



Stuart Robert MP

Federal Member for Fadden

Shadow Minister for Defence Science, Technology and Personnel

****MEDIA RELEASE****

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GOVERNMENT MUST LOOK TO AUSTRALIAN INDUSTRY FOR POTENTIAL *LARGS BAY* WORK

Yesterday's announcement that the Australian Defence Force (ADF) will acquire the United Kingdom's Bay Class amphibious ship *Largs Bay* is welcome news.

The Shadow Minister for Defence Science, Technology and Personnel, Stuart Robert, today acknowledged the Cameron Government's decision to sell the *Largs Bay* to Australia.

'Yesterday's announcement was welcome news if for no other reason than it has pulled the Gillard Labor Government from a Defence capability hole of its own creation,' Mr Robert said.

'The Gillard Labor Government has failed to plan for the ADF's transition to the Canberra Class Landing Helicopter Docks (LHD), which were purchased under the Howard Government in 2007.'

Mr Robert also said that Defence Minister Smith and Defence Materiel Minister Clare should look to Australian industry to undertake any compliance or associated work needed on the *Largs Bay*.

'Before the *Largs Bay* is accepted by the Royal Australian Navy it may require some degree of remediation so that it meets specific ADF requirements,' Mr Robert said.

'If the *Largs Bay* requires work prior to introduction, I urge the Minister for Defence and the Minister for Defence Materiel to ensure that Australian industry is given every opportunity to compete for this work; particularly as Australian industry missed out on recent work to double-hull HMAS *Success*.'

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