



Western Australia QUARTERLY UPDATE June 2025



Welcome to the third edition of the WA Quarterly Update. The Australian Submarine Agency is committed to informing our community in Western Australia about our progress in delivering the AUKUS Optimal Pathway. To read more about our Agency, including reading the first two editions of this newsletter, please visit our website at www.asa.gov.au/aucus. Got questions? Send them to communityengagementasa@defence.gov.au

Rockingham – a key focus in AUKUS delivery

The prominence of Rockingham and the Perth South West metropolitan region to the AUKUS endeavour was brought into sharp focus during April with three key events highlighting the scale of opportunity. On 3 April 2025, the Perth South West Metropolitan Alliance (the local governments of Cockburn, Fremantle, East Fremantle, Kwinana, Melville and Rockingham) received a briefing from leaders of ASA and the Department of Defence as part of a broader, Major Projects Update.

Later in April, Jeremy Coghlan, Assistant Director General Industrial Uplift (pictured below left) and Lachlan Colquhoun, Special Adviser – Strategic Priorities, Naval Shipbuilding and Sustainment Group (NSSG), hosted the latest of ASA's WA Industry Roundtables with local chambers of commerce. The strength and diversity of this group is growing, with representatives of WA's First Nations business advocacy groups (Gnaala Karla Booja Corporation and Noongar Chamber of Commerce and Industry) plus the Women in Defence Australia group in attendance for the first time. A candid and collaborative Q&A session explored themes of leadership and community partnership. Participants committed to sharing information about how local businesses can prepare for, and benefit from, the immense tripartite AUKUS supply chain.



On 30 April, the Rockingham Kwinana Chamber of Commerce and the City of Rockingham hosted their fifth annual Defence and Naval Industry Conference, featuring presentations from ASA, NSSG, senior leaders from Navy, and our AUKUS partner nations through the Consuls General of the UK and US.

Priority infrastructure works at HMAS Stirling approved

On 27 May 2025, the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water issued its approval decision notice and conditions of approval for Defence's Submarine Rotational Force-West (SRF-West) Priority Infrastructure Project at HMAS Stirling under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act). The SRF-West project will deliver new and upgraded facilities and infrastructure to support the rotational presence of UK and US nuclear-powered submarines from as early as 2027. SRF-West is integral to Australia's acquisition of this new and transformative uplift in our sovereign defence capability from the early 2030s. Defence is committed to meeting all of the project approval conditions, which are available on the EPBC Act Public Portal online at: <https://epbcpublicportal.environment.gov.au/all-notices/project-decision/?id=2548f5c1-e7d6-ef11-8eea-7c1e52627465>.

ARPANSA public consultation

The Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency (ARPANSA) recently held public consultation regarding ASA's construction licence application for a Controlled Industrial Facility. The facility will be a technical and engineering industrial workshop for servicing and repair of naval nuclear propulsion components and tools. It will also manage and store low-level radioactive material from routine submarine operations, which is similar in levels to waste that is currently managed safely at more than 100 locations around Australia. Thank you to everyone who made a submission. To view the community information session online, or to read answers to FAQs, visit: <https://consult.arpansa.gov.au/hub/asa-construction-cif/>

ANZAC spirit drives sporting excellence

The ASA's Submarine Rotational Force-West recently encountered another type of Western Force - the Southern Lions Rugby Union Football Club - when ASA and Defence representatives attended the club's ANZAC round matches on 26 April 2025. Activities included bouncing castles, Western Force rugby skills activities and military ration pack taste testing.

In the last month, ASA also hosted pop-up kiosks to raise awareness within the Cities of Cockburn and Rockingham of the NPS Program, and undertook regional outreach at the Kalgoorlie Careers Fair to provide information about exciting and high-skill employment pathways available through ASA.



Henderson Defence Precinct transformation now one step closer

The invitation for industry to work with Defence to develop an initial master plan for Henderson Defence Precinct and provide ideas on how the hub could be delivered represents a significant milestone in the Henderson Consolidation Program.

This invitation for industry to register their interest as a design services consultancy was released via Austender on 30 May 2025 as the first step in a two-stage process. Defence will then down select and invite suitably qualified and experienced organisations to submit a tender for the design works. The selected industry partner (or partners) will provide specialist infrastructure design advice and work with a range of stakeholders to create an initial master plan for the precinct.



The contract will be covered as part of the initial commitment announced by the Australian Government of \$127 million over three years to fund planning, critical infrastructure enabling works, and preliminary design and feasibility studies.

In parallel, market sounding activities will gauge industry's interest, capacity and ability to design, invest in and operate the precinct across a range of sectors. Delivery will be through a phased approach based on Defence's capability requirements, and requirement to minimise impacts to existing services and businesses in the region.

These activities will be completed in time to support:

- contingency docking capability and supporting infrastructure and facilities for nuclear-powered submarines – delivered at Henderson from the early 2030s;
- depot-level maintenance of nuclear-powered submarines – delivered at Henderson from the late 2030s; and
- a large-vessel docking capability from the early 2030s.

One of Defence's largest ever infrastructure projects, the establishment of a consolidated Commonwealth-owned shipbuilding and sustainment Defence precinct at Henderson will provide a significant injection into the Western Australian economy and build sovereign Defence shipbuilding and sustainment industry in the region.

Together with activities at HMAS Stirling, more than 10,000 jobs will be created for Western Australian industry. Delivery will be through a phased approach based on Defence's capability requirements, and requirement to minimise impacts to existing services and businesses in the region.

Sharing our progress with UK partners



Western Australia recently hosted a high-level visit by the UK Minister for Defence Procurement and Industry, the Rt Hon Maria Eagle MP, in a tangible show of support from our AUKUS partners as priority works on the island gather pace. Accompanied by the UK's newly appointed High Commissioner to Australia, Dame Sarah MacIntosh DCMG, Minister Eagle's visit in late May primarily focussed on the progress of the AUKUS partnership and highlighted broader defence collaboration with the UK. Both are pictured (left) following a meeting with Governor of Western Australia, HE Chris Dawson AC APM at Government House. Further building momentum in this pivotal relationship, Premier of Western Australia, The Hon Roger Cook MLA and WA Minister for Defence Industries and Veterans Affairs, The Hon Paul Papalia CSC MLA, visited the UK for meetings with senior leaders and industry partners in late June.

Regional outreach begins with Peel

Underscoring the importance of sharing the economic uplift of the NPS Program beyond Perth's immediate South West region, the ASA WA Engagement team has fostered a new partnership with the City of Mandurah and the Peel region. In March, the team held meetings with Mayor Caroline Knight, CEO Casey Mihovilovich, and leaders from the Peel Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the local Regional Development Commission. The Peel region is keen to seize on opportunities, particularly for the upskilling of their local young people and discussions are underway on further outreach. Within a fortnight of the meeting, our team hosted a pop up kiosk at Mandurah Forum (pictured right), sharing information on the opportunities now available.



ASA

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visit our website:

www.asa.gov.au

In your community

The Australian Submarine Agency has permanent representatives in WA who engage directly to provide timely and accurate information and updates on our progress and local opportunities.

If you have an event you would like us to support, email us at:
communityengagementasa@defence.gov.au