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**CONCERNS GROW OVER SUBMARINE PROJECT**

Defence Estimates have today revealed the cost of Australia's Future Submarines has blown out to \$80 billion - a staggering 60 per cent increase from the original price of \$50 billion.

In addition to purchasing the Future Submarines for \$80 billion, they will cost \$145 billion to sustain, taking the total price tag to \$225 billion.

The Government's [2016 Integrated Investment Program](#) said the 'Future Submarine Program – Design and Construction' will cost greater than \$50 billion on an out-turned price cost (p.89/90).

Today, we learnt that 'greater than' amounts to \$80 billion.

It shouldn't take Senate Estimates to drag the truth about this critical defence project from the Government.

In addition to the cost blow out, officials also confirmed today the construction timeline of the first Future Submarine has been pushed back from 2022/23 to 2024.

The Morrison Government and its revolving door of Defence Ministers need to actually start coming clean on when the first of the Future Submarines will actually become operational.

Disappointingly, in all of this, it is still unclear how much Australian content will be required for this critical project.

On all three measures of this program; on the time of delivery, on the cost of the project and the amount of Australian content – the numbers are all going the wrong way.

**FRIDAY, 29 NOVEMBER 2019**

Authorised by Paul Erickson, ALP, Canberra.