

Media Release – 30 March 2021

NEW DEFENCE MINISTERIAL ARRANGEMENTS

The Submarine Institute of Australia (SIA) welcomes the new ministerial arrangements for the defence portfolio that have been announced by Prime Minister Morrison.

SIA President, Mark Sander said: “The SIA congratulates Hon Peter Dutton MP on his appointment as Minister for Defence.

“Over a long period of time, Mr Dutton has been one of the Government’s most effective performers and we look forward to this continuing in his new portfolio.

“Having already been a member of the National Security Committee of Cabinet will help with ensuring Mr Dutton’s transition is a smooth one.

“Given defence industry is a fundamental input to capability, the SIA is extremely supportive of the decision to return this portfolio to Cabinet and of Minister Price’s promotion.

“Among other things, this is recognition of the Minister’s energy and willingness to engage with industry as soon as coronavirus pandemic restrictions eased.

“The deteriorating strategic environment in the Pacific means it is more important than ever before for there to be no gap in submarine capability as Australia transitions from the Collins class submarines to the Attack class submarines.”

The SIA recognises the contribution of outgoing Minister, Senator the Hon Linda Reynolds CSC.

Mr Sander said: “Australia’s submarine community appreciates the work done by Minister Reynolds, notably her oversight of the Collins and Attack submarine programs, in the defence portfolio over the past two years.

“The SIA thanks Minister Reynolds for speaking at our 2020 conference and for her ongoing support for the SIA project to establish an Australian National Submarine Museum.

“The SIA wishes her a successful recovery from her health challenges.”

Further information:

Hamish Arthur
MCM Strategic Communications
+61 406 510 083

SIA Ref: 21/REL/0330

The Submarine Institute of Australia (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.