



# SUBMARINE ROTATIONAL FORCE – WEST

From as early as 2027, AUKUS partners will have a rotational presence at HMAS *Stirling* of one UK and up to four US nuclear-powered submarines – known as ‘Submarine Rotational Force-West’ (SRF-West). SRF-West will help Australia build the necessary operational capabilities and skills to be ‘sovereign ready’ so we can safely and securely own, operate, maintain and regulate a fleet of nuclear-powered submarines from the early 2030s.

## Why do we need this rotational presence?

SRF-West will accelerate our efforts to develop Australia’s capability to safely and securely operate and sustain its future nuclear-powered submarines.

Australian sailors will deploy on UK and US boats to develop at-sea experience with naval nuclear propulsion, while Australian maintenance personnel will support these submarines at shore.

## Is this a basing of UK and US submarines in Australia?

No. Australia has a longstanding bipartisan policy of no foreign bases on Australian soil.

Activities under SRF-West are consistent with this policy.

SRF-West platforms will be rotated through HMAS *Stirling* in Western Australia and will not be permanently based in Australia.

## What arrangements will this initiative come under?

The US bilateral elements of SRF-West will be implemented under the US-Australia Force Posture Agreement. UK participation in SRF-West will be enabled through separate arrangements.

