



Submarine Tendered Maintenance Period

The Submarine Tendered Maintenance Period (STMP) at HMAS *Stirling* is a key milestone and tangible demonstration of AUKUS partners' commitment to delivering a conventionally-armed, nuclear-powered submarine capability for Australia.

What is an STMP?

An STMP is a submarine maintenance activity supported by a tender ship, which provides the capabilities, equipment, facilities and crew to support, maintain, repair and supply a submarine.

Historic first in preparation for Submarine Rotational Force-West (SRF-West)

This STMP will be the first time ever Australian personnel and industry will participate in the maintenance of a US conventionally-armed, nuclear-powered submarine here in Australia. This will build on previous visits from US nuclear-powered submarines USS *North Carolina* and USS *Annapolis*.

These Royal Australian Navy (RAN) personnel will directly participate in routine maintenance, and

will undertake hands-on learning through a range of activities alongside their US counterparts during the maintenance period. This experience will enable Australian personnel to develop the skills and experience required to operate and maintain Australia's future conventionally-armed, nuclear-powered submarine fleet.

This maintenance period will lay the groundwork for the rotational presence of UK and US SSNs at HMAS *Stirling* from as early as 2027, known as Submarine Rotational Force-West (SRF-West).

Workforce training

Delivering an Australian nuclear-powered submarine capability will require thousands of highly skilled workers for decades to come. These will cover a range of roles including; scientists, engineers, project managers, operators, technicians, welders, construction workers, electricians, metal fitters and builders.

The STMP is part of invaluable workforce training opportunities associated with operating and sustaining Virginia class submarines and supports Australia to become 'sovereign ready' to own, operate and maintain a conventionally-armed, nuclear-powered submarine capability.



ASC will play a pivotal role in developing the skilled workforce through international and domestic sustainment training to support visiting UK and US submarines at HMAS *Stirling*. The first cohort of ASC workers deployed to the Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard in June 2024 to directly participate in training in the maintenance of US Virginia class nuclear-powered submarines, and will provide maintenance work in the future.

During this maintenance period at HMAS *Stirling*, workers from ASC will provide temporary support services to the submarine and participate in an observatory capacity to continue learning about SSN maintenance.

More than 30 RAN personnel have already spent five months on USS *Emory S. Land* (AS 39) submarine tender, integrating with US sailors and building the knowledge, skills and experience in how the US conducts SSN maintenance.

These personnel will use this experience to conduct the maintenance work during the STMP. Dozens more at HMAS *Stirling* will also grow their skills and knowledge base through involvement in the

STMP. Australia is drawing on more than 75 years of experience and expertise from our AUKUS partners in the safe and effective operation of conventionally-armed, nuclear-powered submarines. Maintenance activities on US and UK submarines through SRF-West will provide our workforce with vital learning opportunities to prepare Australia to steward our own sovereign nuclear powered submarines from the early 2030s.

Nuclear safety and stewardship

Nuclear safety and stewardship are cornerstones of AUKUS, underpinned by the decades-long unmatched safety records of the UK and the US. This STMP activity is an important step in ensuring the highest nuclear safety and stewardship standards. During the STMP, no radiological material will be transferred ashore.

AUKUS partners are committed to setting the highest nuclear non-proliferation standard as part of Australia's acquisition of conventionally-armed, nuclear-powered submarines.

Western Australia



To date the Government has invested **\$83 million** to deliver the vital infrastructure upgrades at HMAS *Stirling*, spanning across 32 projects. This includes the remediation and maintenance of the wharf, tunnel maintenance and building refurbishments.



The Government will also invest an additional **\$8 billion** in infrastructure in Western Australia over the next decade and a half, with **\$1.5 billion** in priority works approved over the next four years to support the implementation of SRF-West.

