

AUSTRALIA'S SECURITY RELIES ON 4 UNIFORMS



SAVE OUR SHIPBUILDING JOBS



TO THE HONOURABLE THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE AND MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

This petition of certain citizens of Australia draws to the attention of the House the nation building opportunity before you to build and sustain a maritime engineering industry that will support jobs, skills and our national interests for the next 100 years. The Defence White Paper 2009 identified the need to acquire some 48 naval vessels over the next 30

years. Across this fleet's lifetime, the total spend will reach \$250 billion. This presents Australia with an unparalleled nation building opportunity, one 30 times the size of the Snowy Mountain Electricity Scheme. Australian designers, engineers and shipbuilders have proven their ability to build world class ships. Their skills and their jobs should be backed by Government procurement decisions.

In order to ensure we maintain the skills required to meet this opportunity we must avoid the "valley of death" that occurs when jobs and skills are lost due to a lack of consistency in shipbuilding work. We therefore ask the House to support Australia's maritime industry by ensuring this and future Governments commit to bringing forward contracts,

increasing fleet class orders and/or distributing immediate shipbuilding work to avoid the imminent "valley of death" in all our naval shipyards; and to commit to acquire, design, build and maintain all our naval vessels in this country thereby seizing the opportunity to develop and build a sustainable maritime engineering industry for our island nation.

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