

Media Release - 15 June 2018

SIA Ref: 18/REL/0615

## SIA WELCOMES COLLINS-CLASS INVESTMENT

Investment in upgrading sonar equipment in the Collins-class submarines by the Federal Government is a welcome initiative according to the Submarine Institute of Australia (SIA).

SIA President, Mark Sander said such commitments are an important way of assisting to ensure there is no gap in capability during the transition from the Collins-class submarines to the Future Submarines.

"The SIA welcomes the announcement from Ministers Payne and Pyne the Government will invest \$542 million on a project which will upgrade sonars on the Collins-class submarines," Mr Sander said.

"The only way to ensure Australia's sovereign submarine capability is maintained between now and when the sixth Future Submarine is delivered is for there to be significant ongoing investment in the six Collins-class submarines.

"It is further recognition of the strategic value of Australia's submarine fleet in helping to maintain our national security.

"In the Government's own words, submarines offer capabilities no other platform can provide."

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