,

SJH DG Littoral

x 55065

s22

From: Staples, Natalie MS On Behalf Of Navy Media

Sent: Thursday, 11 May 2017 15:53

To: Cannell, Simon CMDR

Cc: Legge, Bruce CAPT - RAN 1; Hughes, Stephen CDRE 2; Hiatt, Philip CAPT - RAN; Navy Media

Subject: FW: Urgent questions from The Australian . [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Importance: High

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Hi CMDR Cannell,

The Australian has submitted an enquiry on the current capability of the LHD landing craft and the trials carrying the Abrams tank (Q1 and 2) below and attached.

1/ We note the ANAO report earlier this year raised concerns that the trials of the landing craft for the LHD relating to the carriage of the Abrams battle tank had not been completed. We ask have these trials been completed and if so what has been the result alternatively if not then why not?

2/ We ask what is the current capability of the landing craft?

Deadline has been given as first thing tomorrow.

Please let me know what is achievable.

Kind Regards,

Natalie Staples

Acting Navy Media Manager

Royal Australian Navy Fleet Headquarters

14 - 18 Wylde St, Potts Point, NSW, 2011

Tel: +61 2 9359 3429

Email: natalie.staples@defence.gov.au

From: Clarke, John MR

Sent: Thursday, 11 May 2017 15:46

To: Navy Media

Cc: Chadwick, Zoe CMDR 1 (NZL); Hughes, Stephen CDRE 2; Croser, Peter MR 3 **Subject:** FW: Urgent questions from The Australian . [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

UNCLASSIFIED

Natalie.

Terribly sorry, I've been given conflicting advice.

Peter Croser suggests the following...

These questions are Navy Capability questions and Navy Trials. Happy to help but should go to Stephen Hughes and Navy Comms. Regards Peter

John Clarke

Senior Media & Strategic Communications Advisor CASG Media and Communications

Department of Defence | Capability Acquisition and Sustainment Group Russell Offices, R2-5-A102 | PO Box 7904 | CANBERRA BC ACT 2610

T: (02) 6265 1669 M: **\$22**

From: Clarke, John MR

Sent: Thursday, 11 May 2017 15:30 **To:** Chadwick, Zoe CMDR 1 (NZL)

Subject: RE: Urgent questions from The Australian . [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

UNCLASSIFIED

So what does this mean? Re tasking?

John Clarke

Senior Media & Strategic Communications Advisor CASG Media and Communications

Department of Defence | Capability Acquisition and Sustainment Group Russell Offices, R2-5-A102 | PO Box 7904 | CANBERRA BC ACT 2610

T: (02) 6265 1669 | M: s47F

From: Chadwick, Zoe CMDR 1 (NZL) Sent: Thursday, 11 May 2017 15:25

To: Clarke, John MR

Subject: RE: Urgent questions from The Australian . [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

UNCLASSIFIED

Hi John,

I've passed to our team, however, after reading the whole question it will likely be pushed back by the project as the LCC audit came under our umbrella however the trial and the capability is Navy's (if that makes sense).

Regards,

Zoe Chadwick

Chief of Staff - GMShips Ships Division

Department of Defence | Capability Acquisition and Sustainment Group

Russell Offices, R2-5-C066 PO Box 7903 CANBERRA BC ACT 2610 T: (02) 6265 7793 |

M: s22

From: Clarke, John MR

Sent: Thursday, 11 May 2017 15:10

To: Chadwick, Zoe CMDR 1 (NZL); CASG LSD Communications and Media Services **Cc:** Stanyer, John MR; Pearse, Sophie MISS; Navy Communications & Media **Subject:** Urgent questions from The Australian . [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Importance: High

UNCLASSIFIED

Zoe/LSD.

The first two are for Ships Div and the third is for LSD on my reading.

Deadline has been given as tomorrow but I have no time.

Please let me know what is achievable.

Many thanks,

jc

The Australian has the following questions re delays about several projects etc

1/ We note the ANAO report earlier this year raised concerns that the trials of the landing craft for the LHD relating to the carriage of the Abrams battle tank had not been completed. We ask have these trials been completed and if so what has been the result alternatively if not then why not? (Ships)

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3/ We also note that the budget has revealed that the Land 53 1BR night fighting equipment is now due to have FOC by September 2023. This appears to be a departure from earlier predictions by the government that it would have FOC by about 2020. (LSD)

Can Defence explain this delay and does it believe this is appropriate given the importance of such equipment to Australian forces currently operating in warzones?

John Clarke

Senior Media & Strategic Communications Advisor CASG Media and Communications

Department of Defence | Capability Acquisition and Sustainment Group Russell Offices. R2-5-A102 | PO Box 7904 | CANBERRA BC ACT 2610

T: (02) 6265 1669 | M: s22

From: CASG Media

Sent: Thursday, 11 May 2017 14:33 **To:** Clarke, John MR; Pearse, Sophie MISS

Subject: FW: Questions re equipment FOC etc.. [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

From: Media

Sent: Thursday, May 11, 2017 2:33:16 PM

To: Navy Media; CASG Media

Cc: Media

Subject: FW: Questions re equipment FOC etc.. [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Auto forwarded by a Rule

UNCLASSIFIED

Good afternoon Navv and CASG

Please see below enquiry from \$47F

Can you please advise who is best placed to respond?

Many thanks

Cheers

Jess

From: \$47F

Sent: Thursday, 11 May 2017 12:35 PM

To: Media

Subject: Questions re equipment FOC etc..

Hi The Australian has the following questions re delays about several projects etc

1/We note the ANAO report earlier this year raised concerns that the trials of the landing craft for the LHD relating to the carriage of the Abrams battle tank had not been completed. We ask have these trials been completed and if so what has been the result alternatively if not then why not?

2/ We ask what is the current capability of the landing craft?

3/ We also note that the budget has revealed that the Land 53 1BR night fighting equipment is now due to have FOC by September 2023. This appears to be a departure from earlier predictions by the government that it would have FOC by about 2020.

Can Defence explain this delay and does it believe this is appropriate given the importance of such equipment to Australian forces currently operating in warzones?

I seek answers by midday tomorrow May 12 and can be contacted on this email or via this mobile s47F

Thanks

Defence Correspondent

Cnr Mavne Road & Campbell Street Bowen Hills QLD 4006



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Proposed MEDIA Response

Inquiry Number	CT-001936
Subject	Delays on projects- s47F
Contact Name	s47F
Phone / Mobile / Email	s47F
Organisation	The Australian
Due to Defence Media	12/05/2017
	Media queries need to be prioritised as urgent. Please contact Defence Media at least 24 hours prior to the deadline if it is not achievable.
	Extensions will only be granted in exceptional circumstances.
Questions / Query	Hi The Australian has the following questions re delays about several projects etc
	1/ We note the ANAO report earlier this year raised concerns that the trials of the landing craft for the LHD relating to the carriage of the Abrams battle tank had not been completed. We ask have these trials been completed and if so what has been the result alternatively if not then why not?
	2/ We ask what is the current capability of the landing craft?
	3/ We also note that the budget has revealed that the Land 53 1BR night fighting equipment is now due to have FOC by September 2023. This appears to be a departure from earlier predictions by the government that it would have FOC by about 2020.
	Can Defence explain this delay and does it believe this is appropriate given the importance of such equipment to Australian forces currently operating in warzones?
Background / Summary	Please provide a brief background into the media topic/issue using the below questions as a guide.
	Focussing questions (delete upon entry)
	➤ Is this information already in the public domain? If so, where?
	➤ Has the media previously asked questions on this topic? If so, what was the response?

10/10/2017 - 1 -

- Was this mentioned in Parliament or at senate estimates recently? Item 1 Serial 9
- ➤ Was this as a result of a policy decision or legislative change?
- Is this in relation to a recent incident that occurred in Australia or overseas?

Proposed Response

Response to Q 1 and 2

The twelve Landing Helicopter Dock (LHD) Landing Craft were delivered by the shipbuilder Navantia on schedule to Navy in three batches between Oct 14 and Oct 15. Phase 3 achieved Final Materiel Release in Dec 16.

JP2048 Phase 3 (LHD Landing Craft) achieved initial operating capability in Aug 15 able to support the humanitarian aid and disaster relief mission and transport the majority of Army's vehicles, with the exception of the heavier M88A2 Hercules armoured recovery vehicle and the M1A1 Abrams main battle tank.

The Army vehicles transported included unprotected and protected mobility vehicles, Australian Light Armoured Vehicle, M113 Armoured Personnel Carrier and a variety of engineering combat support plant (trucks, excavators, graders and forklifts). The engineering plant was transported routinely during Operation FIJI ASSIST.

In Jun 16, initial M1A1 Abrams battle tank embarkation trials were conducted. These trials confirmed the ability of the tank to be embarked in the LHD and transferred to the landing craft via the Well Dock. Further trials were scheduled to verify the landing craft ability to transport the Abrams tank ashore.

The recent LHD defects have impacted the completion of the final trials to support achieving final operational capability for the landing craft project. These trials and the remainder of LHD Naval Operational Test and Evaluation program will be resumed once the LHDs return to service.

HMAS *Choules* has recently conducted trials loading and recovering the M1A1 Abrams tank and M88 Recovery vehicle onto the ship. *Choules* continues to be Defence's maritime response vessel for humanitarian and disaster relief operations should they be necessary.

Clearances

10/10/2017 - 2 -

Drafted	Name	Appointment	Date and Time
Response Drafted by:	CMDR Simon Cannell RAN	Deputy Director Amphibious and Afloat Support	11 May 17

Clearance	Name	Appointment	Date and Time
Group/Service 1 Star or above	CDRE Stephen Hughes RAN	DG Littoral	11 May 17
Strategic Communications Adviser			

Minister	Name	Appointment	Date and Time
Ministerial Consultation::			
(To be completed by Defence Media)			

10/10/2017 - 3 -

From: Smith, Christopher CDRE 8

To: Staples, Natalie MS; Hughes, Stephen CDRE 2

Cc: Schlegel, Brian CAPT - RAN; O"Grady, Paul CAPT - RAN; Hiatt, Philip CAPT - RAN; Legge, Bruce CAPT - RAN

1; Navy Media

Subject: RE: Urgent questions from The Australian . [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Date: Friday, 12 May 2017 8:54:59 AM

UNCLASSIFIED

Natalie

Cleared from my end, I would amend your additional paragraph to read:

HMAS *Choules* has recently conducted trials loading and recovering the M1A1 Abrams tank and M88 Recovery vehicle onto the ship utilising the mexeflote which can operate from both Choules and the LHD.

I wouldn't mention the HADR response issue as it isn't relevant to the question.

cheers

Chris

Chris Smith CDRE, RAN COMSURF

From: Staples, Natalie MS Sent: Friday, 12 May 2017 08:46

To: Smith, Christopher CDRE 8; Hughes, Stephen CDRE 2

Cc: Schlegel, Brian CAPT - RAN; O'Grady, Paul CAPT - RAN; Hiatt, Philip CAPT - RAN; Legge, Bruce

CAPT - RAN 1; Navy Media

Subject: FW: Urgent questions from The Australian . [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Importance: High

UNCLASSIFIED

Good Morning Sir,

Enclosed is a proposed media response to s47F at a table at The Austn. DG Littoral has cleared and request your review and clearance.

I have suggested one addition - in red, which still requires CDRE Hughes clearance. In the interest if expediency, I provide to you both concurrently.

Please note deadline provided by the reporter was 0900 today. Grateful for your comments at your earliest convenience.

Kind Regards,

Natalie Staples

Acting Navy Media Manager Royal Australian Navy Fleet Headquarters 14 - 18 Wylde St, Potts Point, NSW, 2011

Tel: +61 2 9359 3429

Email: natalie.staples@defence.gov.au

From: Staples, Natalie MS On Behalf Of Navy Media

Sent: Friday, 12 May 2017 07:13

To: Hughes, Stephen CDRE 2; Navy Media; Cannell, Simon CMDR

Cc: Legge, Bruce CAPT - RAN 1; Hiatt, Philip CAPT - RAN

Subject: RE: Urgent questions from The Australian . [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Importance: High

UNCLASSIFIED

Sir.

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Acting Navy Media Manager

Royal Australian Navy Fleet Headquarters

14 – 18 Wylde St, Potts Point, NSW, 2011

Tel: +61 2 9359 3429

Email: natalie.staples@defence.gov.au

From: Hughes, Stephen CDRE 2 **Sent:** Thursday, 11 May 2017 18:56 **To:** Navy Media; Cannell, Simon CMDR

Cc: Legge, Bruce CAPT - RAN 1; Hiatt, Philip CAPT - RAN

Subject: RE: Urgent questions from The Australian . [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

UNCLASSIFIED

Natalie / Simon, Attached response for LLC progress cleared. Aye,

SJH DG Littoral

x 55065

s47F

From: Staples, Natalie MS On Behalf Of Navy Media

Sent: Thursday, 11 May 2017 15:53

To: Cannell, Simon CMDR

Cc: Legge, Bruce CAPT - RAN 1; Hughes, Stephen CDRE 2; Hiatt, Philip CAPT - RAN; Navy Media

Subject: FW: Urgent questions from The Australian . [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Importance: High

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Hi CMDR Cannell.

The Australian has submitted an enquiry on the current capability of the LHD landing craft and the trials carrying the Abrams tank (Q1 and 2) below and attached.

1/ We note the ANAO report earlier this year raised concerns that the trials of the landing craft for the LHD relating to the carriage of the Abrams battle tank had not been completed. We ask have these trials been completed and if so what has been the result alternatively if not then why not?

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Acting Navy Media Manager

Royal Australian Navy Fleet Headquarters 14 – 18 Wylde St, Potts Point, NSW, 2011

Tel: +61 2 9359 3429 Email: natalie.staples@defence.gov.au

From: Clarke, John MR

Sent: Thursday, 11 May 2017 15:46

To: Navy Media

Cc: Chadwick, Zoe CMDR 1 (NZL); Hughes, Stephen CDRE 2; Croser, Peter MR 3 **Subject:** FW: Urgent questions from The Australian . [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

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Natalie,

Terribly sorry, I've been given conflicting advice.

Peter Croser suggests the following...

These questions are Navy Capability questions and Navy Trials.

Happy to help but should go to Stephen Hughes and Navy Comms. Regards Peter

John Clarke

Senior Media & Strategic Communications Advisor CASG Media and Communications

Department of Defence | Capability Acquisition and Sustainment Group Russell Offices, R2-5-A102 | PO Box 7904 | CANBERRA BC ACT 2610

T: (02) 6265 1669 M: **S22**

From: Clarke, John MR

Sent: Thursday, 11 May 2017 15:30 **To:** Chadwick, Zoe CMDR 1 (NZL)

Subject: RE: Urgent questions from The Australian . [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

UNCLASSIFIED

So what does this mean? Re tasking?

John Clarke

Senior Media & Strategic Communications Advisor CASG Media and Communications

Department of Defence | Capability Acquisition and Sustainment Group Russell Offices, R2-5-A102 | PO Box 7904 | CANBERRA BC ACT 2610

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From: Chadwick, Zoe CMDR 1 (NZL) Sent: Thursday, 11 May 2017 15:25

To: Clarke, John MR

Subject: RE: Urgent questions from The Australian . [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

UNCLASSIFIED

Hi John,

I've passed to our team, however, after reading the whole question it will likely be pushed back by the project as the LCC audit came under our umbrella however the trial and the capability is Navy's (if that makes sense).

Regards,

Zoe Chadwick

Chief of Staff - GMShips Ships Division

Department of Defence | Capability Acquisition and Sustainment Group

Russell Offices, R2-5-C066 | PO Box 7903 | CANBERRA BC ACT 2610 T: (02) 6265 7793 |

M: s22

From: Clarke, John MR

Sent: Thursday, 11 May 2017 15:10

To: Chadwick, Zoe CMDR 1 (NZL); CASG LSD Communications and Media Services **Cc:** Stanyer, John MR; Pearse, Sophie MISS; Navy Communications & Media **Subject:** Urgent questions from The Australian . [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Importance: High

UNCLASSIFIED

Zoe/LSD.

The first two are for Ships Div and the third is for LSD on my reading.

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Many thanks.

ic

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- 3/ We also note that the budget has revealed that the Land 53 1BR night fighting equipment is now due to have FOC by September 2023. This appears to be a departure from earlier predictions by the government that it would have FOC by about 2020. (LSD)

Can Defence explain this delay and does it believe this is appropriate given the importance of such equipment to Australian forces currently operating in warzones?

John Clarke

Department of Defence | Capability Acquisition and Sustainment Group Russell Offices, R2-5-A102 | PO Box 7904 | CANBERRA BC ACT 2610

T: (02) 6265 1669 M: **s22**

From: CASG Media

Sent: Thursday, 11 May 2017 14:33 **To:** Clarke, John MR; Pearse, Sophie MISS

Subject: FW: Questions re equipment FOC etc.. [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

From: Media

Sent: Thursday, May 11, 2017 2:33:16 PM

To: Navy Media; CASG Media

Cc: Media

Subject: FW: Questions re equipment FOC etc.. [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Auto forwarded by a Rule

UNCLASSIFIED

Good afternoon Navy and CASG

Please see below enquiry from \$47F

Can you please advise who is best placed to respond?

Many thanks

Cheers Jess

From: s47F

Sent: Thursday, 11 May 2017 12:35 PM

To: Media

Subject: Questions re equipment FOC etc..

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1/ We note the ANAO report earlier this year raised concerns that the trials of the landing craft for the LHD relating to the carriage of the Abrams battle tank had not been completed. We ask have these trials been completed and if so what has been the result alternatively if not then why not?

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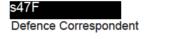
3/ We also note that the budget has revealed that the Land 53 1BR night fighting equipment is now due to have FOC by September 2023. This appears to be a departure

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Can Defence explain this delay and does it believe this is appropriate given the importance of such equipment to Australian forces currently operating in warzones?

I seek answers by midday tomorrow May 12 and can be contacted on this email or via this mobile \$47F

Thanks



Cnr Mayne Road & Campbell Street Bowen Hills QLD 4006



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From: Staples, Natalie MS on behalf of Navy Media

To: Legge, Bruce CAPT - RAN 1
Cc: Elliott, Pup MR; Navy Media

Subject: FW: Urgent questions from The Australian . [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Date: Friday, 12 May 2017 10:07:27 AM

Attachments: image001.jpg image002.jpg

image002.jpg image003.jpg image004.jpg

CT-001936- Delays on projects s47F (DG Littoral).doc

Importance: High

UNCLASSIFIED

Hi Sir,

Please find attached an enquiry from \$47F at at The Austn on LHD LLC. Navy is responding to Q1 and Q2 and CASG Q3. DG Littoral and COMSURF have reviewed.

Deadline requested by journo was 0900 - so we're a little over.

Kind Regards,

Natalie Staples

Acting Navy Media Manager

Royal Australian Navy Fleet Headquarters

14 - 18 Wylde St, Potts Point, NSW, 2011

Tel: +61 2 9359 3429

Email: natalie.staples@defence.gov.au

From: Smith, Christopher CDRE 8 Sent: Friday, 12 May 2017 08:55

To: Staples, Natalie MS; Hughes, Stephen CDRE 2

Cc: Schlegel, Brian CAPT - RAN; O'Grady, Paul CAPT - RAN; Hiatt, Philip CAPT - RAN; Legge, Bruce

CAPT - RAN 1; Navy Media

Subject: RE: Urgent questions from The Australian . [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

UNCLASSIFIED

Natalie.

Cleared from my end, I would amend your additional paragraph to read:

HMAS *Choules* has recently conducted trials loading and recovering the M1A1 Abrams tank and M88 Recovery vehicle onto the ship utilising the mexeflote which can operate from both Choules and the LHD.

I wouldn't mention the HADR response issue as it isn't relevant to the question.

cheers

Chris

Chris Smith

CDRE, RAN COMSURF

From: Staples, Natalie MS Sent: Friday, 12 May 2017 08:46

To: Smith, Christopher CDRE 8; Hughes, Stephen CDRE 2

Cc: Schlegel, Brian CAPT - RAN; O'Grady, Paul CAPT - RAN; Hiatt, Philip CAPT - RAN; Legge, Bruce

CAPT - RAN 1; Navy Media

Subject: FW: Urgent questions from The Australian . [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Importance: High

UNCLASSIFIED

Good Morning Sir,

Enclosed is a proposed media response to s47F and at The Austn. DG Littoral has cleared and request your review and clearance.

I have suggested one addition - in red, which still requires CDRE Hughes clearance. In the interest if expediency, I provide to you both concurrently.

Please note deadline provided by the reporter was 0900 today. Grateful for your comments at your earliest convenience.

Kind Regards,

Natalie Staples

Acting Navy Media Manager

Royal Australian Navy Fleet Headquarters

14 - 18 Wylde St, Potts Point, NSW, 2011

Tel: +61 2 9359 3429

Email: natalie.staples@defence.gov.au

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Sent: Friday, 12 May 2017 07:13

To: Hughes, Stephen CDRE 2; Navy Media; Cannell, Simon CMDR

Cc: Legge, Bruce CAPT - RAN 1; Hiatt, Philip CAPT - RAN

Subject: RE: Urgent questions from The Australian . [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Importance: High

UNCLASSIFIED

Sir,

Thanks for the speedy clearance.

Would it be worthwhile including a point about HMAS *Choules* recent trials embarking the M1A1 and M88? My suggested addition is below (and attached) for your advice.

HMAS Choules has recently conducted trials loading and recovering the M1A1 Abrams tank and

M88 Recovery vehicle onto the ship. *Choules* continues to be Defence's maritime response vessel for humanitarian and disaster relief operations should they be necessary.

Kind Regards,

Natalie Staples

Acting Navy Media Manager

Royal Australian Navy Fleet Headquarters

14 - 18 Wylde St, Potts Point, NSW, 2011

Tel: +61 2 9359 3429

Email: natalie.staples@defence.gov.au

From: Hughes, Stephen CDRE 2
Sent: Thursday, 11 May 2017 18:56
To: Navy Media; Cannell, Simon CMDR

Cc: Legge, Bruce CAPT - RAN 1; Hiatt, Philip CAPT - RAN

Subject: RE: Urgent questions from The Australian . [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

UNCLASSIFIED

Natalie / Simon, Attached response for LLC progress cleared. Aye,

SJH DG Littoral

x 55065

s22

From: Staples, Natalie MS On Behalf Of Navy Media

Sent: Thursday, 11 May 2017 15:53

To: Cannell, Simon CMDR

Cc: Legge, Bruce CAPT - RAN 1; Hughes, Stephen CDRE 2; Hiatt, Philip CAPT - RAN; Navy Media

Subject: FW: Urgent questions from The Australian . [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Importance: High

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Hi CMDR Cannell,

The Australian has submitted an enquiry on the current capability of the LHD landing craft and the trials carrying the Abrams tank (Q1 and 2) below and attached.

1/ We note the ANAO report earlier this year raised concerns that the trials of the landing craft for the LHD relating to the carriage of the Abrams battle tank had not been completed. We ask have these trials been completed and if so what has been the result alternatively if not then why not?

2/ We ask what is the current capability of the landing craft?

Deadline has been given as first thing tomorrow.

Please let me know what is achievable.

Kind Regards,

Natalie Staples

Acting Navy Media Manager

Royal Australian Navy Fleet Headquarters

14 - 18 Wylde St, Potts Point, NSW, 2011

Tel: +61 2 9359 3429

Email: natalie.staples@defence.gov.au

From: Clarke, John MR

Sent: Thursday, 11 May 2017 15:46

To: Navy Media

Cc: Chadwick, Zoe CMDR 1 (NZL); Hughes, Stephen CDRE 2; Croser, Peter MR 3 **Subject:** FW: Urgent questions from The Australian . [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

UNCLASSIFIED

Natalie.

Terribly sorry, I've been given conflicting advice.

Peter Croser suggests the following...

These questions are Navy Capability questions and Navy Trials. Happy to help but should go to Stephen Hughes and Navy Comms. Regards Peter

John Clarke

Senior Media & Strategic Communications Advisor CASG Media and Communications

Department of Defence | Capability Acquisition and Sustainment Group Russell Offices, R2-5-A102 | PO Box 7904 | CANBERRA BC ACT 2610

T: (02) 6265 1669 | M: **s22**

From: Clarke, John MR

Sent: Thursday, 11 May 2017 15:30 **To:** Chadwick, Zoe CMDR 1 (NZL)

Subject: RE: Urgent questions from The Australian . [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

UNCLASSIFIED

So what does this mean? Re tasking?

John Clarke

Senior Media & Strategic Communications Advisor CASG Media and Communications

Department of Defence | Capability Acquisition and Sustainment Group Russell Offices, R2-5-A102 | PO Box 7904 | CANBERRA BC ACT 2610

T: (02) 6265 1669 | M: **s22**

From: Chadwick, Zoe CMDR 1 (NZL) Sent: Thursday, 11 May 2017 15:25

To: Clarke, John MR

Subject: RE: Urgent questions from The Australian . [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

UNCLASSIFIED

Hi John,

I've passed to our team, however, after reading the whole question it will likely be pushed back by the project as the LCC audit came under our umbrella however the trial and the capability is Navy's (if that makes sense).

Regards,

Zoe Chadwick

Chief of Staff - GMShips Ships Division

Department of Defence | Capability Acquisition and Sustainment Group

Russell Offices, R2-5-C066 | PO Box 7903 | CANBERRA BC ACT 2610 T: (02) 6265 7793 |

M: s22

From: Clarke, John MR

Sent: Thursday, 11 May 2017 15:10

To: Chadwick, Zoe CMDR 1 (NZL); CASG LSD Communications and Media Services **Cc:** Stanyer, John MR; Pearse, Sophie MISS; Navy Communications & Media **Subject:** Urgent questions from The Australian . [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Importance: High

UNCLASSIFIED

Zoe/LSD,

We have three questions from The Australian's \$47F - a journalist who is highly critical of Defence and the LHD's recently.

The first two are for Ships Div and the third is for LSD on my reading.

Deadline has been given as tomorrow but I have no time.

Please let me know what is achievable.

Many thanks.

jc

The Australian has the following questions re delays about several projects etc

1/ We note the ANAO report earlier this year raised concerns that the trials of the landing craft for the LHD relating to the carriage of the Abrams battle tank had not been completed. We ask have these trials been completed and if so what has been the result alternatively if not then why not? (Ships)

2/ We ask what is the current capability of the landing craft? (Ships)

3/ We also note that the budget has revealed that the Land 53 1BR night fighting equipment is now due to have FOC by September 2023. This appears to be a departure from earlier predictions by the government that it would have FOC by about 2020. (LSD)

Can Defence explain this delay and does it believe this is appropriate given the importance of such equipment to Australian forces currently operating in warzones?

John Clarke

Senior Media & Strategic Communications Advisor CASG Media and Communications

Department of Defence | Capability Acquisition and Sustainment Group Russell Offices. R2-5-A102 | PO Box 7904 | CANBERRA BC ACT 2610

T: (02) 6265 1669 M: **s22**

From: CASG Media

Sent: Thursday, 11 May 2017 14:33 **To:** Clarke, John MR; Pearse, Sophie MISS

Subject: FW: Questions re equipment FOC etc.. [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

From: Media

Sent: Thursday, May 11, 2017 2:33:16 PM

To: Navy Media; CASG Media

Cc: Media

Subject: FW: Questions re equipment FOC etc.. [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Auto forwarded by a Rule

UNCLASSIFIED

Good afternoon Navy and CASG

Please see below enquiry from \$47F

Can you please advise who is best placed to respond?

Many thanks

Cheers Jess

From: s47F

Sent: Thursday, 11 May 2017 12:35 PM

To: Media

Subject: Questions re equipment FOC etc..

Hi The Australian has the following questions re delays about several projects etc

1/We note the ANAO report earlier this year raised concerns that the trials of the landing craft for the LHD relating to the carriage of the Abrams battle tank had not been completed. We ask have these trials been completed and if so what has been the result alternatively if not then why not?

2/ We ask what is the current capability of the landing craft?

3/ We also note that the budget has revealed that the Land 53 1BR night fighting equipment is now due to have FOC by September 2023. This appears to be a departure from earlier predictions by the government that it would have FOC by about 2020.

Can Defence explain this delay and does it believe this is appropriate given the importance of such equipment to Australian forces currently operating in warzones?

I seek answers by midday tomorrow May 12 and can be contacted on this email or via this mobile s47F

Thanks



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Proposed MEDIA Response

Inquiry Number	CT-001936
Subject	Delays on projects- s47F
Contact Name	s47F
Phone / Mobile / Email	s47F
Organisation	The Australian
Due to Defence Media	12/05/2017
	Media queries need to be prioritised as urgent. Please contact Defence Media at least 24 hours prior to the deadline if it is not achievable.
	Extensions will only be granted in exceptional circumstances.
Questions / Query	Hi The Australian has the following questions re delays about several projects etc
	1/ We note the ANAO report earlier this year raised concerns that the trials of the landing craft for the LHD relating to the carriage of the Abrams battle tank had not been completed. We ask have these trials been completed and if so what has been the result alternatively if not then why not?
	2/ We ask what is the current capability of the landing craft?
	3/ We also note that the budget has revealed that the Land 53 1BR night fighting equipment is now due to have FOC by September 2023. This appears to be a departure from earlier predictions by the government that it would have FOC by about 2020.
	Can Defence explain this delay and does it believe this is appropriate given the importance of such equipment to Australian forces currently operating in warzones?
Background / Summary	Please provide a brief background into the media topic/issue using the below questions as a guide.
	Focussing questions (delete upon entry)
	➤ Is this information already in the public domain? If so, where?
	➤ Has the media previously asked questions on this topic? If so, what was the response?

10/10/2017 - 1 -

- Was this mentioned in Parliament or at senate estimates recently? Item 1 Serial 11
- Was this as a result of a policy decision or legislative change?
- Is this in relation to a recent incident that occurred in Australia or overseas?

Proposed Response

Response to Q 1 and 2

The twelve Landing Helicopter Dock (LHD) Landing Craft were delivered by the shipbuilder Navantia on schedule to Navy in three batches between Oct 14 and Oct 15. Phase 3 achieved Final Materiel Release in Dec 16.

JP2048 Phase 3 (LHD Landing Craft) achieved initial operating capability in Aug 15 able to support the humanitarian aid and disaster relief mission and transport the majority of Army's vehicles, with the exception of the heavier M88A2 Hercules armoured recovery vehicle and the M1A1 Abrams main battle tank.

The Army vehicles transported included unprotected and protected mobility vehicles, Australian Light Armoured Vehicle, M113 Armoured Personnel Carrier and a variety of engineering combat support plant (trucks, excavators, graders and forklifts). The engineering plant was transported routinely during Operation FIJI ASSIST.

In Jun 16, initial M1A1 Abrams battle tank embarkation trials were conducted. These trials confirmed the ability of the tank to be embarked in the LHD and transferred to the landing craft via the Well Dock. Further trials were scheduled to verify the landing craft ability to transport the Abrams tank ashore.

The recent LHD defects have impacted the completion of the final trials to support achieving final operational capability for the landing craft project. These trials and the remainder of LHD Naval Operational Test and Evaluation program will be resumed once the LHDs return to service.

HMAS *Choules* has recently conducted trials loading and recovering the M1A1 Abrams tank and M88 Recovery vehicle onto the ship utilising the mexeflote which can operate from both Choules and the LHD.

10/10/2017 - 2 -

Clearance officers please ensure both date and time are detailed.

Drafted	Name	Appointment	Date and Time
Response Drafted by:	CMDR Simon Cannell RAN	Deputy Director Amphibious and Afloat Support	11 May 17

Clearance	Name	Appointment	Date and Time
Group/Service 1 Star or above	CDRE Stephen Hughes RAN (except final point para)	DG Littoral	11 May 17
	CDRE Chris Smith	COMSURF	12 May 17
Strategic Communications Adviser			

Minister	Name	Appointment	Date and Time
Ministerial Consultation::			
(To be completed by Defence Media)			

10/10/2017 - 3 -

From: Hughes, Stephen CDRE 2

To: Navy Media; Cannell, Simon CMDR

Cc: Legge, Bruce CAPT - RAN 1; Hiatt, Philip CAPT - RAN

Subject: RE: Urgent questions from The Australian . [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Date: Friday, 12 May 2017 10:38:46 AM

Attachments: CT-001936- Delays on projects- \$47F (DG Littoral).doc

UNCLASSIFIED

Happy to include. Amended as follows:

HMAS Choules has recently conducted trials loading and recovering the M1A1
 Abrams tank and M88 Recovery vehicle onto the ship using the Mexiflot water craft.
 The LHD landing craft have been successfully trialed to operate with HMAS Choules.
 Choules continues to be Defence's maritime response vessel for humanitarian and disaster relief operations should they be necessary.

Aye,

SJH

DG Littoral

x 55065

s22

From: Staples, Natalie MS On Behalf Of Navy Media

Sent: Friday, 12 May 2017 07:13

To: Hughes, Stephen CDRE 2; Navy Media; Cannell, Simon CMDR

Cc: Legge, Bruce CAPT - RAN 1; Hiatt, Philip CAPT - RAN

Subject: RE: Urgent questions from The Australian . [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Importance: High

UNCLASSIFIED

Sir,

Thanks for the speedy clearance.

Would it be worthwhile including a point about HMAS *Choules* recent trials embarking the M1A1 and M88? My suggested addition is below (and attached) for your advice.

 HMAS Choules has recently conducted trials loading and recovering the M1A1 Abrams tank and M88 Recovery vehicle onto the ship. Choules continues to be Defence's maritime response vessel for humanitarian and disaster relief operations should they be necessary.

Kind Regards,

Natalie Staples

Acting Navy Media Manager

Royal Australian Navy Fleet Headquarters

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UNCLASSIFIED

Natalie / Simon, Attached response for LLC progress cleared. Aye,

SJH DG Littoral

x 55065

s47F

From: Staples, Natalie MS On Behalf Of Navy Media

Sent: Thursday, 11 May 2017 15:53

To: Cannell, Simon CMDR

Cc: Legge, Bruce CAPT - RAN 1; Hughes, Stephen CDRE 2; Hiatt, Philip CAPT - RAN; Navy Media

Subject: FW: Urgent questions from The Australian . [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Importance: High

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

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Deadline has been given as first thing tomorrow.

Please let me know what is achievable.

Kind Regards,

Natalie Staples

Acting Navy Media Manager Royal Australian Navy Fleet Headquarters 14 – 18 Wylde St, Potts Point, NSW, 2011 Tel: +61 2 9359 3429

Email: natalie.staples@defence.gov.au

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Sent: Thursday, 11 May 2017 15:46

To: Navy Media

Cc: Chadwick, Zoe CMDR 1 (NZL); Hughes, Stephen CDRE 2; Croser, Peter MR 3 **Subject:** FW: Urgent questions from The Australian . [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

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These questions are Navy Capability questions and Navy Trials. Happy to help but should go to Stephen Hughes and Navy Comms. Regards Peter

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T: (02) 6265 1669 M: **S22**

From: Clarke, John MR

Sent: Thursday, 11 May 2017 15:30 **To:** Chadwick, Zoe CMDR 1 (NZL)

Subject: RE: Urgent questions from The Australian . [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

UNCLASSIFIED

So what does this mean? Re tasking?

John Clarke

Senior Media & Strategic Communications Advisor CASG Media and Communications

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To: Clarke, John MR

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UNCLASSIFIED

Hi John,

I've passed to our team, however, after reading the whole question it will likely be pushed back by the project as the LCC audit came under our umbrella however the trial and the capability is Navy's (if that makes sense).

Regards,

Zoe Chadwick
Chief of Staff - GMShips
Ships Division

Department of Defence | Capability Acquisition and Sustainment Group Russell Offices, R2-5-C066 | PO Box 7903 | CANBERRA BC ACT 2610 **T**: (02) 6265 7793 |

M: s22

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Sent: Thursday, 11 May 2017 15:10

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Importance: High

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Many thanks,

jc

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Can Defence explain this delay and does it believe this is appropriate given the importance of such equipment to Australian forces currently operating in warzones?

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From: CASG Media

Sent: Thursday, 11 May 2017 14:33 **To:** Clarke, John MR; Pearse, Sophie MISS

Subject: FW: Questions re equipment FOC etc.. [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

From: Media

Sent: Thursday, May 11, 2017 2:33:16 PM

To: Navy Media; CASG Media

Cc: Media

Subject: FW: Questions re equipment FOC etc.. [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Auto forwarded by a Rule

UNCLASSIFIED

Good afternoon Navy and CASG

Please see below enquiry from \$47F

Can you please advise who is best placed to respond?

Many thanks

Cheers Jess

From: s47F

Sent: Thursday, 11 May 2017 12:35 PM

To: Media

Subject: Questions re equipment FOC etc..

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Can Defence explain this delay and does it believe this is appropriate given the importance of such equipment to Australian forces currently operating in warzones?

I seek answers by midday tomorrow May 12 and can be contacted on this email or via this mobile \$47F

Thanks

s47F Defence Correspondent

Cnr Mayne Road & Campbell Street Bowen Hills QLD 4006



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Proposed MEDIA Response

Inquiry Number	CT-001936
Subject	Delays on projects- s47F
Contact Name	s47F
Phone / Mobile / Email	s47F
Organisation	The Australian
Due to Defence Media	12/05/2017
	Media queries need to be prioritised as urgent. Please contact Defence Media at least 24 hours prior to the deadline if it is not achievable.
	Extensions will only be granted in exceptional circumstances.
Questions / Query	Hi The Australian has the following questions re delays about several projects etc
	1/ We note the ANAO report earlier this year raised concerns that the trials of the landing craft for the LHD relating to the carriage of the Abrams battle tank had not been completed. We ask have these trials been completed and if so what has been the result alternatively if not then why not?
	2/ We ask what is the current capability of the landing craft?
	3/ We also note that the budget has revealed that the Land 53 1BR night fighting equipment is now due to have FOC by September 2023. This appears to be a departure from earlier predictions by the government that it would have FOC by about 2020.
	Can Defence explain this delay and does it believe this is appropriate given the importance of such equipment to Australian forces currently operating in warzones?
Background / Summary	Please provide a brief background into the media topic/issue using the below questions as a guide.
	Focussing questions (delete upon entry)
	➤ Is this information already in the public domain? If so, where?
	➤ Has the media previously asked questions on this topic? If so, what was the response?

10/10/2017 - 1 -

10/10/2017 - 2 -

Clearance officers please ensure both date and time are detailed.

Drafted	Name	Appointment	Date and Time
Response Drafted by:	CMDR Simon Cannell RAN	Deputy Director Amphibious and Afloat Support	11 May 17

Clearance	Name	Appointment	Date and Time
Group/Service 1 Star or above	CDRE Stephen Hughes RAN	DG Littoral	11 May 17
Strategic Communications Adviser			

Minister	Name	Appointment	Date and Time
Ministerial Consultation::			
(To be completed by Defence Media)			

10/10/2017 - 3 -

From: Hughes, Stephen CDRE 2

To: Navy Media; Cannell, Simon CMDR

Cc: Legge, Bruce CAPT - RAN 1; Hiatt, Philip CAPT - RAN; Smith, Christopher CDRE 8; Schlegel, Brian CAPT -

RAN; O"Grady, Paul CAPT - RAN

Subject: RE: Urgent questions from The Australian . [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Date: Friday, 12 May 2017 10:45:23 AM

Attachments: CT-001936- Delays on projects \$47F (DG Littoral).doc

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Happy to include. Amended as attached. Incorporated COMSURF's comment sort of.

Aye, SJH

DG Littoral

x 55065

s22

From: Staples, Natalie MS On Behalf Of Navy Media

Sent: Friday, 12 May 2017 07:13

To: Hughes, Stephen CDRE 2; Navy Media; Cannell, Simon CMDR

Cc: Legge, Bruce CAPT - RAN 1; Hiatt, Philip CAPT - RAN

Subject: RE: Urgent questions from The Australian . [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Importance: High

UNCLASSIFIED

Sir.

Thanks for the speedy clearance.

Would it be worthwhile including a point about HMAS *Choules* recent trials embarking the M1A1 and M88? My suggested addition is below (and attached) for your advice.

 HMAS Choules has recently conducted trials loading and recovering the M1A1 Abrams tank and M88 Recovery vehicle onto the ship. Choules continues to be Defence's maritime response vessel for humanitarian and disaster relief operations should they be necessary.

Kind Regards,

Natalie Staples

Acting Navy Media Manager

Royal Australian Navy Fleet Headquarters

14 - 18 Wylde St, Potts Point, NSW, 2011

Tel: +61 2 9359 3429

Email: natalie.staples@defence.gov.au

From: Hughes, Stephen CDRE 2 **Sent:** Thursday, 11 May 2017 18:56 **To:** Navy Media; Cannell, Simon CMDR Cc: Legge, Bruce CAPT - RAN 1; Hiatt, Philip CAPT - RAN

Subject: RE: Urgent questions from The Australian . [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

UNCLASSIFIED

Natalie / Simon, Attached response for LLC progress cleared. Aye,

SJH DG Littoral

x 55065

s47F

From: Staples, Natalie MS On Behalf Of Navy Media

Sent: Thursday, 11 May 2017 15:53

To: Cannell, Simon CMDR

Cc: Legge, Bruce CAPT - RAN 1; Hughes, Stephen CDRE 2; Hiatt, Philip CAPT - RAN; Navy Media

Subject: FW: Urgent questions from The Australian . [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Importance: High

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Hi CMDR Cannell,

The Australian has submitted an enquiry on the current capability of the LHD landing craft and the trials carrying the Abrams tank (Q1 and 2) below and attached.

1/ We note the ANAO report earlier this year raised concerns that the trials of the landing craft for the LHD relating to the carriage of the Abrams battle tank had not been completed. We ask have these trials been completed and if so what has been the result alternatively if not then why not?

2/ We ask what is the current capability of the landing craft?

Deadline has been given as first thing tomorrow.

Please let me know what is achievable.

Kind Regards,

Natalie Staples

Acting Navy Media Manager Royal Australian Navy Fleet Headquarters 14 – 18 Wylde St, Potts Point, NSW, 2011

Tel: +61 2 9359 3429

Email: natalie.staples@defence.gov.au

From: Clarke, John MR

Sent: Thursday, 11 May 2017 15:46

To: Navy Media

Cc: Chadwick, Zoe CMDR 1 (NZL); Hughes, Stephen CDRE 2; Croser, Peter MR 3 **Subject:** FW: Urgent questions from The Australian . [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

UNCLASSIFIED

Natalie.

Terribly sorry, I've been given conflicting advice.

Peter Croser suggests the following...

These questions are Navy Capability questions and Navy Trials. Happy to help but should go to Stephen Hughes and Navy Comms. Regards Peter

John Clarke

Senior Media & Strategic Communications Advisor CASG Media and Communications

Department of Defence | Capability Acquisition and Sustainment Group Russell Offices, R2-5-A102 | PO Box 7904 | CANBERRA BC ACT 2610

T: (02) 6265 1669 M: **s22**

From: Clarke, John MR

Sent: Thursday, 11 May 2017 15:30 **To:** Chadwick, Zoe CMDR 1 (NZL)

Subject: RE: Urgent questions from The Australian . [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

UNCLASSIFIED

So what does this mean? Re tasking?

John Clarke

Senior Media & Strategic Communications Advisor CASG Media and Communications

Department of Defence | Capability Acquisition and Sustainment Group Russell Offices, R2-5-A102 | PO Box 7904 | CANBERRA BC ACT 2610

T: (02) 6265 1669 | M: **\$22**

From: Chadwick, Zoe CMDR 1 (NZL) Sent: Thursday, 11 May 2017 15:25

To: Clarke, John MR

Subject: RE: Urgent questions from The Australian . [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

UNCLASSIFIED

Hi John.

I've passed to our team, however, after reading the whole question it will likely be pushed back by the project as the LCC audit came under our umbrella however the trial and the capability is Navy's (if that makes sense).

Regards,

Zoe Chadwick
Chief of Staff - GMShips

Ships Division

Department of Defence | Capability Acquisition and Sustainment Group Russell Offices, R2-5-C066 | PO Box 7903 | CANBERRA BC ACT 2610 T: (02) 6265 7793 |

M: s22

From: Clarke, John MR

Sent: Thursday, 11 May 2017 15:10

To: Chadwick, Zoe CMDR 1 (NZL); CASG LSD Communications and Media Services **Cc:** Stanyer, John MR; Pearse, Sophie MISS; Navy Communications & Media **Subject:** Urgent questions from The Australian . [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Importance: High

UNCLASSIFIED

Zoe/LSD,

The first two are for Ships Div and the third is for LSD on my reading.

Deadline has been given as tomorrow but I have no time.

Please let me know what is achievable.

Many thanks,

jc

The Australian has the following questions re delays about several projects etc

1/ We note the ANAO report earlier this year raised concerns that the trials of the landing craft for the LHD relating to the carriage of the Abrams battle tank had not been completed. We ask have these trials been completed and if so what has been the result alternatively if not then why not? (Ships)

- 2/ We ask what is the current capability of the landing craft? (Ships)
- 3/ We also note that the budget has revealed that the Land 53 1BR night fighting equipment is now due to have FOC by September 2023. This appears to be a departure from earlier predictions by the government that it would have FOC by about 2020. (LSD)

Can Defence explain this delay and does it believe this is appropriate given the importance of such equipment to Australian forces currently operating in warzones?

John Clarke

Senior Media & Strategic Communications Advisor CASG Media and Communications

Department of Defence | Capability Acquisition and Sustainment Group Russell Offices, R2-5-A102 | PO Box 7904 | CANBERRA BC ACT 2610

T: (02) 6265 1669 M: **s22**

From: CASG Media

Sent: Thursday, 11 May 2017 14:33 **To:** Clarke, John MR; Pearse, Sophie MISS

Subject: FW: Questions re equipment FOC etc.. [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

From: Media

Sent: Thursday, May 11, 2017 2:33:16 PM

To: Navy Media; CASG Media

Cc: Media

Subject: FW: Questions re equipment FOC etc.. [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Auto forwarded by a Rule

UNCLASSIFIED

Good afternoon Navy and CASG

Please see below enquiry from \$22

Can you please advise who is best placed to respond?

Many thanks

Cheers

Jess

From: s47F

Sent: Thursday, 11 May 2017 12:35 PM

To: Media

Subject: Questions re equipment FOC etc..

Hi The Australian has the following questions re delays about several projects etc

1/ We note the ANAO report earlier this year raised concerns that the trials of the landing craft for the LHD relating to the carriage of the Abrams battle tank had not been completed. We ask have these trials been completed and if so what has been the result alternatively if not then why not?

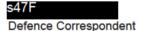
2/ We ask what is the current capability of the landing craft?

3/ We also note that the budget has revealed that the Land 53 1BR night fighting equipment is now due to have FOC by September 2023. This appears to be a departure from earlier predictions by the government that it would have FOC by about 2020.

Can Defence explain this delay and does it believe this is appropriate given the importance of such equipment to Australian forces currently operating in warzones?

I seek answers by midday tomorrow May 12 and can be contacted on this email or via this mobile 47F

Thanks



Cnr Mayne Road & Campbell Street Bowen Hills QLD 4006



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Proposed MEDIA Response

Inquiry Number	CT-001936
Subject	Delays on projects- s47F
Contact Name	s47F
Phone / Mobile / Email	s47F
Organisation	The Australian
Due to Defence Media	12/05/2017
	Media queries need to be prioritised as urgent. Please contact Defence Media at least 24 hours prior to the deadline if it is not achievable.
	Extensions will only be granted in exceptional circumstances.
Questions / Query	Hi The Australian has the following questions re delays about several projects etc
	1/ We note the ANAO report earlier this year raised concerns that the trials of the landing craft for the LHD relating to the carriage of the Abrams battle tank had not been completed. We ask have these trials been completed and if so what has been the result alternatively if not then why not?
	2/ We ask what is the current capability of the landing craft?
	3/ We also note that the budget has revealed that the Land 53 1BR night fighting equipment is now due to have FOC by September 2023. This appears to be a departure from earlier predictions by the government that it would have FOC by about 2020.
	Can Defence explain this delay and does it believe this is appropriate given the importance of such equipment to Australian forces currently operating in warzones?
Background / Summary	Please provide a brief background into the media topic/issue using the below questions as a guide.
	Focussing questions (delete upon entry)
	➤ Is this information already in the public domain? If so, where?
	➤ Has the media previously asked questions on this topic? If so, what was the response?

10/10/2017 - 1 -

- Was this as a result of a policy decision or legislative change?
- Is this in relation to a recent incident that occurred in Australia or overseas?

Proposed Response

Response to Q 1 and 2

- The twelve LHD Landing Craft were delivered by the shipbuilder Navantia on schedule to Navy in three batches between Oct 14 and Oct 15. Phase 3 achieved Final Materiel Release in Dec 16.
- JP2048 Phase 3 (LHD Landing Craft) achieved initial operating capability in Aug 15 able to support the humanitarian aid and disaster relief mission and transport the majority of Army's vehicles, with the exception of the heavier M88A2 Hercules armoured recovery vehicle and the M1A1 Abrams main battle tank.
- The Army vehicles transported included unprotected and protected mobility vehicles, Australian Light Armoured Vehicle, M113 Armoured Personnel Carrier and a variety of engineering combat support plant (trucks, excavators, graders and forklifts). The engineering plant was transported routinely during Operation FIJI ASSIST.
- In Jun 16, initial M1A1 Abrams battle tank embarkation trials were conducted. These trials confirmed the ability of the tank to be embarked in the LHD and transferred to the landing craft via the Well Dock. Further trials were scheduled to verify the landing craft ability to transport the Abrams tank ashore.
- The recent LHD defects have impacted the completion of the final trials to support achieving final operational capability for the landing craft project. These trials and the remainder of LHD Naval Operational Test and Evaluation program will be resumed once the LHDs return to service.
- HMAS Choules has recently conducted trials loading and recovering the M1A1 Abrams tank and M88 Recovery vehicle onto the ship using the Mexiflote water craft. The Mexiflote can also be operated from the LHD. The LHD landing craft have also been successfully trialed to operate with HMAS Choules.

10/10/2017 - 2 -

Drafted	Name	Appointment	Date and Time
Response Drafted by:	CMDR Simon Cannell RAN	Deputy Director Amphibious and Afloat Support	11 May 17

Clearance	Name	Appointment	Date and Time
Group/Service 1 Star or above	CDRE Stephen Hughes RAN	DG Littoral	11 May 17
Strategic Communications Adviser			

Minister	Name	Appointment	Date and Time
Ministerial Consultation::			
(To be completed by Defence Media)			

10/10/2017 - 3 -

From: Staples, Natalie MS
To: Navy Media

Subject: FW: Navy Media [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]
Date: Friday, 12 May 2017 10:48:27 AM

Attachments: CT-001936- Delays on projects-s47F (DG Littoral).doc

UNCLASSIFIED

From: Staples, Natalie MS Sent: Friday, 12 May 2017 10:48 To: Legge, Bruce CAPT - RAN 1

Cc: Elliott, Pup MR

Subject: Navy Media [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

UNCLASSIFIED

Hi Sir,

Sorry take 3 - final version for CN clearance.

Kind Regards,

Natalie Staples

Acting Navy Media Manager

Royal Australian Navy Fleet Headquarters

14 - 18 Wylde St, Potts Point, NSW, 2011

Tel: +61 2 9359 3429

Email: natalie.staples@defence.gov.au

From: Staples, Natalie MS
Sent: Friday, 12 May 2017 10:44
To: Legge, Bruce CAPT - RAN 1
Cc: Elliott, Pup MR; Navy Media

Subject: RE: Urgent questions from The Australian . [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

UNCLASSIFIED

Sir,

Grateful if this slightly tweaked version from CDRE Hughes can be walked into CN.

Kind Regards,

Natalie Staples

Acting Navy Media Manager

Royal Australian Navy Fleet Headquarters

14 - 18 Wylde St, Potts Point, NSW, 2011

Tel: +61 2 9359 3429

Email: natalie.staples@defence.gov.au

From: Staples, Natalie MS On Behalf Of Navy Media

Sent: Friday, 12 May 2017 10:07 **To:** Legge, Bruce CAPT - RAN 1 **Cc:** Elliott, Pup MR; Navy Media

Subject: FW: Urgent questions from The Australian . [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Importance: High

UNCLASSIFIED

Hi Sir.

Please find attached an enquiry from \$47F and at The Austn on LHD LLC. Navy is responding to Q1 and Q2 and CASG Q3. DG Littoral and COMSURF have reviewed.

Deadline requested by journo was 0900 - so we're a little over.

Kind Regards,

Natalie Staples

Acting Navy Media Manager

Royal Australian Navy Fleet Headquarters 14 – 18 Wylde St, Potts Point, NSW, 2011

Tel: +61 2 9359 3429

Email: natalie.staples@defence.gov.au

From: Smith, Christopher CDRE 8 **Sent:** Friday, 12 May 2017 08:55

To: Staples, Natalie MS; Hughes, Stephen CDRE 2

Cc: Schlegel, Brian CAPT - RAN; O'Grady, Paul CAPT - RAN; Hiatt, Philip CAPT - RAN; Legge, Bruce

CAPT - RAN 1; Navy Media

Subject: RE: Urgent questions from The Australian . [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

UNCLASSIFIED

Natalie.

Cleared from my end, I would amend your additional paragraph to read:

HMAS *Choules* has recently conducted trials loading and recovering the M1A1 Abrams tank and M88 Recovery vehicle onto the ship utilising the mexeflote which can operate from both Choules and the LHD.

I wouldn't mention the HADR response issue as it isn't relevant to the question.

cheers

Chris

Chris Smith CDRE, RAN

COMSURF

From: Staples, Natalie MS Sent: Friday, 12 May 2017 08:46

To: Smith, Christopher CDRE 8; Hughes, Stephen CDRE 2

Cc: Schlegel, Brian CAPT - RAN; O'Grady, Paul CAPT - RAN; Hiatt, Philip CAPT - RAN; Legge, Bruce

CAPT - RAN 1; Navy Media

Subject: FW: Urgent questions from The Australian . [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Importance: High

UNCLASSIFIED

Good Morning Sir,

Enclosed is a proposed media response to s47F at a transfer at The Austn. DG Littoral has cleared and request your review and clearance.

I have suggested one addition - in red, which still requires CDRE Hughes clearance. In the interest if expediency, I provide to you both concurrently.

Please note deadline provided by the reporter was 0900 today. Grateful for your comments at your earliest convenience.

Kind Regards,

Natalie Staples

Acting Navy Media Manager

Royal Australian Navy Fleet Headquarters 14 – 18 Wylde St, Potts Point, NSW, 2011

Tel: +61 2 9359 3429

Email: natalie.staples@defence.gov.au

From: Staples, Natalie MS On Behalf Of Navy Media

Sent: Friday, 12 May 2017 07:13

To: Hughes, Stephen CDRE 2; Navy Media; Cannell, Simon CMDR

Cc: Legge, Bruce CAPT - RAN 1; Hiatt, Philip CAPT - RAN

Subject: RE: Urgent questions from The Australian . [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Importance: High

UNCLASSIFIED

Sir,

Thanks for the speedy clearance.

Would it be worthwhile including a point about HMAS *Choules* recent trials embarking the M1A1 and M88? My suggested addition is below (and attached) for your advice.

 HMAS Choules has recently conducted trials loading and recovering the M1A1 Abrams tank and M88 Recovery vehicle onto the ship. Choules continues to be Defence's maritime response vessel for humanitarian and disaster relief operations should they be necessary.

Kind Regards,

Natalie Staples

Acting Navy Media Manager

Royal Australian Navy Fleet Headquarters

14 – 18 Wylde St, Potts Point, NSW, 2011

Tel: +61 2 9359 3429

Email: natalie.staples@defence.gov.au

From: Hughes, Stephen CDRE 2 **Sent:** Thursday, 11 May 2017 18:56 **To:** Navy Media; Cannell, Simon CMDR

Cc: Legge, Bruce CAPT - RAN 1; Hiatt, Philip CAPT - RAN

Subject: RE: Urgent questions from The Australian . [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

UNCLASSIFIED

Natalie / Simon, Attached response for LLC progress cleared. Aye,

SJH DG Littoral

x 55065

s22

From: Staples, Natalie MS On Behalf Of Navy Media

Sent: Thursday, 11 May 2017 15:53

To: Cannell, Simon CMDR

Cc: Legge, Bruce CAPT - RAN 1; Hughes, Stephen CDRE 2; Hiatt, Philip CAPT - RAN; Navy Media

Subject: FW: Urgent questions from The Australian . [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Importance: High

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Hi CMDR Cannell,

The Australian has submitted an enquiry on the current capability of the LHD landing craft and the trials carrying the Abrams tank (Q1 and 2) below and attached.

1/ We note the ANAO report earlier this year raised concerns that the trials of the landing craft for the LHD relating to the carriage of the Abrams battle tank had not been completed. We ask have these trials been completed and if so what has been the result alternatively if not then why not?

2/ We ask what is the current capability of the landing craft?

Deadline has been given as first thing tomorrow.

Please let me know what is achievable.

Kind Regards,

Natalie Staples

Acting Navy Media Manager

Royal Australian Navy Fleet Headquarters 14 – 18 Wylde St, Potts Point, NSW, 2011

Tel: +61 2 9359 3429

Email: natalie.staples@defence.gov.au

From: Clarke, John MR

Sent: Thursday, 11 May 2017 15:46

To: Navy Media

Cc: Chadwick, Zoe CMDR 1 (NZL); Hughes, Stephen CDRE 2; Croser, Peter MR 3 **Subject:** FW: Urgent questions from The Australian . [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

UNCLASSIFIED

Natalie.

Terribly sorry, I've been given conflicting advice.

Peter Croser suggests the following...

These questions are Navy Capability questions and Navy Trials. Happy to help but should go to Stephen Hughes and Navy Comms. Regards Peter

John Clarke

Senior Media & Strategic Communications Advisor CASG Media and Communications

Department of Defence | Capability Acquisition and Sustainment Group Russell Offices, R2-5-A102 | PO Box 7904 | CANBERRA BC ACT 2610

T: (02) 6265 1669 | M: **s22**

From: Clarke, John MR

Sent: Thursday, 11 May 2017 15:30 **To:** Chadwick, Zoe CMDR 1 (NZL)

Subject: RE: Urgent questions from The Australian . [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

UNCLASSIFIED

So what does this mean? Re tasking?

John Clarke

Senior Media & Strategic Communications Advisor CASG Media and Communications

Department of Defence | Capability Acquisition and Sustainment Group Russell Offices, R2-5-A102 | PO Box 7904 | CANBERRA BC ACT 2610

T: (02) 6265 1669 M: **s22**

From: Chadwick, Zoe CMDR 1 (NZL) Sent: Thursday, 11 May 2017 15:25

To: Clarke, John MR

Subject: RE: Urgent questions from The Australian . [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

UNCLASSIFIED

Hi John,

I've passed to our team, however, after reading the whole question it will likely be pushed back by the project as the LCC audit came under our umbrella however the trial and the capability is Navy's (if that makes sense).

Regards,

Zoe Chadwick

Chief of Staff - GMShips Ships Division

Department of Defence | Capability Acquisition and Sustainment Group

Russell Offices, R2-5-C066 PO Box 7903 CANBERRA BC ACT 2610 T: (02) 6265 7793 |

M: s22

From: Clarke, John MR

Sent: Thursday, 11 May 2017 15:10

To: Chadwick, Zoe CMDR 1 (NZL); CASG LSD Communications and Media Services **Cc:** Stanyer, John MR; Pearse, Sophie MISS; Navy Communications & Media **Subject:** Urgent questions from The Australian . [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Importance: High

UNCLASSIFIED

Zoe/LSD,

The first two are for Ships Div and the third is for LSD on my reading.

Deadline has been given as tomorrow but I have no time.

Please let me know what is achievable.

Many thanks,

ic

The Australian has the following questions re delays about several projects etc

1/ We note the ANAO report earlier this year raised concerns that the trials of the landing craft for the LHD relating to the carriage of the Abrams battle tank had not been completed. We ask have these trials been completed and if so what has been the result alternatively if not then why not? (Ships)

2/ We ask what is the current capability of the landing craft? (Ships)

3/ We also note that the budget has revealed that the Land 53 1BR night fighting equipment is now due to have FOC by September 2023. This appears to be a departure from earlier predictions by the government that it would have FOC by about 2020. (LSD)

Can Defence explain this delay and does it believe this is appropriate given the importance of such equipment to Australian forces currently operating in warzones?

John Clarke

Senior Media & Strategic Communications Advisor CASG Media and Communications

Department of Defence | Capability Acquisition and Sustainment Group Russell Offices, R2-5-A102 | PO Box 7904 | CANBERRA BC ACT 2610

T: (02) 6265 1669 | M: **\$22**

From: CASG Media

Sent: Thursday, 11 May 2017 14:33 **To:** Clarke, John MR; Pearse, Sophie MISS

Subject: FW: Questions re equipment FOC etc.. [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

_

From: Media

Sent: Thursday, May 11, 2017 2:33:16 PM

To: Navy Media; CASG Media

Cc: Media

Subject: FW: Questions re equipment FOC etc.. [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Auto forwarded by a Rule

UNCLASSIFIED

Good afternoon Navy and CASG

Please see below enquiry from \$47F

Can you please advise who is best placed to respond?

Many thanks

Cheers Jess

From: s47

Sent: Thursday, 11 May 2017 12:35 PM

To: Media

Subject: Questions re equipment FOC etc..

Hi The Australian has the following questions re delays about several projects etc

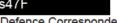
1/ We note the ANAO report earlier this year raised concerns that the trials of the landing craft for the LHD relating to the carriage of the Abrams battle tank had not been completed. We ask have these trials been completed and if so what has been the result alternatively if not then why not?

- 2/ We ask what is the current capability of the landing craft?
- 3/ We also note that the budget has revealed that the Land 53 1BR night fighting equipment is now due to have FOC by September 2023. This appears to be a departure from earlier predictions by the government that it would have FOC by about 2020.

Can Defence explain this delay and does it believe this is appropriate given the importance of such equipment to Australian forces currently operating in warzones?

I seek answers by midday tomorrow May 12 and can be contacted on this email or via this mobile s47F

Thanks



Defence Correspondent

Cnr Mayne Road & Campbell Street Bowen Hills QLD 4006



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Inquiry Number	CT-001936
Subject	Delays on projects- s47F
Contact Name	s47F
Phone / Mobile / Email	s47F
Organisation	The Australian
Due to Defence Media	12/05/2017
	Media queries need to be prioritised as urgent. Please contact Defence Media at least 24 hours prior to the deadline if it is not achievable.
	Extensions will only be granted in exceptional circumstances.
Questions / Query	Hi The Australian has the following questions re delays about several projects etc
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Background / Summary	Please provide a brief background into the media topic/issue using the below questions as a guide.
	Focussing questions (delete upon entry)
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	➤ Has the media previously asked questions on this topic? If so, what was the response?

10/10/2017 - 1 -

- Was this as a result of a policy decision or legislative change?
- Is this in relation to a recent incident that occurred in Australia or overseas?

Proposed Response

Response to Q 1 and 2

The twelve Landing Helicopter Dock (LHD) Landing Craft were delivered by the shipbuilder Navantia on schedule to Navy in three batches between Oct 14 and Oct 15. Phase 3 achieved Final Materiel Release in Dec 16.

JP2048 Phase 3 (LHD Landing Craft) achieved initial operating capability in Aug 15 able to support the humanitarian aid and disaster relief mission and transport the majority of Army's vehicles, with the exception of the heavier M88A2 Hercules armoured recovery vehicle and the M1A1 Abrams main battle tank.

The Army vehicles transported included unprotected and protected mobility vehicles, Australian Light Armoured Vehicle, M113 Armoured Personnel Carrier and a variety of engineering combat support plant (trucks, excavators, graders and forklifts). The engineering plant was transported routinely during Operation FIJI ASSIST.

In Jun 16, initial M1A1 Abrams battle tank embarkation trials were conducted. These trials confirmed the ability of the tank to be embarked in the LHD and transferred to the landing craft via the Well Dock. Further trials were scheduled to verify the landing craft ability to transport the Abrams tank ashore.

The recent LHD defects have impacted the completion of the final trials to support achieving final operational capability for the landing craft project. These trials and the remainder of LHD Naval Operational Test and Evaluation program will be resumed once the LHDs return to service.

HMAS *Choules* has recently conducted trials loading and recovering the M1A1 Abrams tank and M88 Recovery vehicle onto the ship using the Mexiflote water craft. The Mexiflote can also be operated from the LHD. The LHD landing craft have also been successfully trialed to operate with HMAS *Choules*.

Clearances

Clearance officers please ensure both date and time are detailed.

10/10/2017 - 2 -

Drafted	Name	Appointment	Date and Time FOI 136/17/18
Response Drafted by:	CMDR Simon Cannell RAN	Deputy Director Amphibious and Afloat Support	Item 1 Serial 14

Clearance	Name	Appointment	Date and Time
Group/Service 1 Star or above	CDRE Stephen Hughes RAN CDRE Chris Smith	DG Littoral	11 May 17
	ODICE Office Chilar	COMSURF	12 May 17
Strategic Communications Adviser			

Minister	Name	Appointment	Date and Time
Ministerial Consultation::			
(To be completed by Defence Media)			

10/10/2017 - 3 -

From: Staples, Natalie MS on behalf of Navy Media

To: Media

Cc: Fraser, Katherine MRS 1; CASG Media; Navy Media

Subject: RE: Seeking status update on CT - 001936 - Delay on projects [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Date: Friday, 12 May 2017 11:56:08 AM

Attachments: CT-001936- Delays on projects \$47F (DG Littoral) CN cleared.doc

UNCLASSIFIED

Hi Mediaops,

Please find attached Navy cleared input into Q1 and Q2.

Kind Regards,

Natalie Staples

Acting Navy Media Manager Royal Australian Navy Fleet Headquarters

14 - 18 Wylde St, Potts Point, NSW, 2011

Tel: +61 2 9359 3429

Email: natalie.staples@defence.gov.au

From: Media

Sent: Friday, 12 May 2017 10:26 **To:** CASG Media; Navy Media **Cc:** Media; Fraser, Katherine MRS 1

Subject: Seeking status update on CT - 001936 - Delay on projects [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

UNCLASSIFIED

Good morning CASG and Navy,

Seeking an update on the above enquiry.

This is now due to Media.

Regards,

Nick

Nick Stewart | Public Affairs Officer Defence Media | Department of Defence

Russell Offices | Canberra ACT 2600

P: +61 2 6127 1999 E: media@defence.gov.au jurisdiction of section 70 of the Crimes Act 1914. If you have received this email in error, you are requested to contact the sender and delete the email.

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Phone / Mobile / Email	s47F
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	Media queries need to be prioritised as urgent. Please contact Defence Media at least 24 hours prior to the deadline if it is not achievable.
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Questions / Query	Hi The Australian has the following questions re delays about several projects etc
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	3/ We also note that the budget has revealed that the Land 53 1BR night fighting equipment is now due to have FOC by September 2023. This appears to be a departure from earlier predictions by the government that it would have FOC by about 2020.
	Can Defence explain this delay and does it believe this is appropriate given the importance of such equipment to Australian forces currently operating in warzones?
Background / Summary	Please provide a brief background into the media topic/issue using the below questions as a guide.
	Focussing questions (delete upon entry)
	➤ Is this information already in the public domain? If so, where?
	➤ Has the media previously asked questions on this topic? If so, what was the response?

10/10/2017 - 1 -

	 Was this mentioned in Parliament or at senate estimates recently them 1 S Was this as a result of a policy decision or legislative change? Is this in relation to a recent incident that occurred in Australia or overseas?
Proposed Response	Response to Q 1 and 2 The Landing Helicopter Dock (LHD) Landing Craft is capable of carrying Army vehicles including unprotected and protected mobility vehicles, Australian Light Armoured Vehicle, M113 Armoured Personnel Carrier and a variety of engineering combat support plant. This was proven during Operation FIJI ASSIST. Initial M1A1 Abrams battle tank embarkation trials have been conducted. These trials confirmed the ability of the tank to be embarked in the LHD and transferred to the landing craft via the Well Dock. Further trials are scheduled when the LHD return to service.
	HMAS <i>Choules</i> has the capability to load and recover the M1A1 Abrams tank and M88 Recovery vehicle into the ship using the Mexiflote water craft. The Mexiflote can also be operated from the LHD. The LHD landing craft have also been successfully trialed to operate with HMAS <i>Choules</i> .

Clearances

Clearance officers please ensure both date and time are detailed.

Drafted	Name	Appointment	Date and Time
Response Drafted by:	CMDR Simon Cannell RAN	Deputy Director Amphibious and Afloat Support	11 May 17

Clearance	Name	Appointment	Date and Time
Group/Service 1 Star or above	CDRE Stephen Hughes RAN CDRE Chris Smith VADM T Barrett	DG Littoral COMSURF CN	11 May 17 12 May 17 12 May 17
Strategic Communications Adviser			

10/10/2017 - 2 -

Minister	Name	Appointment	Date and Time FO	OI 136/17/18
			Ite	m 1 Serial 15
Ministerial Consultation::				
(To be completed by Defence Media)				

10/10/2017 - 3 -

From: Staples, Natalie MS on behalf of Navy Media

To: Hughes, Stephen CDRE 2; Navy Media; Cannell, Simon CMDR
Cc: Legge, Bruce CAPT - RAN 1; Hiatt, Philip CAPT - RAN

Subject: RE: Urgent questions from The Australian . [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Date: Friday, 12 May 2017 7:12:34 AM

Attachments: CT-001936- Delays on projects- s47F (DG Littoral).doc

image001.jpg image002.jpg image003.jpg image004.jpg

Importance: High

UNCLASSIFIED

Sir,

Thanks for the speedy clearance.

Would it be worthwhile including a point about HMAS *Choules* recent trials embarking the M1A1 and M88? My suggested addition is below (and attached) for your advice.

 HMAS Choules has recently conducted trials loading and recovering the M1A1 Abrams tank and M88 Recovery vehicle onto the ship. Choules continues to be Defence's maritime response vessel for humanitarian and disaster relief operations should they be necessary.

Kind Regards,

Natalie Staples

Acting Navy Media Manager

Royal Australian Navy Fleet Headquarters 14 – 18 Wylde St, Potts Point, NSW, 2011

Tel: +61 2 9359 3429

Email: natalie.staples@defence.gov.au

From: Hughes, Stephen CDRE 2 **Sent:** Thursday, 11 May 2017 18:56 **To:** Navy Media; Cannell, Simon CMDR

Cc: Legge, Bruce CAPT - RAN 1; Hiatt, Philip CAPT - RAN

Subject: RE: Urgent questions from The Australian . [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

UNCLASSIFIED

Natalie / Simon,

Attached response for LLC progress cleared.

Aye,

SJH

DG Littoral

x 55065

s47F

From: Staples, Natalie MS On Behalf Of Navy Media

Sent: Thursday, 11 May 2017 15:53

To: Cannell, Simon CMDR

Cc: Legge, Bruce CAPT - RAN 1; Hughes, Stephen CDRE 2; Hiatt, Philip CAPT - RAN; Navy Media

Subject: FW: Urgent guestions from The Australian . [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Importance: High

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Hi CMDR Cannell,

The Australian has submitted an enquiry on the current capability of the LHD landing craft and the trials carrying the Abrams tank (Q1 and 2) below and attached.

1/ We note the ANAO report earlier this year raised concerns that the trials of the landing craft for the LHD relating to the carriage of the Abrams battle tank had not been completed. We ask have these trials been completed and if so what has been the result alternatively if not then why not?

2/ We ask what is the current capability of the landing craft?

Deadline has been given as first thing tomorrow.

Please let me know what is achievable.

Kind Regards,

Natalie Staples

Acting Navy Media Manager

Royal Australian Navy Fleet Headquarters 14 – 18 Wylde St, Potts Point, NSW, 2011

Tel: +61 2 9359 3429

Email: natalie.staples@defence.gov.au

From: Clarke, John MR

Sent: Thursday, 11 May 2017 15:46

To: Navy Media

Cc: Chadwick, Zoe CMDR 1 (NZL); Hughes, Stephen CDRE 2; Croser, Peter MR 3 **Subject:** FW: Urgent questions from The Australian . [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

UNCLASSIFIED

Natalie.

Terribly sorry, I've been given conflicting advice.

Peter Croser suggests the following...

These questions are Navy Capability questions and Navy Trials. Happy to help but should go to Stephen Hughes and Navy Comms. Regards Peter

John Clarke

Senior Media & Strategic Communications Advisor CASG Media and Communications

Department of Defence | Capability Acquisition and Sustainment Group Russell Offices, R2-5-A102 | PO Box 7904 | CANBERRA BC ACT 2610

T: (02) 6265 1669 | M: s22

From: Clarke, John MR

Sent: Thursday, 11 May 2017 15:30 **To:** Chadwick, Zoe CMDR 1 (NZL)

Subject: RE: Urgent questions from The Australian . [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

UNCLASSIFIED

So what does this mean? Re tasking?

John Clarke

Senior Media & Strategic Communications Advisor CASG Media and Communications

Department of Defence | Capability Acquisition and Sustainment Group Russell Offices, R2-5-A102 | PO Box 7904 | CANBERRA BC ACT 2610

T: (02) 6265 1669 | M: s22

From: Chadwick, Zoe CMDR 1 (NZL) Sent: Thursday, 11 May 2017 15:25

To: Clarke, John MR

Subject: RE: Urgent questions from The Australian . [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

UNCLASSIFIED

Hi John,

I've passed to our team, however, after reading the whole question it will likely be pushed back by the project as the LCC audit came under our umbrella however the trial and the capability is Navy's (if that makes sense).

Regards,

Zoe Chadwick

Chief of Staff - GMShips Ships Division **Department of Defence** | Capability Acquisition and Sustainment Group
Russell Offices, R2-5-C066 | PO Box 7903 | CANBERRA BC ACT 2610 T: (02) 6265 7793 |

From: Clarke, John MR

Sent: Thursday, 11 May 2017 15:10

To: Chadwick, Zoe CMDR 1 (NZL); CASG LSD Communications and Media Services **Cc:** Stanyer, John MR; Pearse, Sophie MISS; Navy Communications & Media **Subject:** Urgent questions from The Australian . [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Importance: High

UNCLASSIFIED

Zoe/LSD,

The first two are for Ships Div and the third is for LSD on my reading.

Deadline has been given as tomorrow but I have no time.

Please let me know what is achievable.

Many thanks,

ic

The Australian has the following questions re delays about several projects etc

1/ We note the ANAO report earlier this year raised concerns that the trials of the landing craft for the LHD relating to the carriage of the Abrams battle tank had not been completed. We ask have these trials been completed and if so what has been the result alternatively if not then why not? (Ships)

2/ We ask what is the current capability of the landing craft? (Ships)

3/ We also note that the budget has revealed that the Land 53 1BR night fighting equipment is now due to have FOC by September 2023. This appears to be a departure from earlier predictions by the government that it would have FOC by about 2020. (LSD)

Can Defence explain this delay and does it believe this is appropriate given the importance of such equipment to Australian forces currently operating in warzones?

John Clarke

Senior Media & Strategic Communications Advisor CASG Media and Communications

Russell Offices, R2-5-A102 | PO Box 7904 | CANBERRA BC ACT 2610

T: (02) 6265 1669 | M: **s22**

From: CASG Media

Sent: Thursday, 11 May 2017 14:33 **To:** Clarke, John MR; Pearse, Sophie MISS

Subject: FW: Questions re equipment FOC etc.. [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

From: Media

Sent: Thursday, May 11, 2017 2:33:16 PM

To: Navy Media; CASG Media

Cc: Media

Subject: FW: Questions re equipment FOC etc.. [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

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UNCLASSIFIED

Good afternoon Navy and CASG

Please see below enquiry from \$47F

Can you please advise who is best placed to respond?

Many thanks

Cheers

Jess

From: s47F

Sent: Thursday, 11 May 2017 12:35 PM

To: Media

Subject: Questions re equipment FOC etc..

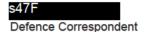
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Thanks



Cnr Mayne Road & Campbell Street Bowen Hills QLD 4006



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10/10/2017 - 1 -

- Was this mentioned in Parliament or at senate estimates recently? Item 1 Serial 16
- Was this as a result of a policy decision or legislative change?
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Proposed Response

Response to Q 1 and 2

- The twelve LHD Landing Craft were delivered by the shipbuilder Navantia on schedule to Navy in three batches between Oct 14 and Oct 15. Phase 3 achieved Final Materiel Release in Dec 16.
- JP2048 Phase 3 (LHD Landing Craft) achieved initial operating capability in Aug 15 able to support the humanitarian aid and disaster relief mission and transport the majority of Army's vehicles, with the exception of the heavier M88A2 Hercules armoured recovery vehicle and the M1A1 Abrams main battle tank.
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- 2 -10/10/2017

Clearance officers please ensure both date and time are detailed.

Drafted	Name	Appointment	Date and Time
Response Drafted by:	CMDR Simon Cannell RAN	Deputy Director Amphibious and Afloat Support	11 May 17

Clearance	Name	Appointment	Date and Time
Group/Service 1 Star or above	CDRE Stephen Hughes RAN	DG Littoral	11 May 17
Strategic Communications Adviser			

Minister	Name	Appointment	Date and Time
Ministerial Consultation::			
(To be completed by Defence Media)			

10/10/2017 - 3 -

de Jong, Carmen MISS

From:

Clarke, John MR

Sent:

Friday, 12 May 2017 1:26 PM

To:

Media

Cc:

Pearse, Sophie MISS

Subject:

Urgent questions from The Australian . [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Attachments:

CT-001936-_Delays_on_projects-_s47F

Importance:

High

Categories:

NS

UNCLASSIFIED

Team.

Please find attached LSD's response to Q3 in this Media Enquiry CT-001936 from the Australian's \$47F

John Clarke

Senior Media & Strategic Communications Advisor CASG Media and Communications

Department of Defence | Capability Acquisition and Sustainment Group Russell Offices, R2-5-A102 | PO Box 7904 | CANBERRA BC ACT 2610

T: (02) 6265 1669 | M: S22

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Background / Summary	
Proposed Response	The landing helicopter dock (LHD) landing craft is capable of carrying Army vehicles including unprotected and protected mobility vehicles, Australian light armoured vehicle, M113 Armoured Personnel Carrier and a variety of engineering combat support plant, as displayed during Operation FIJI ASSIST.
	Initial M1A1 Abrams battle tank embarkation trials have been conducted. These trials confirmed the ability of the tank to be embarked in the LHD and transferred to the landing craft via the well dock. Further trials are scheduled

10/12/2017

for when the LHD return to service.

HMAS *Choules* has the capability to load and recover the M1A1 Abrams tank and M88 Recovery vehicle into the ship using the Mexiflote water craft. The Mexiflote can also be operated from the LHD. The LHD landing craft have also been successfully trialed to operate with HMAS *Choules*.

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Defence's deployed forces are being fully supported with a range of inservice night fighting equipment.

Clearances

Clearance officers please ensure both date and time are detailed.

Drafted	Name	Appointment	Date and Time
Response Drafted by:	CMDR Simon Cannell RAN	Deputy Director Amphibious and Afloat Support	11 May 17
	Rex Rowe	A/DGISS	12 May 17

Clearance	Name	Appointment	Date and Time
Group/Service 1 Star or above	CDRE Stephen Hughes RAN CDRE Chris Smith VADM T Barrett John Stanyer	DG Littoral COMSURF CN DBO	11 May 17 12 May 17 12 May 17 12 May 17
Strategic Communications Adviser			

Minister	Name	Appointment	Date and Time
Ministerial Consultation::			
(To be completed by Defence Media)			

10/12/2017 - 3 -

de Jong, Carmen MISS

From:

Media

Sent:

Friday, 12 May 2017 1:48 PM

To:

Fraser, Katherine MRS 1

Cc:

Media

Subject:

Seeking clearance for CT - 001936 - Delays on projects - \$47F

[SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Attachments:

CT-001936-_Delays_on_projects-_s47F

navy.doc

UNCLASSIFIED

Good afternoon Katherine,

Please find attached a s47F

response for clearance.

Regards,

Nick

Nick Stewart | Public Affairs Officer Defence Media | Department of Defence

Russell Offices | Canberra ACT 2600 P: +61 2 6127 1999

E: media@defence.gov.au

IMPORTANT: This email remains the property of the Department of Defence and is subject to the jurisdiction of section 70 of the Crimes Act 1914. If you have received this email in error, you are requested to contact the sender and delete the email.

Inquiry Number	CT-001936 ·
Subject	Delays on projects-s47F
Contact Name	s47F
Phone / Mobile / Email	s47F @theaustralian.com.au
Organisation	The Australian
Due to Defence Media	12/05/2017
	Media queries need to be prioritised as urgent. Please contact Defence Media at least 24 hours prior to the deadline if it is not achievable. Extensions will only be granted in exceptional circumstances.
Questions / Query	Hi The Australian has the following questions re delays about several projects etc
	1/ We note the ANAO report earlier this year raised concerns that the trials of the landing craft for the LHD relating to the carriage of the Abrams battle tank had not been completed. We ask have these trials been completed and if so what has been the result alternatively if not then why not?
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10/12/2017

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Clearances

Clearance officers please ensure both date and time are detailed.

Drafted	Name	Appointment	Date and Time
Response Drafted by:	CMDR Simon Cannell RAN	Deputy Director Amphibious and Afloat Support	11 May 17
	Rex Rowe	A/DGISS	12 May 17

Clearance	Name	Appointment	Date and Time
Group/Service 1 Star or above	CDRE Stephen Hughes RAN CDRE Chris Smith VADM T Barrett John Stanyer Katherine Fraser	DG Littoral COMSURF CN DBO A/DM	11 May 17 12 May 17 12 May 17 12 May 17 12 May 17
Strategic Communications Adviser			

Minister	Name	Appointment	Date and Time
Ministerial Consultation::			
(To be completed by Defence Media)			

de Jong, Carmen MISS

From:

Kelton, Alexandra MS

Sent:

Friday, 12 May 2017 4:29 PM

To:

Media

Subject:

Re: Seeking ASCCB clearance for CT - 001936 - Delays on projects -

[SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

s47F

Hi nick

I spoke to Katherine and cleared this in case she hasn't had a chance to tell you.

Ta

Sent from my iPad

On 12 May 2017, at 2:37 PM, Media < media@defence.gov.au > wrote:

UNCLASSIFIED

Good afternoon Alex.

Seeking ASCCB clearance for CT – 001936 – Delays on projects – s47F

Katherine has seen this.

Regards,

Nick

Nick Stewart | Public Affairs Officer Defence Media | Department of Defence

Russell Offices | Canberra ACT 2600 P: +61 2 6127 1999 E: media@defence.gov.au

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<CT-001936-_Delays_on_projects-_s47F - navy.doc.secure>

Inquiry Number	CT-001936
Subject	Delays on projects-s47F
Contact Name	s47F
Phone / Mobile / Email	@theaustralian.com.au
Organisation	The Australian
Due to Defence Media	12/05/2017
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10/12/2017

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	Rex Rowe	A/DGISS	12 May 17

Name	Appointment	Date and Time
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CDRE Chris Smith	COMSURF	12 May 17
VADM T Barrett	CN	12 May 17
	DBO	12 May 17
,		
Alex Nellon	A/DM	12 May 17
	CDRE Stephen Hughes RAN	CDRE Stephen Hughes RAN COMSURF CDRE Chris Smith VADM T Barrett John Stanyer Alex Kelton

Name	Appointment	Date and Time
	Name .	Арронинен

de Jong, Carmen MISS

From:

Media

Sent:

Friday, 12 May 2017 4:39 PM

To:

Kevork, Chris MR; Martin, David MR 38; Wooden, Thomas MR

Cc:

Media; Kelton, Alexandra MS; Fraser, Katherine MRS 1

Subject:

Seeking OSEC clearance for CT - 001936 - Delays on projects - \$47F

[SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Attachments:

CT-001936-_Delays_on_projects-s47F - navy.doc

UNCLASSIFIED

Good afternoon Chris, David and Thomas,

Seeking OSEC clearance for the attached enquiry CT – Delays on projects – \$47F

Your attention to this is appreciated.

Regards,

Nick

Nick Stewart | Public Affairs Officer Defence Media | Department of Defence

Russell Offices | Canberra ACT 2600

P: +61 2 6127 1999

E: media@defence.gov.au

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Inquiry Number	CT-001936
Subject	Delays on projects- \$47F
Contact Name	s47F
Phone / Mobile / Email	@theaustralian.com.au
Organisation	The Australian
Due to Defence Media	12/05/2017
	Media queries need to be prioritised as urgent. Please contact Defence Media at least 24 hours prior to the deadline if it is not achievable.
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11/21/2017 - 1 -

for when the LHD return to service.

FOI 136/17/18 Item 1 Serial 20

HMAS *Choules* has the capability to load and recover the M1A1 Abrams tank and M88 Recovery vehicle into the ship using the Mexiflote water craft. The Mexiflote can also be operated from the LHD. The LHD landing craft have also been successfully trialed to operate with HMAS *Choules*.

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Clearance officers please ensure both date and time are detailed.

Drafted	Name	Appointment	Date and Time
Response Drafted by:	CMDR Simon Cannell RAN	Deputy Director Amphibious and Afloat Support	11 May 17
	Rex Rowe	A/DGISS	12 May 17

11/21/2017 - 2 -

Clearance	Name	Appointment	DateFamid136/119/18
			Item 1 Serial 20
Group/Service 1 Star or above	CDRE Stephen Hughes RAN	DG Littoral	11 May 17
	CDRE Chris Smith	COMSURF	12 May 17
	VADM T Barrett	CN	12 May 17
		DBO	12 May 17
	John Stanyer		
	Alex Kelton	A/DM	12 May 17
Strategic Communications Adviser			

Minister	Name	Appointment	Date and Time
Ministerial Consultation::			
(To be completed by Defence Media)			

11/21/2017 - 3 -

Skorupa, Jessica MISS

From:

Martin, David MR 38

Sent:

Friday, 12 May 2017 5:05 PM

To:

Media; Kevork, Chris MR; Wooden, Thomas MR Kelton, Alexandra MS; Fraser, Katherine MRS 1

Cc: Subject:

RE: Seeking OSEC clearance for CT - 001936 - Delays on projects -

[SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

_s47F

UNCLASSIFIED

Cleared by OSEC.

David Martin

Deputy Chief of Staff to the Secretary Office of the Secretary Department of Defence Ph: +61 2 6265 4522

Location: R1-5-Secretary Suite, Russell Offices

Postal Address: PO Box 7902 Canberra BC ACT 2610

E: david.martin38@defence.gov.au

From: Media

Sent: Friday, 12 May 2017 16:39

To: Kevork, Chris MR; Martin, David MR 38; Wooden, Thomas MR

Cc: Media; Kelton, Alexandra MS; Fraser, Katherine MRS 1

Subject: Seeking OSEC clearance for CT - 001936 - Delays on projects -s47F [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

UNCLASSIFIED

Good afternoon Chris, David and Thomas,

Seeking OSEC clearance for the attached enquiry CT – Delays on projects – \$47F

Your attention to this is appreciated.

Regards,

Nick

Nick Stewart | Public Affairs Officer Defence Media | Department of Defence

Russell Offices | Canberra ACT 2600

P: +61 2 6127 1999 E: media@defence.gov.au **IMPORTANT**: This email remains the property of the Department of Defence and is subject to the jurisdiction of section 70 of the Crimes Act 1914. If you have received this email in error, you are requested to contact the sender and delete the email.

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de Jong, Carmen MISS

From:

Media

Sent:

Friday, 12 May 2017 5:16 PM

To:

Grant, Rory MR; Hancock, Eleisa MS

Cc: Subject: Media; Fraser, Katherine MRS 1; Kelton, Alexandra MS

Seeking OMDIND clearance for CT - 001936 - Delays on projects - [SEC=UNOFFICIAL]

_s47F

UNOFFICIAL

Good evening Rory and Eleisa,

Seeking OMDIND clearance for the attached enquiry CT - 001936 - Delays on projects -

_s47F

Your attention to this is appreciated.

Regards,

Nick

Nick Stewart | Public Affairs Officer Defence Media | Department of Defence

Russell Offices | Canberra ACT 2600

P: +61 2 6127 1999 E: media@defence.gov.au

de Jong, Carmen MISS

From:

Hancock, Eleisa MS

Sent:

Monday, 15 May 2017 5:49 PM

To:

Media

Subject:

Fwd: Seeking OMDIND clearance for CT - 001936 - Delays on projects - s47F

[SEC=UNOFFICIAL]

Attachments:

CT-001936-_Delays_on_projects-

navy.doc; ATT00001.htm

Categories:

SC

Please see below.

Can changes be made please?

After the changes have been made considered it cleared.

Eleisa

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Moran, Matt MR" < matt.moran@defence.gov.au >

Date: 15 May 2017 at 5:16:02 pm ACST

To: "Hancock, Eleisa MS" < eleisa.hancock@defence.gov.au >, "Everingham, Nigel MR"

<nigel.everingham@defence.gov.au>

Subject: FW: Seeking OMDIND clearance for CT - 001936 - Delays on projects -547F

[SEC=UNOFFICIAL]

UNOFFICIAL

Eleisa

FYI - revised response.

Matt

From: Kohl, Haydn BRIG

Sent: Monday, 15 May 2017 5:39 PM

To: Moran, Matt MR

Cc: Stanyer, John MR; Coghlan, David MAJGEN; CASG LSD Ministerial Services

Subject: RE: Seeking OMDIND clearance for CT - 001936 - Delays on projects - \$47F

[SEC=UNOFFICIAL]

UNOFFICIAL

Hi Matt.

As discussed, I have included the additional words regarding FOC to make it clear there has been no delay since the 2016 DWP was released.

Regards,

Haydn

Haydn Kohl

Brigadier Director General Land Manoeuvre Systems Victoria Barracks Melbourne (VBM) 256-310 St Kilda Road Southbank, VIC 3006

Phone: +61 (0)3 9282 6712

Mobile: s22

Email: haydn.kohl@defence.gov.au

From: Moran, Matt MR

Sent: Monday, 15 May 2017 11:05

To: Coghlan, David MAJGEN; Kohl, Haydn BRIG

Subject: FW: Seeking OMDIND clearance for CT - 001936 - Delays on projects - 547F

[SEC=UNOFFICIAL]

UNOFFICIAL

Hi General

FYI.

This response raises some questions for me. Was the NFE delayed?

Regards

Matt

Proposed MEDIA Response

Inquiry Number	CT-001936CT-001936CT-001936
Subject	Delays on projects-\$47F
Contact Name	s47F
Phone / Mobile / Email	s47F
Organisation	The AustralianThe AustralianThe Australian
Due to Defence Media	12/05/2017;12/05/2017;12/05/2017
	Media queries need to be prioritised as urgent. Please contact Defence Media at least 24 hours prior to the deadline if it is not achievable.
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Response Drafted by:	CMDR Simon Cannell RAN	Deputy Director Amphibious and Afloat Support	11 May 17
	Rex Rowe	A/DGISS	12 May 17

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	John Stanyer	DBO	12 May 17
	-		
	Alex Kelton	A/DM	12 May 17
Strategic Communications Adviser			

Minister	Name	Appointment	Date and Time
Ministerial Consultation::			
(To be completed by Defence Media)			

10/12/20175/15/2017

de Jong, Carmen MISS

From:

Media

Sent:

Monday, 15 May 2017 5:57 PM

To:

s47F

Cc:

Media

Subject:

RE: Questions re equipment FOC etc.. [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

UNCLASSIFIED

Good evening s47F

Thank you for your enquiry.

Please attribute the below response to a Defence spokesperson rather than a named individual.

The landing helicopter dock (LHD) landing craft is capable of carrying Army vehicles including unprotected and protected mobility vehicles, Australian light armoured vehicle, M113 Armoured Personnel Carrier and a variety of engineering combat support plant, as displayed during Operation FIJI ASSIST.

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Kind regards,

Defence Media

Department of Defence | Russell Offices | PO Box 7909 Canberra BC ACT 2610 Phone: (02) 6127 1999 | Email: media@defence.gov.au | Follow us on Twitter: @DeptDefence

From: s47F [mailto:s47F @theaustralian.com.au]
Sent: Thursday, 11 May 2017 12:35 PM

To: Modin

To: Media

Subject: Questions re equipment FOC etc..

Hi The Australian has the following questions re delays about several projects etc

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Can Defence explain this delay and does it believe this is appropriate given the importance of such equipment to Australian forces currently operating in warzones?

I seek answers by midday tomorrow May 12 and can be contacted on this email or via this mobile

Thanks

s47F
Defence Correspondent

Cnr Mayne Road & Campbell Street Bowen Hills QLD 4006

MS47F ES47F

w theaustralian.com.au

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Thanks

s47F Defence Correspondent

Cnr Mayne Road & Campbell Street Bowen Hills QLD 4006

₽s47F

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From: Media

To: Navy Media; CASG Media

Cc: Media; Budd, Henry MR; Jerez, Veronica MS; Grant, Rory MR; Hancock, Eleisa MS; Jeffrey, Isaac MR 1;

Laube, Wade MR 1; "Vale, Byron"; Reis, Alison MS; Harriss, Lauren MISS; Kelton, Alexandra MS; Fraser, Katherine MRS 1; Strategic Issues Management; Stevenson, Richard MR 3; Kevork, Chris MR; Corcoran, Tony MR; Geering, John MR; Evans, Kyle MR; Martin, David MR 38; Wooden, Thomas MR; Whelan,

Georgeina BRIG

Subject: Finalised media enquiry - CT - 001936 - Delays on projects - 47F [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Date: Monday, 15 May 2017 5:58:15 PM

UNCLASSIFIED

Good evening CASG and Navy,

FYSA, the response has been provided to \$47F at The Australian (see below).

This has been cleared by OMDIND.

Thanks for your work on this enquiry.

Kind regards

Sarah Collins

Public Affairs Officer | Corporate Communication

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From: Media

Sent: Monday, 15 May 2017 5:57 PM

To: s47F

Cc: Media

Subject: RE: Questions re equipment FOC etc.. [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

UNCLASSIFIED

Good evening s47,

Thank you for your enquiry.

Please attribute the below response to a Defence spokesperson rather than a named individual.

The landing helicopter dock (LHD) landing craft is capable of carrying Army vehicles including unprotected and protected mobility vehicles, Australian light armoured vehicle, M113 Armoured Personnel Carrier and a variety of engineering combat support plant, as displayed during Operation

FIJI ASSIST.

Initial M1A1 Abrams battle tank embarkation trials have been conducted. These trials confirmed the ability of the tank to be embarked in the LHD and transferred to the landing craft via the well dock. Further trials are scheduled for when the LHD return to service.

HMAS *Choules* has the capability to load and recover the M1A1 Abrams tank and M88 Recovery vehicle into the ship using the Mexiflote water craft. The Mexiflote can also be operated from the LHD. The LHD landing craft have also been successfully trialed to operate with HMAS *Choules*. The requirement for the replacement of Defence's night fighting equipment (NFE) was considered in the 2016 White Paper and the associated Integrated Investment Program with a Final Operating Capability of 2023.

Project LAND 53 PH1BR was granted second pass approval by Government in August 2016 to deliver the replacement NFE in two tranches. This approval allowed for Defence to immediately commence procurement of Tranche 1 of the equipment. The project is in contract and is on schedule to deliver this first tranche of equipment.

Defence will continue to monitor technological advances and opportunities in NFE and emerging threats and return to Government in 2020 for consideration of Tranche 2 equipment with a planned Final Operational Capability date of September 2023.

Defence's deployed forces are being fully supported with a range of in-service night fighting equipment.

Kind regards,

Defence Media

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From: s47F

Sent: Thursday, 11 May 2017 12:35 PM

To: Media

Subject: Questions re equipment FOC etc..

Hi The Australian has the following questions re delays about several projects etc

1/ We note the ANAO report earlier this year raised concerns that the trials of the landing craft for the LHD relating to the carriage of the Abrams battle tank had not been completed. We ask have these trials been completed and if so what has been the result alternatively if not then why not?

2/ We ask what is the current capability of the landing craft?

3/ We also note that the budget has revealed that the Land 53 1BR night fighting equipment is now due to have FOC by September 2023. This appears to be a departure from earlier predictions by the government that it would have FOC by about 2020.

Can Defence explain this delay and does it believe this is appropriate given the importance of such equipment to Australian forces currently operating in warzones?

I seek answers by midday tomorrow May 12 and can be contacted on this email or via this mobile s47F

Thanks

s47F
Defence Correspondent

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