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FUTURE FRIGATES

Labor welcomes the announcement of BAE as the successful tender for the Future Frigates program. This announcement is a significant milestone in this project, which was initiated by the former Labor Government in 2009.

BAE is a world-class partner for Australia to build the next generation of frigates. They have a proud history of delivering capabilities that have helped keep Australia safe, and Labor is sure they will do so with the frigates as well.

Labor also congratulates ASC Shipbuilding on its selection as the build partner for this important program.

Today's announcement, however, is also an opportunity lost for Australia. Today the Government had an opportunity to ensure a truly Australian design partner was part of the frigate program and they failed.

Labor reiterates its call for the Government to mandate that the frigate build be done in collaboration with a truly Australian design partner. Only then can we be assured that the intellectual property behind the build process will be based in Australia and maintained in Australia.

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Authorised by Noah Carroll, ALP, Canberra