

From Concept to Delivery

Three Years of Progress on the AUKUS Pathway

In March 2023, Australia, the United Kingdom and the United States agreed to the Optimal Pathway to deliver an enduring nuclear-powered submarine (SSN) capability for Australia which provides significant, long-term strategic benefits for all three countries.

Australia's acquisition of nuclear-powered submarines is the single biggest investment in our defence capability in our history and represents a transformational moment for our nation, our Defence Force and our economy.

All three AUKUS partners continue to make strong progress to ensure the success of AUKUS and to meet respective requirements and timelines for Australia's acquisition of conventionally-armed, nuclear-powered submarines.



Australian Government
Australian Submarine Agency



MAR 2023

Optimal Pathway Begins

AUKUS partners identify the Optimal Pathway that will enable Australia to safely and securely operate and sustain its own conventionally-armed, nuclear-powered submarine capability.



MAR 2023

First SSN Visit

US Los Angeles-class submarine, USS Asheville (SSN 758) completes the first SSN visit to HMAS Stirling following the announcement of the AUKUS Optimal Pathway.



JUL 2023

ASA Established

The Australian Submarine Agency is established as the entity responsible and accountable for the management and oversight of Australia's nuclear-powered submarine program.



DEC 2023

Submarine Construction Yard Work Begins

Preliminary enabling work commences at the Nuclear Powered Submarine Construction Yard in South Australia.



MAR 2024

Shipbuilding and Sustainment Partners Selected

Australia selects ASC Pty Ltd and BAE Systems to build Australia's SSN-AUKUS submarines and ASC Pty Ltd as Australia's nuclear-powered submarine sustainment partner.



SEP 2024

Submarine Tendered Maintenance Period

The Submarine Tendered Maintenance Period occurs at HMAS Stirling, marking the first time Australian personnel directly participate in the maintenance of a nuclear-powered submarine in Australia. The month-long visit by USS Hawaii (SSN-776), was supported by a tender ship, the USS Emory S. Land (AS-29).



NOV 2024

Priority works start at HMAS Stirling

Construction begins on priority facilities at HMAS Stirling to support rotations of US and UK nuclear-powered submarines and for Australia's sovereign SSNs.



NOV 2025

First Australian Company Qualified Through DIVQ

First Australian company qualified under the Defence Industry Vendor Qualification (DIVQ) Program to create opportunities for Australian businesses to supply parts for US Virginia class submarines.



NOV 2025

Submarine Maintenance Period

Australian personnel carry out a complex package of maintenance work on USS Vermont (SSN-792), a US Virginia class submarine, visiting HMAS Stirling in preparation for Submarine Rotational Force – West (SRF-West).



NOV 2025

Regulator Established

The Australian Naval Nuclear Power Safety Regulator (ANNPSR) was set up as Australia's independent regulator for naval nuclear propulsion. It's mission is to protect the environment and people by providing independent assurance for nuclear safety of Australia's nuclear-powered submarine program, while supporting Australia's Defence interests and the AUKUS partnership.



SEP 2025

Henderson Defence Precinct

The Australian Government announces \$12 billion of investment towards delivering a Defence Precinct at Henderson to deliver continuous naval shipbuilding and AUKUS in Western Australia.



MAR 2025

Australia's AUKUS Submarine Industry Strategy

The Australian Government launches Australia's AUKUS Submarine Industry Strategy, providing greater clarity to industry to grow and enter AUKUS supply chains.



MAR 2025

AUSSQ Pilot Launched

The Australian Submarine Supplier Qualification Pilot (AUSSQ) launches to accelerate the identification and qualification of Australian suppliers and products into the US submarine industrial base.



MAR 2025

Skills and Training Academy

Ground works commence at the site for the Skills and Training Academy Campus at Osborne, South Australia.



FEB 2026

Funding for Osborne Submarine Construction Yard

The Australian Government announces it will invest \$3.9 billion as a down payment to deliver the new Submarine Construction Yard in Osborne.



MAR 2026

First UK SSN Submarine Maintenance Period

The first maintenance period on a UK nuclear-powered submarine in Australia is carried out on the Royal Navy's HMS Anson during a visit to HMAS Stirling.

2027

SRF-West Starts

UK and US conventionally-armed, nuclear-powered submarines begin a rotational presence in Australia known as SRF-West. SRF-West provides Australia with the experience and skills required to operate our own future fleet of nuclear-powered submarines.

LATE 2020s

AUKUS-class Submarine Construction Underway

Construction on the first Australian-built SSN-AUKUS submarine begins at the Osborne Naval shipyard in Adelaide.

EARLY 2030s

Australia's First Nuclear-Powered Submarine Delivered

Australia receives its first Virginia Class SSN from the US. This acquisition will eliminate any capability gap and increase the three AUKUS nations' ability to deter aggression and contribute to peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific region.

EARLY 2040s

SSN-AUKUS Delivered

The first Australian-built, SSN-AUKUS submarine delivered.

2040s & BEYOND

Full Fleet Capability

Australia continues to build, sustain and operate our sovereign fleet of conventionally-armed, nuclear-powered submarines, in partnership with the US and UK, contributing to stability in the Indo-Pacific region and globally.



Australian Government
Australian Submarine Agency

ASA

The Nuclear Powered Submarine Program is the most significant industrial and technical endeavour in Australia's history. The program will deliver a major boost to Australian industry, jobs, infrastructure and our defence capability for decades to come, helping keep Australians safe.



3 Nations

Working together to better contribute to a sovereign and resilient Indo-Pacific.



20,000 jobs

Highly skilled jobs across Australia over the coming decades.



\$71-\$96 billion

Total planned investment over the decade to 2035-36, through the 2026 Integrated Investment Program.



OPTIMAL PATHWAY

Embeds and Industrial Workforce (From 2023)

Increasing Port Visits (From 2023)

SRF-West (As early as 2027)



Australia Sovereign Ready (Early 2030s)

Australian Virginia Class Submarines



Australian Shipyard Design and Construction (From 2023)

Construction of SSN-AUKUS (During the 2020s)

Planned Delivery of UK's First SSN-AUKUS (Late 2030s)

Planned Delivery of Australia's First SSN-AUKUS (In early 2040s)



Collins Class Capability



2023

2033

2043

2053

Stewardship Pathway

MORE INFORMATION

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