

Chief of Navy Address at the Floating Off of NUSHIP *Sydney*

19 May 2018

Adelaide, Australia

We are very fortunate to be here today to witness the launch of the third ship of our new class of Air Warfare Destroyers, and the fifth ship of the Royal Australian Navy to carry the name *Sydney*.

In the last 3 years we have seen the launch of the first two Air Warfare Destroyers — HMAS *Hobart* and NUSHIP *Brisbane* — and with the launch today of *Sydney* the class is now complete.

These are powerful, elegant new warships that will serve Australia as a key part of our fleet for decades to come — a fleet that will be strong, agile, intelligent, and lethal.

In serving Australia I am sure that she will carry on the proud record of those warships named *Sydney*.

The first *Sydney* won the Australian Navy's first sea battle when she found, engaged and beached the German cruiser *Emden* near the Cocos Islands in November 1914.

The ultimate sacrifice was paid by the second *Sydney* in November 1941 when she was sunk by the German ship *Kormoran* — a sacrifice which has come to symbolise our sailor's commitment to their shipmates, their ship, and their nation.

The only ship in the Australian Navy which would serve under both the British White Ensign and then the Australian White Ensign during the same conflict when the third *Sydney* saw action in Vietnam.

The fourth *Sydney* which served with distinction around Australia and on operations in the Middle East, East Timor, Fiji, Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands.

Today, the fifth *Sydney* will join her sister ships *Hobart* and *Brisbane* in their natural environment — the sea.

Today, as *Sydney* floats clear of her synchrolift she will continue her journey towards decades of service to the nation.

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

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

Today is a credit to each of you.

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 *Sydney's* Launching Lady and Ship's Sponsor, Mrs Judy Shalders.

Judy holds a strong link to this ship — from her years of support to Navy and her husband, Vice Admiral Russ Shalders, including during his command of HMAS *Sydney* (IV); and he was the Chief of Navy when the decision was made to build these ships.

I could not think of a more fitting launching lady for the Navy's newest Air Warfare Destroyer.

As Ship's Sponsor, Judy will have an important and perpetual role in the life of the ship. And she and her husband together will provide an important link between *Sydney* (IV) and *Sydney* (V).

Judy, it is most fitting that you should take the honour of launching *Sydney*.

I now invite you to the podium.