

13 December 2012

SIA REF: 12/REL/1213

SIA Welcomes Release of the Coles Review

Canberra, ACT, 13 December 2012 – The Submarine Institute of Australia (SIA) today welcomed the release of British engineer John Coles' final report of his review of Australia's submarine sustainment capability.

The review affirms the SIA's long-held position that through-life sustainment of the submarine capability is just as important as the early decisions on the type of submarine to be procured. The Coles review concludes that Defence paid far too little attention to sustainment planning during the Collins project, and that our current problems stem from that lack of attention. We must reform the submarine sustainment system now to improve Collins class availability and to avoid the same problems in the Future Submarine, whatever option is chosen by Government.

Australia has been a submarine-operating nation for much of the past 100 years but the next century of Australian submarines will be much more significant to us, as the Asia-Pacific and Indian Ocean regions move to centre stage in the world. The SIA's vision for Australia's future submarine capability is a strong fleet of submarines designed for our specific operating needs and supported by a sustainable submarine industry capable of building, upgrading, repairing and maintaining our fleet. Implementation of the Coles review findings will be a significant step towards this vision.

-ENDS-

For more information, access to images or interviews please contact:

Sandra Devahasdin
C/O Devahasdin
Submarine Institute of Australia Inc
(08) 9226 2222
sandra@devahasdinpr.com.au

About the Submarine Institute of Australia

Established in 1999, the SIA is a not-for-profit body that has as its objective: 'To promote informed discussion and research in the fields of submarine operations, engineering, history and commercial sub-sea engineering - otherwise known as submarine matters.' With a global membership in military and industry sectors, the Institute has a number of projects that support its objective. It aims to provide an independent input into considerations underpinning Australia's Future Submarine capability.