

Chief of Navy Address

Launch of NUSHIP *Supply*

Navantia Ferrol Dockyard, Spain

1530-1630, Friday 23 November 2018

[Background: The SEA 1654 Phase 3 Maritime Operational Support Capability (MOSC) program is to replace Navy's existing afloat support capability, HMA Ships *Success* and *Sirius*, with a single class of Auxiliary Oiler Replenishment (AOR) ship to sustain deployed maritime forces.

Navantia have been awarded to build and deliver two AOR vessels based on the Spanish Navy ship BAC-Cantabria. Navantia has deep knowledge derived from their experience in shipbuilding and through life support, gained through participation in other Australian programs, namely the LHD Landing Craft (LLC) program, the Canberra Class Landing Helicopter Docks (LHDs), and the Hobart Class Air Warfare Destroyers (AWDs).

Navantia project represents a low risk and value for money solution, meets the Commonwealth's current and future defence capability requirements, and provides significant and sustainable benefits to the Commonwealth and the Australian Defence Industry.]

Speech – Part 1 (3 mins max)

[Handling note: your speech will be preceded by a 3 min speech from President of Navantia]

Good afternoon Australian Ambassador to Spain, President of Navantia, Managing Director of Navantia Ferrol Shipyard, Admiral of Ferrol Arsenal, President of Provincial Council, Mayor of Ferrol, Government Representative, President of Galician Government, Ship Sponsor, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen.

[Handling note: lists of guests will be finalised closer to the date]

[Handling note: make reference to comments included in earlier speeches]

We are here today to witness the launch of the first of the Royal Australian Navy's two new Auxiliary Oiler Replenishment ships, and the second ship of the Royal Australian Navy to carry the name *Supply*.

The first HMAS *Supply* was a Tide class Fleet Oiler built in Belfast, Northern Ireland (the same shipyard that built Titanic).

She was launched in 1954. As international tensions had lessened by then, the RAN leased the ship to the British Admiralty, as Royal Fleet Auxiliary *Tide Austral*.

The ship was commissioned in the RAN in August 1962, as HMAS *Tide Austral*, and then recommissioned in September that year as HMAS *Supply*.

Supply saw active service during the Malayan Confrontation/Konfrontasi 1965-1966 and was awarded battle honours.

Some key events in *Supply's* 23 year career were supporting operations by the RAN in Vietnam, the New Zealand Government's protest of French nuclear testing in the South Pacific, and Disaster Relief in Northern Australia following Cyclone Tracy. She was decommissioned in 1985.

Today, as *Supply* (II) floats clear of her synchro lift she will commence her journey towards decades of service to the Australian nation.

In support of Australia's national interests, *Supply* will travel the oceans of the world and extend our warship endurance and operational range.

In support of our region, *Supply* will work with our neighbouring navies to promote good will and stability.

In support of global interests, *Supply* will be capable of undertaking Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief operations.

The launch of a new warship is always a feat of imagination, planning, engineering, logistics, administration and sheer hard work.

On behalf of the Royal Australian Navy, I thank all those teams of skilled and dedicated people who have contributed to the build, construction, integration of parts, and delivery, from keel-laying to launch.

Today is a credit to each of you.

When *Supply*, and her sister ship, *Stalwart*, whose keel is to be laid tomorrow, enter service from 2020, they will provide afloat logistics support to Fleet units, and be an important part of the Australian Navy's future fleet.

Their role will be to provide combat support via underway replenishment and transfer to deliver bulk fuels, potable water, stores, victuals, cargo and explosive ordnance to naval surface combatants, amphibious ships, auxiliaries and minor war vessels operating away from shore infrastructure support.

END (Part 1)

Speech – Part 2 (1 min max)

It is an age old tradition in navies around the world for a prominent person to launch new ships.

We are delighted to have as *Supply's* Ship's Sponsor, Mrs Jenny Barrett.

Jenny's contributions to the Australian Navy, together with her husband, Tim's, service as Chief of Navy, made her a fitting choice for Ship's Sponsor of the Navy's newest Auxiliary Oiler Replenishment.

As Ship's Sponsor, Jenny will have an important and perpetual role in the life of the ship.

Jenny, I now invite you to the podium.

END (Part 2)