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**LIBS HAVE JUST ONE CHANCE LEFT TO GET A DEFENCE PROCUREMENT
RIGHT**

The Liberal Government need to break with their traditional habit and get their upcoming frigate procurement right in the national interest.

The Liberals used the submarine procurement decision as a leadership bargaining chip; pitted states and marginal seats against each other for the Armoured Fighting Vehicles; sent the supply ships to be built overseas; and failed a last-minute attempt to jam two competitors together in the Offshore Patrol Vessel project.

Australia cannot afford a re-run of the OPV circus. Neither can we afford to see the Government run from its local content promise as fast as they've run from their commitment on submarines.

No matter which option they pick, the Liberals should front up to Australia's shipbuilding workers and explain why they opened the valley of death in their industry and breezily sent the work that could have bridged it overseas. Promises of more work sometime next decade will be cold comfort for the thousands of workers who'll be laid off with nothing more to pin their hopes on than the vague promises of

a government that has done nothing but let them down.

The Liberals must get their act together and do this procurement right, for the nation's sake. The frigates have to be built by a truly Australian company, with the maximum intellectual property retained here.

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Authorised by Noah Carroll ALP Canberra