



WA Quarterly Update

December 2024

The Australian Submarine Agency is committed to informing our community in Western Australia about our progress towards delivering the AUKUS Optimal Pathway. To read more about our Agency, please visit our website at www.asa.gov.au or send your questions by email to communityengagementasa@defence.gov.au

Examining Options for Better Infrastructure in Rockingham

On Wednesday 18 December, Commonwealth and State Governments announced a series of studies to inform future infrastructure and transport requirements around HMAS *Stirling* in Rockingham, Western Australia.

Western Australia is critical to Australia's AUKUS pathway, continuing its proud tradition as the home of Australia's submarine fleet. From 2027, HMAS *Stirling* will host the rotational presence of United States and United Kingdom submarines through Submarine Rotational Force-West, before Australia owns and operates its own fleet of conventionally armed, nuclear-powered submarines from the early 2030s.

To achieve this, work needs to be undertaken to ensure adequate infrastructure and connectivity are available, supporting Defence activities and the local community.

Over the next year, the Australian Government will fund three studies in the Rockingham region focussed on access to HMAS *Stirling*:

- A study of options for roads, infrastructure and local transport;
- A detailed environmental study of the Garden Island Highway Proposal, and;
- A detailed heritage study and constraint mapping exercise of the Garden Island Highway Proposal.

The studies will commence in early 2025 for a period of approximately 10 months, with findings to be presented to the Commonwealth and Western Australian Government for consideration. These activities will include consultation and build on existing studies and work already undertaken by the State Government in the local area.

For further details, see our [media release](#).



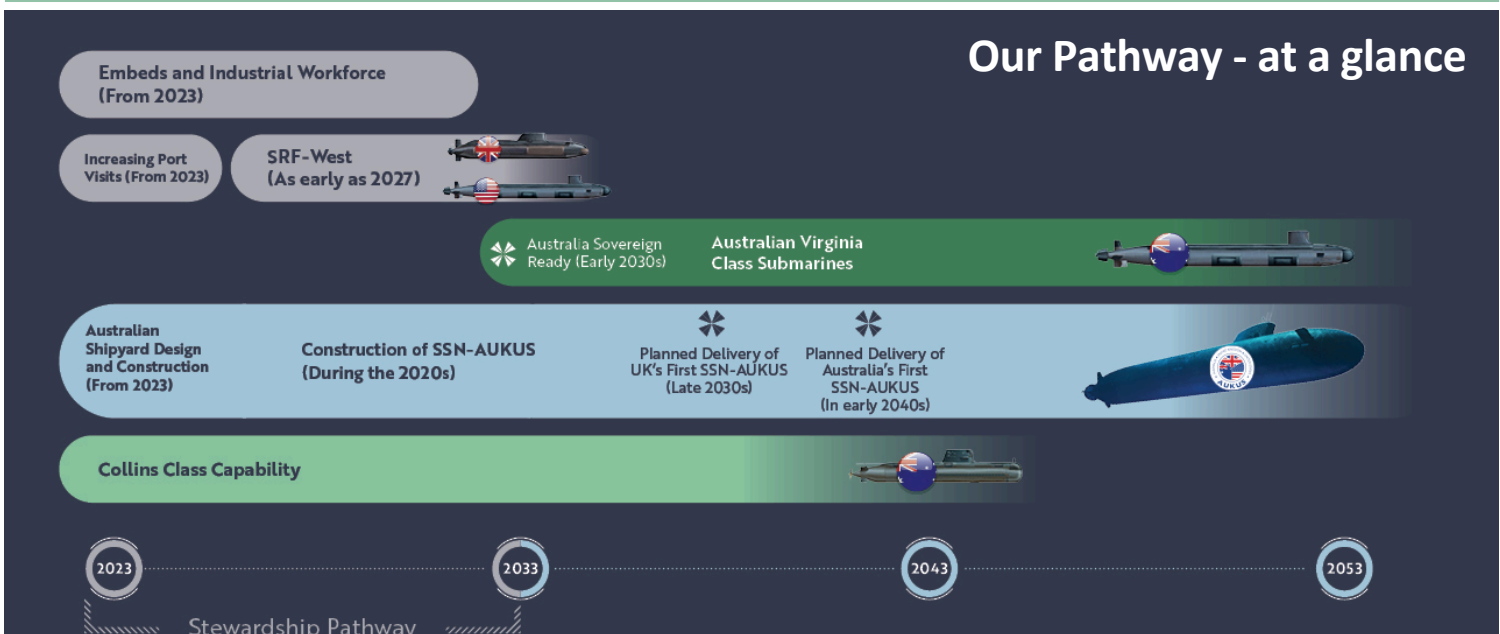
Australian, US service personnel sharing vessel maintenance tasks

Submarine Tender Maintenance

Australia hosted the first Submarine Tender Maintenance Period (STMP) through August and September 2024. The STMP featured visits by the USS *Emory S. Land* and SSN USS *Hawaii* to HMAS *Stirling*. This was a major milestone in Australia's progress towards conventionally-armed, nuclear-powered submarines, as the first time Australians have conducted maintenance on a US nuclear-powered submarine, in Australia, with further visits planned in 2025. Highlights of STMP 2024 included:

- 400 visitors came aboard
- 3,638 hours of maintenance activity
- 1,400 AUKUS personnel (392 Australians) participated
- Engagement with First Nations, government, industry, education leaders and STEM students, media, law enforcement and emergency services.

Read more at our [media release](#).





Investing in Henderson’s Future

In October 2024, the Commonwealth and WA State Governments signed a landmark Cooperation Agreement to develop a world-class Defence shipbuilding and sustainment precinct in Henderson, Western Australia.

Key points:

- the precinct will become the home of depot-level maintenance and contingency docking for Australia’s future conventionally-armed, nuclear powered submarines.
- thousands of jobs created including 2,300 naval shipbuilding jobs and at least 3,000 jobs to support depot level submarine maintenance.
- initial investment of \$127 million over three years to progress planning, consultations, preliminary design and feasibility studies and preparation of enabling works.
- through a phased approach, the shipyard will be transformed into a single, consolidated and secure Defence maritime precinct where large, complex vessels will be built and sustained.
- a clear pipeline of work for the shipbuilding industry in WA and new large vessel dry dock to house and maintain our largest warships and visiting vessels from the USA and UK.
- these vital maintenance capabilities will be established in accordance with domestic processes and regulatory requirements, and consistent with Australia’s international obligations to maintaining the highest standards for nuclear safety, security and safeguards.

Further details are available at our [media release](#).



Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Defence, The Hon Richard Marles MP announces new investment at Henderson in partnership with WA Government



Minister Keogh with Member for Brand, The Hon Madeleine King MP; WA Minister for Defence Industry and Veterans Issues, The Hon Paul Papalia MLA; WA Minister for Energy, Environment, and Climate Action and Member for Baldivis, The Hon Reece Whitby MLA, and senior Defence personnel in Baldivis

New Housing for Defence Families

A much-needed boost to the local housing stock needed to accommodate Defence personnel was given on 11 October 2024. Minister for Defence Personnel and Minister for Veterans’ Affairs, The Hon Matt Keogh MP, was joined by Defence Housing Australia (DHA) Chair, Dr Robert Lang, to share news of hundreds of new homes that will be built near to Fleet Base West.

Key points:

- new agreement seals partnership DHA and Western Australian businesses to build the new homes.
- 550 new households for Defence personnel and their families.
- new homes will be built in Wellard, Baldivis and Mundijong, as well as in Kwinana, Lakelands, Port Kennedy, Waikiki and Madora Bay.
- contracts signed will boost local companies Parcel Property, Forma Homes and Plunkett Homes and create new construction jobs.
- the first dwellings as part of this Program in Rockingham are expected to be delivered in 2025-26.
- further agreements are in the works for hundreds of additional homes over the next five years.

Further details are available at our [media release](#).

In the news...

Deterrence and alliance power
“Why the AUKUS submarines matter and how they can be delivered”
published by the Lowy Institute, 29.7.2024
Full article [here](#)

Navy’s nuclear all clear
published in The Sound Telegraph, 18.9.2024
“Admiral says AUKUS subs are totally safe for families & wildlife”. Full article [here](#)

Industry critical for AUKUS submarine delivery
published in Australian Defence Magazine 6.11.2024
Full article [here](#)

Rockingham is investment ready
statement by Mayor of Rockingham 6.12.2024
Full details [here](#)

Understanding how AUKUS could make Perth's southern suburbs an economic engine room
ABC News, published 19.12.2024
Full article [here](#)

Your representatives...

Australian submarines – cornerstone of deterrence
The Hon Richard Marles MP, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister for Defence in conversation with the Submarine Institute of Australia published 5.11.2024. Full article [here](#)

Indian Ocean Security Conference address by The Hon Madeleine King MP, Minister for Resources and Minister for Northern Australia published 24.7.2024. Full article [here](#)

Joint Leaders’ statement on the third anniversary of AUKUS, published on 17.9.2024
Full article [here](#)

AUKUS Defence Ministers’ Meeting
Communique, published on 26.9.2024
Full statement [here](#)

In your community...

Did you know the Australian Submarine Agency has permanent representatives in WA to engage directly with the community to provide timely and accurate information and updates on our progress and local opportunities?

Recently we held outreach events at:

- Rockingham Jobs Fair
- First Nations tour of Fleet Base West
- Rockingham Shopping Centre
- Baldivis Shopping Centre
- Fremantle Ports’ Maritime Day
- Subs in Schools at HMAS *Stirling*
- Rockingham Defence Industry Forum
- Politics in the Pub - South Fremantle
- Rockingham Investment Forum
- Future outreach planned in Cockburn, Kwinana, Fremantle and beyond!

Do you have an event or activity for which you would like our support? Get in touch via email to: communityengagementasa@defence.gov.au