



Western Australia QUARTERLY UPDATE

ASA
AUSTRALIAN
SUBMARINE
AGENCY

Welcome to the seventh 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

Henderson sets course for Australia's submarine future

A major AUKUS milestone has been reached with the announcement of the preferred site for the Henderson Defence Precinct within the Australian Marine Complex. The site layout includes the preferred location for the Government's naval shipbuilding and sustainment activities, and for the sustainment of Australia's future conventionally armed nuclear-powered submarines (SSNs).

The precinct will deliver key infrastructure, including the facilities for deeper maintenance known as 'depot-level', and contingency maintenance, both of which occur out of water. A contingency dry dock capability and associated sustainment infrastructure will play a critical role in ensuring the long-term readiness and availability of Australia's future submarines.

It will also have shipbuilding facilities capable of constructing larger and more complex vessels, and a modern sustainment yard for Australia's surface combatant fleet.

The Henderson Defence Precinct will create an intergenerational pipeline of continuous naval shipbuilding and sustainment in Western Australia and, together with activities at HMAS *Stirling*, support around 10,000 jobs over the next two decades while helping grow the skilled workforce required to deliver Australia's future submarine capability.

More information is available at: <https://www.defence.gov.au/business-industry/industry-capability-programs/continuous-naval-shipbuilding-sustainment-enterprise/henderson-defence-precinct>.



Artist impression of the Floating Dry Dock that will be located at the Henderson Defence Precinct

SRF-West Priority Works annual compliance report now available

Defence has published the first Annual Compliance Report for the Submarine Rotational Force – West (SRF-West) Priority Works project at HMAS *Stirling*. The report is required under the project's Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act) approval conditions and outlines how environmental responsibilities were managed during the reporting period.

The report includes information on environmental monitoring and survey activities, as well as the environmental protection and management measures implemented on site.

It also provides data on vegetation clearing and protected species, helping to demonstrate how environmental impacts are monitored and managed throughout the project.

Publishing the report supports transparency and helps the Australian Government, regulators and the community understand how Defence is managing environmental risks associated with the project.

The report is available on the project website: <https://www.defence.gov.au/about/accessing-information/environmental-compliance-reports/submarine-rotational-force-west>.



Partially fledged penguin chick at a nest site near Oxley Wharf, June 2026

Defence Sector 101 connects First Nations businesses with defence opportunities

As AUKUS gathers momentum in Western Australia, new opportunities are emerging for local businesses across defence industry supply chains, infrastructure and construction projects at HMAS *Stirling* and Henderson, and a broad range of facilities management and logistics services.

To help First Nations businesses better understand and access these opportunities, the ASA recently hosted a *Defence 101* session at the Chamber of Commerce and Industry WA. Around 90 representatives from First Nations businesses attended the event, representing industries including construction, manufacturing, labour hire and facilities services.

Designed as an introduction to the defence sector, the session provided practical advice on becoming "defence ready". Topics included entering the defence industry, understanding AUKUS supply chains, accessing government procurement and grant opportunities, navigating security clearances, and connecting with key contacts across government and industry.

Speakers from the ASA, Department of Defence, Office of Defence Industry Support, Defence West, ASC and the Henderson Alliance shared insights into the breadth of opportunities available and the pathways for businesses seeking to engage with the sector.

A key message from the event was that prior defence experience is not required to get started. Whether looking to grow an existing business, diversify into new markets or explore opportunities arising from AUKUS, attendees were encouraged to see defence as an accessible pathway for future growth.

New report establishes environmental baseline for HMAS *Stirling*

The ASA has released its Radiological Environmental Monitoring Program Baseline Assessment for HMAS *Stirling*, marking an important step ahead of the commencement of SRF-West next year.

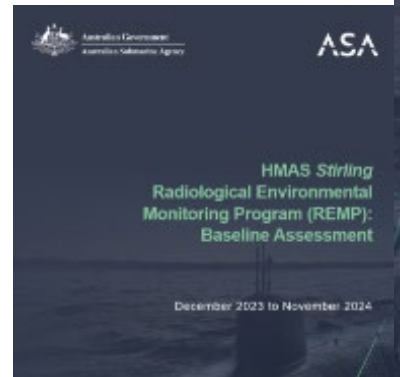
As responsible stewards of naval nuclear propulsion technology, the ASA is committed to protecting our people, the public and the environment from the harmful effects of ionising radiation.

Conducted over a 12-month period throughout 2024, the assessment measured existing levels of radioactivity in the environment surrounding HMAS *Stirling*. The results establish the environmental radiological baseline prior to increased visits by UK and US nuclear-powered submarines under SRF-West.

The baseline assessment will inform the ongoing Radiological Environmental Monitoring Program at HMAS *Stirling*. Results collected through this program will be compared annually to the levels established in the baseline.

The ASA is committed to ensuring that the Nuclear-Powered Submarine Program meets the highest standards of environmental protection and provides transparency of results to foster confidence in the community.

For more information, visit: <https://www.asa.gov.au/aukus/nuclear-stewardship>



Join 500 visitors exploring the Submarine Discovery Centre

The Submarine Discovery Centre reached 500 visitors within its first month of operation after opening on 17 June 2026.

The community response highlights growing interest in Australia's future submarine capability and the opportunities being created through Nuclear-Powered Submarine Program.

Whether you're interested in local history, technology, engineering, future jobs, or simply curious about what's happening in Rockingham, the Centre offers something for everyone to discover.

Haven't visited yet? The Centre is located at the Gary Holland Community Centre, 19 Kent Street, Rockingham and is open Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 10am – 2pm. For further information, visit <https://www.asa.gov.au/submarine-discovery-centre>.

