



Project Overview

Osborne Submarine Construction Yard Project

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The Australian Submarine Agency (ASA) is the single point of accountability for Australia’s conventionally-armed, nuclear-powered submarine program. As part of the AUKUS trilateral agreement between Australia, the United Kingdom and the United States, the new submarine fleet, known as SSN-AUKUS, will be built in Adelaide, South Australia. The delivery of this capability will be a transformative and inter-generational program, for industry in South Australia, with the first Australian SSN-AUKUS build beginning before the end of this decade.

The SSN-AUKUS construction will be supported by an expansion of the existing Osborne Naval Shipyard, to accommodate a new Submarine Construction Yard (OSCY). The preferred site for the yard is located on the Lefevre Peninsula approximately 19km north of Adelaide.

Over the next few years, it is estimated at least \$2 billion will be invested in South Australian infrastructure. At its peak – the design and build of the infrastructure for the OSCY is expected to employ up to 4,000 workers – almost double the workforce forecast for the Attack Class program.

Strategic Assessment Process

Under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act), the Project is required to undertake environmental assessments to understand potential impacts on protected matters related to the construction and operation of the OSCY.



Figure 1 – Strategic Assessment area.

The Strategic Assessment Agreement includes the development of:

- Terms of Reference (TOR) – describes the assessment requirements of the Strategic Impact Assessment Report (the Report).
- Plan – describes the kinds of activities that will be undertaken as a part of the construction and operation of the SCY.
- Report – assesses the impact of the activities against the assessment requirements described in the TOR.

The draft TOR was made available for public comment from 4 December 2023 to 28 January 2024. The finalised TOR is available on the ASA website:

<https://www.asa.gov.au/projects/osborne-submarine-construction-yard-environmental-approvals>

The ASA is now preparing the Plan and draft Report to detail the proposed construction and operation of the OSCY and provide an assessment of the potential environmental impacts.

Once complete, the Report will be made available for public review and comment. During this time, there will be opportunities for the community and key stakeholders to learn more about the Project and ask questions.

Feedback will be reviewed at the end of the comment period, and amendments made to the Report where relevant. The revised document will then be submitted to the Federal Minister for the Environment and Water, through the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) for consideration.



Strategic Assessment Key Milestones

DCCEEW and ASA agree to undertake a Strategic Assessment of OSCY.

Terms of Reference available for public comment.

Terms of Reference Finalised by Minister.

Preparation of Plan and draft Report.

Draft Report open for public comment.

Finalisation of Report and consideration by the Minister.

Report published on ASA and DCCEEW websites.

We are here

Commonly asked questions

What is the Australian Submarine Agency?

The ASA was established on 1 July 2023, to safely and securely acquire, construct, deliver, technically govern, sustain and dispose of Australia's conventionally-armed nuclear-powered submarine capability, via the AUKUS partnership.

What will the OSCY site be used for?

The OSCY will transform Osborne into one of the most advanced technological hubs in the world. Once constructed, Australian workers will begin manufacturing components for use on the UK and US production lines, before starting construction of the first Australian-built nuclear-powered submarine, the SSN-AUKUS.

When will construction begin on submarines?

The build for the first Australian nuclear-powered submarine will start by the end of this decade, at Osborne Submarine Construction Yard.

Will there be any environmental impacts on the surrounding waterways or land?

The Report will provide a thorough assessment of any impacts that may occur during construction and operation of the Project. The Report will also include proposed mitigation methods and offset measures for identified impacts.

What happens now?

The draft Report is being prepared and will be published for public review and comment later this year.

During this time, there will be opportunities to read the Report, contact the ASA and submit feedback. The ASA is committed to keeping the community informed about the Project and values community contributions.

Where can I get updated information?

Updates can be found on the ASA website, and we will also publish notifications about upcoming engagement events you can attend.

What if I have other questions?

We encourage you to send any questions or other enquiries about OSCY to asa.osborne.enquiries@defence.gov.au

