



Submarine Docking at ASC West

SPEECH BY ASC MANAGING DIRECTOR AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER STEVE LUDLAM

17 June 2010

I have the honour to welcome you all here today as we celebrate our first submarine docking at ASC West.

I would like to start by acknowledging the traditional owners of the area, the Nyoongar people.

It was great to learn earlier this year that the floating dock and the self propelled modular transport system, the latter of which was used to transfer HMAS *Farncomb* from the floating dock to ASC's facility, were both given traditional Nyoongar names.

The floating dock is named Yargan – the Nyoongar word for tortoise. The name was chosen because of the dock's amphibious qualities and because, like a tortoise that carries its shell, the dock will carry vessels between land and water.

The SPMT system is named Kaalil – the Nyoongar word for soldier ant. I understand that this name was given to the SPMT system because, in many ways, the system resembles a chain of ants carrying many times their own weight whereby the trailers are linked together to transfer submarines (and other heavy vessels) to and from the floating dock.

This is a very significant moment for ASC, both in terms of our commitment to sustaining the submarine fleet at the Australian Marine Complex, and to our development in Western Australia.

At this point, I would like to acknowledge and sincerely thank the ongoing support ASC receives from Defence Materiel Organisation and the Royal Australian Navy. I am delighted that we have been joined by our customer today; all three parties truly share in this success.

I hope ASC West will come to feel like home for submariners and DMO personnel as it does for our own ASC employees.

I also acknowledge and thank guests from AMC Management, Landcorp and the Department of Commerce. Their strategy and the development of key infrastructure at the Australian Marine Complex have been critical – without this ASC West simply could perform to world class standards.



When we made the decision to build ASC West, we did it based on the State Government's commitment to deliver the floating dock. They did and the seamless performance in docking HMAS *Farncomb* has highlighted its outstanding capabilities.

ASC is now able to carry out maintenance on as many as three submarines at any one time, reinforcing the efficiency gains we expect to realise by maintaining submarines in this fantastic production environment.

Before I conclude and get stuck into the smorgasbord over there, I would like to thank ASC employees for their dedication and hard work in support of docking our first submarine here at ASC West.

Our people are committed professionals who work tirelessly to undertake these vital tasks that are done despite numerous obstacles and hardships.

Thank you for your loyalty and your achievements. You are a first class team and ASC is proud of you.

Let's now celebrate our combined commitment towards maintaining the Collins Class submarines on the west coast of Australia.

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