



Western Australia QUARTERLY UPDATE



Welcome to the fifth edition of the WA Quarterly Update. The Australian Submarine Agency (ASA) is committed to informing our community in Western Australia about our progress towards delivering the AUKUS Optimal Pathway. To read more about our agency, including reading previous editions of this newsletter, please visit our website at www.asa.gov.au
Got questions? Send them to: communityengagement.asa@defence.gov.au

Highlights from recent industry and community engagements

March 2026 was a busy month for the submarine enterprise in WA, with industry and government coming together to strengthen collaboration and capability under AUKUS.

An Introduction to AUKUS Opportunities briefing to the defence industry and adjacent industries was held on 4 March. This was followed by an AUKUS roundtable on 9 March for local WA heads of industry, chambers of commerce and local councils; and the Submarine Sustainment Industry Seminar on 12 March, where Australian and UK government representatives, UK primes and local suppliers explored immediate and long term submarine sustainment opportunities under AUKUS.

On the community front, the ASA had a presence at the Irwin Barracks Open Day on 14 March and the University of Western Australia (UWA) Careers Fair on 17 March.

Together, these events reflect ASA's ongoing commitment to build awareness of Australia's Nuclear-Powered Submarine (NPS) Program in the broader community.



WA hosts first UK submarine maintenance visit

The arrival of HMS Anson to HMAS *Stirling* on 22 February 2026 marked the first time a UK Submarine Maintenance Period (SMP) has been undertaken in Australia on a nuclear-powered submarine.

During the UK SMP, Australian personnel worked closely with AUKUS partners on maintenance and familiarisation activities, strengthening the skills, systems and supply chains required for routine maintenance of nuclear-powered submarines.

Demonstrating AUKUS in action, Australian-made parts were fitted by the Royal Australian Navy (RAN) to the submarine under US Navy diver supervision, and using US dive equipment. The seawater strainers, which are protective filtration units fitted to a submarine's seawater intakes, were designed, fabricated and quality-assured in WA by RAN's Fleet Support Unit – West (FSU-W) personnel.

This milestone further builds on previous SMPs on US nuclear-powered submarines in 2025 and 2024. AUKUS SMPs help steadily grow Australian skills and workforce as we approach the commencement of SRF-West in 2027 and our own acquisition of nuclear-powered submarines.

For more about the UK SMP, head to: <https://www.asa.gov.au/uk-submarine-maintenance-period-2026>



Photographer: LAC Thomas Clarke-Kelly



SRF-West Project works update

Construction on the new submariner training centre at HMAS *Stirling* (the SSN Training Centre) continues at pace, with all concrete pours now completed. External precast panel installation commenced in late 2025 and is continuing. Blockwork, ducting and other internal services have commenced and are progressing well. The training centre will provide specialist practical and simulated training facilities for submariners to enable the safe operation of nuclear-powered submarines.

Construction of two junior sailor Live-In Accommodation blocks on HMAS *Stirling* are now complete and going through handover for operation.

In keeping with Defence's commitment to reduce traffic impacts to the Rockingham community, the Project has upgraded the HMAS *Stirling* base entrance with an additional vehicle lane and security checkpoint to improve traffic flow on Point Peron Road.

Defence has updated the Construction Environment Management Plan (CEMP) ahead of construction commencement of regulated landside works and maritime trial piling. Further information can be found at: <https://www.defence.gov.au/srf-west>



SSN Training Centre looking West. Full eastern elevation showing precast panel installation commencement to perimeter.



Living-in Accommodation – Junior, HMAS *Stirling* External.



Base Entry Upgrade, HMAS *Stirling*.

From classroom to capability: Defence sector opens doors for engineers

Engineering students gained valuable insight into career opportunities in WA's defence and defence-related industries after attending Curtin University's Defence Industries Orientation Program (DIOP) session on 27 January 2026.

Toff Idrus, ASA Assistant Director-General, Henderson Infrastructure (NPS) and Captain Shaun "Coco" Southwood from the Royal Navy shared personal reflections on career pathways, challenges and advice for students.

They outlined why maritime security is important to Australia, how different disciplines of engineering link to various aspects of AUKUS and the NPS Program, and their experiences of serving on submarines.

Curtin's DIOP is designed for Science and Engineering students entering their second year of studies, and combines classroom learning with industry site visits and engagement sessions to introduce students to opportunities across WA's rapidly expanding defence sector.



Upcoming events

Come and have a chat with ASA representatives or other defence related organisations at the following local and community events:

30 March: [Community Information Session on the NPS Program in the Perth CBD](#)

31 March: [Community Information Session on the NPS Program in Rockingham](#)

1 April: [The Big Meet Careers Fair at the Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre](#)

25 May: [Women in Defence Association \(WiDA\) WA Q2 Networking](#)



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Australian Submarine Agency

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