

Media Release – 14 November 2016

## DEFENCE MINISTER TO OPEN SIA CONFERENCE TODAY

Asia-Pacific's leading forum on submarines, the Submarine Institute of Australia's (SIA) eighth biennial conference, commences today in Canberra.

The event is taking place just days after one of the most significant developments in global politics in decades, the election of Mr Donald Trump to the US Presidency.

"Discussion and debate at the conference will inevitably include how any changes to the Australia-US alliance under a Trump presidency will directly impact on Australia's national security," said SIA Executive Director, David Nicholls. "With submarines playing an integral role in maintaining Australia's national security, this is the first major defence conference to be held in Australia since the outcome of the US presidential election."

Highlights of day one of the conference today include:

- Conference opening address – Senator the Hon Marise Payne

6pm-8pm, The Boat House, Grevillea Park, Menindee Drive, Barton: Opening Reception, including opening address to be delivered by Australia's Minister for Defence, Senator the Hon Marise Payne

- Presentation of technical papers

12.30pm-4.45pm, Aust War Memorial, Treloar Cres, Campbell. Speakers include:

- Dr Craig Jin, Associate Professor, School of Electrical and Information Engineering at the University of Sydney (presentation topic: next generation sonars)
- Dr Adrian Jones, Honorary Fellow, Defence Science and Technology Group, Department of Defence (effects on sonar transmission of modelled water column variations)
- Mr Craig Schwartz, Training Program Manager, Babcock International Group (crew transition – ready for today, prepared for tomorrow)

Media representatives are welcome to attend the conference and broadcast speeches live.

### Further information:

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*The Submarine Institute of Australia ([www.submarineinstitute.com](http://www.submarineinstitute.com)) is the premier organisation for promotion of informed discussion and research in the fields of submarine operations, engineering, history and commercial sub-sea engineering, otherwise known as submarine matters.*