



The Hon Dr Mike Kelly AM MP
Parliamentary Secretary for Defence Support

Mr Les Dwyer
National President
Naval Association of Australia
63-67 Fairhill Road
NINDERRY QLD 4561

Dear Mr ~~Dwyer~~ *LES*

I write to provide you with an update on the current status of the classification of submarine special operations during the period 1978 to 1992.

You would be aware that Nature of Service matters now fall within my portfolio responsibilities as a result of the Ministerial changes in June this year. I recognise that the nature of service review into Oberon Class Submarine special operations has been an especially long process, and as such I understand the frustration of you and your fellow members of the Naval Association of Australia.

As discussed during your meeting with my Chief of Staff on 25 August 2009, Defence is consulting with other agencies regarding this matter. As you would be aware, reclassification of Australian Defence Force operations requires consultation with the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA). Defence is working closely with DVA on this matter.

I am taking a personal interest in this review, and it is my intent to have this matter finalised as soon as possible.

I am however, unable to provide you with a set date of when a final response can be expected. I assure you that I have conveyed to Defence my expectation that this matter be prioritised for resolution. I am committed to ensuring that a decision is made on this matter without unnecessary delay.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mike Kelly', written in a cursive style.

MIKE KELLY