



National Bosun's Call



Vol 5 No 6

Once Navy, Always Navy

July 2024

First step in boosting Navy's undersea warfare and strike capability



An artist's impression of the BAE Systems SEA 000 Future Frigate, Global Combat Ship - Australia.

21 JUNE 2024

Today, the Australian Government has taken another significant step in delivering Navy's enhanced lethality surface combatant fleet with construction commencing on the first Hunter Class Frigate.

This major milestone was marked by the Deputy Prime Minister and the Premier of South Australia cutting the first piece of steel to be used on the first ship of the class.

Earlier this year, it was announced the most significant investment in Navy's surface fleet in decades. This included a commitment to build six Hunter class frigates in South Australia to significantly improve Navy's undersea warfare and strike capability.

The contract for the construction phase for the first three Hunter Class Frigates has now been signed by Defence and BAE Systems Australia, with the first Hunter Class Frigate expected to be operational in 2034.

Construction of the Hunter Class Frigates will take place at the Osborne Naval Shipyard as part of the Albanese Government's commitment to continuous naval shipbuilding in South Australia.

The construction phase of the Hunter Class Frigate Program will run for 20 years.

At its peak this program will support around 3,000 direct jobs and will support a further 5,000 indirect jobs across the Australian supply chain.

These jobs are in addition to the thousands of highly skilled workers that will be required to build our AUKUS submarines and extend the life of the Collins class submarines, both of which will also take place at Osborne in South Australia.

The Hunter Class Frigates are a key component of the Albanese Government's commitment to ensure the Royal Australian Navy has a surface fleet with high levels of lethality and deterrence in a time of increased global uncertainty.

Quotes attributable to Deputy Prime Minister, the Hon Richard Marles MP:

"This first milestone is not just about cutting steel; we are supporting Australian workers to build frigates in an Australian yard, supporting Australian industry.

"Continuous naval shipbuilding is how Australia will grow its shipbuilding and sustainment workforce, industry, and infrastructure.

(Continued on page 3)



National Newsletter of the
Naval Association of Australia



Commemorating Australian service *in* Timor-Leste

In 2024, the Australian Government will mark the 25th anniversary of Australian service in Timor-Leste with a televised National Commemorative Service (service).

Where: Australian Peacekeeping Memorial, Anzac Parade, Canberra

When: 9:30am, 20 September 2024

Attendees are encouraged to plan their journey and arrival times carefully. The site will open at 8:30am and you are requested to arrive prior to 9:30am.

You are encouraged to use public transport, where possible, to attend the service as car parking is extremely limited.

Seating is available for this service. Accessible seating and support are provided to those who have indicated a need for accessible assistance when registering their intent to attend the service.

You are encouraged to register your intent to attend this service at dva.gov.au/timor-leste25.

Study for 'Dili wharf' (Watercolour, pencil on paper. 38.3 x 57cm AWM ART91056) P04652



More information:
dva.gov.au/timor-leste25



Australian Government
Department of Veterans' Affairs

**The Naval Association of Australia Inc Patron-in-Chief His Majesty, King Charles III
ABN 56 653 989 978**

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First step in boosting Navy's undersea warfare and strike capability

(Continued from page 1)

“This milestone exemplifies our government’s commitment to deliver continuous naval shipbuilding in South Australia and a future made in Australia, by Australians.

“This project will support highly skilled Australian jobs, including around 3,000 direct jobs at its peak and a further 5,000 indirect jobs through the Australia supply chain.”

Quotes attributable to Premier of South Australia, Peter Malinauskas:

“This is a momentous day for our state.

“The construction of the frigates locks in a pipeline of continuous naval shipbuilding in South Australia, delivering thousands of secure, well paid jobs for generations to come.

“This delivery of frigates alongside SSN-AUKUS submarines puts South Australia front and centre in the most crucial of national endeavors.

“It also represents a step change in our state’s economic complexity, which will help improve the standard of living for South Australians more broadly.”

MEDIA NOTE: Media can access imagery at <http://images.defence.gov.au/S20241743>

Type	Frigate, Guided Missile (FFG)
Roles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anti-submarine warfare • Air defence • Surface warfare • Surveillance and intelligence • Interdiction • Humanitarian assistance and disaster relief
Builder	BAE Systems Maritime Australia /ASC Shipbuilding
Displacement	Stability Lightship 8,167 tonnes (Feb 23)
Length	149.9 metres
Beam	20.8 metres
Propulsion	Combined Diesel Electric or Gas (CODLOG)
Speed	27+ knots (top speed)
Range	7000nm (electric motor drive)
Weapons	MU90 torpedoes Mk45 Mod 4 5" gun SM2 & ESSM missiles <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advanced anti-ship missiles • Mk41 vertical launch system • 2 x 30mm short range gun • 2 x 20mm close-in weapons system
Aircraft	1 x MH-60R helicopter
Company	183 crew not including embarked flight. Accommodation for up to 208

HMAS ANZAC III Decommissioning Address—Chief of Navy

18 May 2024

Good afternoon Minister King, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen and most importantly the crew of HMAS *Anzac*.

It is indeed a pleasure to be here for this milestone event. I would like to acknowledge HMAS *Anzac*'s crew, those who previously served as members of ship's company, and their families who supported their service. I acknowledge those members of *Anzac*'s decommissioning crew who are unable to join us today; many of them are at sea. I would also like to acknowledge the 1,740 Australian sailors and Officers who are at sea in service on the nation at this time.

Today, the 18 May 2024, we are gathered here to farewell the First Lady of the Fleet, Anzac Class Frigate, HMAS *Anzac* (III). Today is both a day of sadness and a day of pride. Today marks the 28th anniversary of *Anzac*'s commissioning in 1996. During her distinguished career, she has steamed more than 784,000 nautical miles and spent more than 64,000 hours underway. I relayed these statistics to the Head of TKMS, the German shipbuilder, whose design precedes HMAS *Anzac*. Suffice to say, he was stunned by the amount of mileage we put in these ships across the Indo Pacific.

This is not just an Australian warship. This ship has been a sanctuary for so many Australians who served in peace and war, for our allies and partners, and at times, for mariners in distress at sea. It is also a floating embassy, welcomed in the ports across the Indo Pacific as an expression of Australian Government intent and priorities, wherever her course and deployment schedule has taken her. It is indeed appropriate to recognise that every sailor on parade, every Officer in uniform is indeed a diplomat in service of our nation. It is very difficult to say goodbye to such a tremendous team.

3,813 of our Navy people called this ship their own. As they walked her humble decks, *Anzac* was their home away from home. While only a few, relatively speaking, have borne her name, they have all served with distinction. She is a ship built by Australians, in Australia, for Australia and crewed by Australians. She has been operated and sustained by Australia for 28 years, although of course a few Kiwis have been involved along the way. I would

like to acknowledge the New Zealanders who have joined us here today.

Anzac has achieved much in her service to the nation. Her missions have spanned from the Pacific Ocean to the Indian Ocean. From the Southern Ocean to the Yellow Sea, most of the waters in between and of course, in conflict in the Persian Gulf.

Anzac's service to the nation was varied and valorous. From contributing to peacekeeping, counter-terrorism, combat, environmental or ceremonial missions, she steamed faithfully under the Australian

White Ensign, which flies proudly on her stern. A symbol of national power and of national pride, she bears a sacred name known to all Australians. Some of the highlights of her service include:

In 1999, she contributed to INTERFET, the Australian-led peacekeeping force to East Timor.

In 2000, she answered a mayday distress call, here off the coast of Fremantle, launching her ship's boat in six metre swells and 40 knot

winds, enabling a medical team to render first aid to a critically injured mariner.

She deployed to the Persian Gulf three times, including deploying with HM ships *Marlborough*, *Chatham* and *Richmond* in 2003, contributing to the Battle of Al-Faw as part of Operation FALCONER. During this mission, *Anzac* provided naval gunfire support assisting the Royal Marines to secure oil terminals on the Al-Faw Peninsula before Iraqi forces could destroy them.

Anzac was called upon to target Iraqi command, bunker, and artillery positions. This was the first time since the Vietnam War that an Australian warship had provided naval gunfire support and fired guns in anger. The salvos from her 5-inch guns were accurate and highly effective, resulting in the withdrawal or surrender of Iraqi forces.

Anzac also contributed to important environmental missions, including deploying to the Southern Ocean to target illegal fishing around Heard and McDonald Islands within the Australian Fisheries Zone.

Anzac twice participated in commemorative activities on the Gallipoli Peninsula in Turkey for the



HMAS ANZAC III Decommissioning Address Chief of Navy

ninetieth and the one hundredth anniversaries of the *Anzac* landings. On both occasions, *Anzac* was positioned in *Anzac* Cove for the dawn service, providing a fitting backdrop to a service that commemorates the spirit and sacrifice that led to her name.

In 2012, *Anzac* was deployed to the Arabian Sea under Operation SLIPPER as part of the International Coalition Against Terrorism.

Anzac's storied history is testament to the professionalism and dedication of all who have had the honour to serve in this honourable ship. Today is an opportunity for them and their families to say a final goodbye.

It is pleasing to see so many family members here today. Remember that *Anzac* and her crews could not have achieved anything without the support of their families and their loved ones at home. It is indeed a fact, that our power at sea is derived from your strength, your resilience and your support and love for your sailors and Officers. I thank you for your service.

Today, we pay final tribute to HMAS *Anzac*, all 118 metres and 3,600 tonnes of her. We also pay tribute to members of *Anzac's* ships company past and present and their families who sacrificed time away from their loved ones while *Anzac* steamed far from home. In service of our navy and our nation.

Bravo Zulu HMAS *Anzac* – your watch is almost over. United we stand.



13-UBER to help seniors ride,, connect

Uber launches a new phone-call based booking service that allows Australians to book rides simply by dialing 13-UBER (13 82 37), as part of its commitment to improving access to transportation options for older Australians.

For older adults who are not as comfortable booking rides via an app, dialing 13 82 37 any day will connect riders with an Uber team member who will assist them with booking a ride on demand or scheduling one for up to 90 days in advance. The phone line is available between 5AM and 8PM local time to Australians in every area that Uber operates, which includes up to 43 cities and towns across the country including Canberra.

The newly launched 13-UBER service has been developed to enable greater accessibility and support mobility and connection for older Australians. It comes as new research commissioned by Uber found that 9 in 10 (93%) of Australians aged 65+ feel more confident booking a service via a phone call.

The Canberra Times on May 1 stated that to use this service "calls must be made from mobile devices that accept texts"

Copied from the Canberra North Laurel Club newsletter of 19 June 2024

A Laurel Club is a group of Legacy widows who meet once a month or go on outings. It is mainly for friendship and help for recently bereaved War widows accepted by Legacy - by way of a friendly phone call or chat.

**Recruit School HMAS Cerberus Shipp Division Graduation Parade
21 June 2024**



*Above:
Presented by
Graham Thomas, NAA National
Secretary, Recruit McGarry re-
ceives the Leadership Potential
Award at the graduation cere-
mony of General Entry 424 –
Shipp Division held at the Royal
Australian Navy Recruit School
in HMAS Cerberus, Victoria.
CDRE Greg Yorke SNO VIC is
at right of photo*



*Above:
Presented by Dutchy Andrews
on behalf of the Frankston Naval Me-
morial Club to Recruit Gap Year Abbott
who received the Sportsman of the
Intake Award at the graduation cere-
mony of General Entry 424 – Shipp Di-
vision, Recruit School staffer at right*



*Left:
Reviewing Officer, Director General
Digital Capability, Commodore Andrew
Willis, MVO, RAN, inspects the gra-
duates of General Entry 424 – Shipp Di-
vision*

Gloucester Cup for 2923 award

28 May 2024

Her Excellency the Honourable Frances Adamson AC, Governor of South Australia, presents Commander Simon O'Hehir, Commanding Officer of HMAS Rankin, with the Gloucester Cup, accompanied by Rear Admiral Chris Smith AM, CSM, Commander of the Australian Fleet.

Photo: PO Luke Scott



Change of Command— HMAS Hobart

5 June 2024

The Royal Australian Navy Hobart class guided missile destroyer, HMAS Hobart has undertaken an Indo-Pacific Regional Presence Deployment throughout South and Southeast Asia. During the deployment, Hobart conducted training, exercises and other engagements with Australia's regional partners and contributed to Operation ARGOS, the Australian Defence Force's contribution to international efforts to enforce United

Nations Security Council sanctions against North Korea. Regional Presence Deployments demonstrate Australia's commitment to, and engagement with, the region. These deployments play a vital role in Australia's long-term security and prosperity by protecting Australia's interests, preserving a rules-based order, enhancing cooperation and relationships with regional partners and allies, and developing capability and interoperability



Outgoing Commanding Officer HMAS Hobart, Commander Tina Brown, CSM, RAN shakes hands with incoming Commanding Officer HMAS Hobart, Commander Alisha Withers, RAN during a ceremony on board HMAS Hobart on return to Sydney after the completion of a Regional Presence Deployment i

Photo POIS Matthew Lyall



From: [REDACTED]
Date: Thu, Jul 4, 2024 at 7:57 AM
Subject: This is an excellent interview - especially for the ABC!
To: [REDACTED]

“The Truth is Out There”

To the best of my knowledge it has never again seen the light on any ABC or SBS TV which is interesting

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J50hWO2DKHc>

The youtube address takes you to an ABC News Radio Interview of 19 June 2024

Sarah Morice interviews Dr Adrian (Adi) Paterson who is a South African scientist and engineer best known for his work on [Pebble Bed modular reactor](#) research and development. He was CEO of the [Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation](#) (ANSTO) from March 2009 till September 2020. ^{[1][2]} (Wikipewdia)

More cost-of-living relief is on the way

24 June 2024

From 1 July 2024, veterans can earn more, and the value of their assets can be higher before their pension payments are affected. This is due to changes in the income free areas and asset value limits that are used to calculate rates of income support pensions, which will see these amount rise in line with the annual indexation process.

Different limits may apply for veterans who are assessed under transitional rules. Disability compensation payments and war widow (er)'s pensions are not subject to the income

and assets tests.

Related to these thresholds increasing, some recipients of the service pension, income support supplement, veteran payment and social security age pension may see an increase to their payments. Pensioners don't need to do anything to receive the increase.

The table below outlines the new limits and thresholds. For more information, including a summary of the new income and asset thresholds, pension rates and allowances please [visit the DVA payment rates page](#).

Changes to the Work Bonus

25 June 2024

Veterans and partners who receive the Service Pension, Income Support Supplement or Age Pension and are entitled to the Work Bonus will be able to earn more income from employment before it affects their pension entitlements.

Under the Work Bonus income test concession, the first \$300 of a person's fortnightly Work Bonus income is excluded from the income test. Where the fortnightly Work Bonus income is less than \$300 per fortnight, an eligible person will accrue the unused portion of the \$300 per fortnight income concession to a Work Bonus Bank, up to a maximum balance of \$11,800, to offset their income in the future.

Beginning 1 July 2024, former Work Bonus clients with a preserved Work Bonus Bank balance who are re-joining the scheme, may be eligible to receive a top-up to ensure their balance is equal to \$4,000 upon recommencement.

These changes will allow pensioners the opportunity to gain income without affecting their pension, which will improve the financial independence and wellbeing of veterans and their families.

More information about the Work Bonus is available in the video below or on the [DVA website](#).

Annual increase to travel allowances

The following symbols refer to the Table of **Annual increase to travel allowances** printed on Page 9

* A meal allowance is not paid on a day where an accommodation allowance is paid, as a meal component is already built into the accommodation allowance.

† This column refers to the number of times an allowance is paid when an entitled person travels with a medically required attendant. For instance, if an entitled person shares a room with an attendant, only the allowance for one room is paid for (x1). If they each have a single room, the allowance for both rooms is paid (x2).

	Single rate (fortnightly)	Couples rate - com- bined (fortnightly)
Amount of income an income support recipient may receive before their pension is reduced		
Service or Age Pension	\$212.00	\$372.00
Widow(er)'s Pension is included in these amounts) *	\$1,741.60	\$2,345.60
Maximum value of assets a person can have before their pension or supplement is affected		
Service or Age Pension		
Homeowner	\$314,000.00	\$470,000.00
Non-homeowner	\$566,000.00	\$722,000.00
Income Support Supplement*		
Homeowner	\$569,000.00	\$799,000.00
Non-homeowner	\$821,000.00	\$1,051,000.00
Deeming threshold	\$62,600.00	\$103,800.00
MRCA rates**	New rate (fortnightly)	
Maximum Permanent Impairment amount	\$843.44	
Maximum rate of Household Services	\$1,194.26	
Maximum rate of Attendant Care	\$1,194.26	
Dependent eligible young person	\$361.14	

*different limits apply if assessed under transitional rules

**rates in this table are fortnightly, not weekly rates

Annual increase to travel allowances

17 June 2024

Travel allowances for transport, meals and accommodation under DVA's Travel for Treatment Program will increase on 1 July 2024 in line with the Consumer Price Index.

The increase applies to travel by private vehicle as well as accommodation and meal allowances for all eligible veterans, war widows and widowers (entitled persons) travelling for treatment purposes or disability and income support claims under the *Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986*.

The intention of the program is to assist with travelling expenses for an entitled person and their medically required attendant, not necessarily to reimburse the entire cost incurred. While entitled persons can attend a provider of their choice, to receive the maximum benefit, travel should be to the Closest Practical Treatment Location.

The increases under the program apply to holders of:

- Veteran Gold Cards and Veteran White Cards (for specific conditions) eligible under the *Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986* who are entitled to assistance towards travelling expenses when travelling to receive treatment for an accepted service-related condition, or for treatment of a specific condition covered under Non-liability Health Care.
- Veteran Gold Cards under the *Australian Participants in British Nuclear Tests and British Commonwealth Occupation Force (Treatment) Act 2006* and the *Treatment Benefits (Special Access) Act 2019* who are entitled to assistance towards travelling expenses when attending approved treatment.

For any queries about travel for treatment allowances, contact DVA on 1800 VETERAN (1800 838 372). Further information is also available on the [DVA's website](#).

Type of allowance	Measure	New allowance from 1 July 2024	Travel with a medically required attendant †
Private vehicle	Per kilometre	43.3 cents	x1
Public, community or air transport	Actual fare	Actual fare	x2
Taxi transport	Actual fare	Actual fare	x1
Commercial accommodation non-capital city – single*	Per night	\$179.00	x2
Commercial accommodation capital city – single*	Per night	\$212.60	x2
Entitled person and medically required attendant – commercial accommodation – shared*	Per night	\$291.10	x1
Subsidised accommodation – single*	Per night	\$111.80	x2
Private accommodation*	Per night	\$55.70	x2
Meal allowance – more than 50 km but less than 200 km from entitled person's home to the treatment location	Per day	\$17.80	x2
Meal allowance – more than 200 km from entitled person's home to the treatment location	Per day	\$36.20	x2

Submarine Rotational Force – West Infrastructure Project

Overview

From as early as 2027, AUKUS partners will have a rotational presence at *Stirling* of one UK and up to 4 US, conventionally armed, nuclear-powered submarines. This rotational presence of UK and US nuclear-powered submarines at HMAS *Stirling* will be known as Submarine Rotational Force - West (SRF-West).

In preparation for SRF-West, infrastructure at *Stirling* will be upgraded and enhanced to meet the requirements for conventionally-armed, nuclear-powered submarines - both for visiting and rotational submarines and for Australia's own nuclear-powered submarines in the future.

Australia's Nuclear- Powered Submarine Program

On 14 March 2023, the respective leaders of Australia, the United Kingdom (UK), and the United States (US) - the AUKUS partners - jointly announced the Optimal Pathway for Australia to acquire conventionally armed, nuclear-powered submarines.

SRF-West will help Australia build the necessary operational capabilities and skills to be sovereign ready, so Australia can safely and securely own, operate, maintain and regulate a fleet of conventionally-armed, nuclear-powered submarines from the early 2030s.

Community information

Consultation

Consulting with stakeholders and local communities is an integral part of the planning process. Defence is committed to ensuring interested stakeholders and the community are both heard and informed across all phases of the Project.

The SRF-West, Priority Works, HMAS *Stirling* project was referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works (PWC) on 6 June 2024.

The PWC is now accepting public submissions.

Defence is planning a series of drop-in information sessions and community pop-up stalls in July 2024. The sessions are an informal setting for project team members to share more about the plans for infrastructure upgrades at HMAS *Stirling* and to answer any questions and provide an opportunity for feedback.

The dates and locations for these drop-in sessions will be advertised in local newspapers, Defence social media, and on this page.

Environmental referrals

Defence is preparing to submit 2 referrals to the Commonwealth Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) in mid-2024 and late-2024, for assessment under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Commonwealth) (EPBC Act).



Garden Island WA

Further details can be found in the factsheet:

[Submarine Rotational Force – West: Environmental assessment and approval \(PDF, 3.92 MB\)](#)

Roads and transport

Defence recognises the importance of adequate transport planning and local road upgrades in line with the increase in Defence activities at HMAS *Stirling*.

Defence works closely with the City of Rockingham and WA State Government on transport studies, including identifying opportunities for road upgrades to improve traffic flow for the local community. This cooperation includes a specific study on the Cape Peron Transport Needs that has been developed by the City of Rockingham under the Cape Peron Planning Investigation Area.

Housing

Defence is committed to working with community and local councils to ensure impacts are minimised and take consideration of the local economy, rental and housing markets, and access to schools and childcare centres.

Defence is considering a number of options to meet the long-term housing demands for the nuclear-powered submarine capability. Options will include a diverse range of housing stock in a number of different locations to reduce the impact on local services and community infrastructure.

Project details

Timeframe

Early Construction Works began in 2024 following Commonwealth Government approval in late 2023.

Subject to environment and government approvals, main construction works are expected to commence in 2025

First Royal Australian Navy Sailors Begin Training at US Submarine School

25 June 2024

Royal Australian Navy Enlisted Sailors pose for a photograph with their US peers at US Submarine School.

The US Naval Submarine School (Submarine School) in Groton welcomed its first cadre of nine enlisted sailors and the second cadre of three officers from the Royal Australian Navy on June 3rd and 10th respectively. These 12 Australians will train alongside their American counterparts to operate and maintain conventionally-armed, nuclear-powered submarines (SSNs).

The enrolment of Royal Australian Navy sailors at Submarine School marks another significant step for Australia's acquisition of conventionally-armed nuclear-powered submarines.

"We're excited to welcome these sailors and officers to Groton and build on the momentum of the first cohort of Australian officers to graduate from Submarine Officer Basic Course (SOBC) in April," said Capt. Matthew Fanning, Commanding Officer, Naval Submarine School.

"It is an honour to be part of the team that is delivering game-changing capabilities to one of the United States closest and staunchest allies."

Submarine School trains officers and enlisted personnel through two distinct but interrelated tracks: Submarine Officer Basic Course (SOBC) and Basic Enlisted Submarine School (BESS).

SOBC is the last step in the US Navy's submarine officer training pipeline, graduating over a thousand officers annually. BESS introduces enlisted sailors to the fundamentals of the construction and operation of today's nuclear-powered submarines.

The course covers everything from shipboard organisation to submarine safety and escape procedures. Following BESS, enlisted sailors will complete their pipeline training with classroom and skills training specific to their intended technical rating.

Upon graduation from pipeline schools, the Royal Australian Navy officers and sailors will be assigned to US SSNs for their first sea tour to further their knowledge and training.

"The Royal Australian Navy officers and sailors commencing their training at the U.S. Naval Submarine School represent the leading edge of Australia's future submarine fleet," said the Chief of the Royal Australian Navy, Vice Admiral Mark Hammond:

"Three Australian officers have already completed 14 months of intensive shore-based training, including Nuclear-Power School, nuclear propulsion training, and the Submarine Officer Basic Course before being assigned to U.S. Virginia class submarines. Our people are receiving world class training through our US and UK partners, and will play a crucial role for Australia's future SSN capability. I'm incredibly proud of their achievements representing the Royal Australian Navy."

"Australians are exceptional submariners," said Rear Admiral Lincoln Reifsteck, the US Navy's AUKUS Integration and Acquisition Program Manager. "The training they receive at the Submarine Learning Center will set them up for a successful tour aboard an American SSN, moving the Royal Australian Navy that much closer to operating sovereign, conventionally-armed, nuclear-powered submarines."

The number of Royal Australian Navy personnel training across the US will increase to over 100 in the next 12 months. Training Royal Australian Navy Sailors alongside their American counterparts will enhance interoperability across the submarine forces, which is a cornerstone of establishing Australia's sovereign nuclear-powered submarine capability.

ASA Media

Royal Australian Navy Sailors pose for a photograph with their US peers at US Submarine School.

Photo ASA





Australian Government

Australian Submarine Agency

NUCLEAR STEWARDSHIP AND WASTE

For over 60 years, the United Kingdom and United States have operated more than 500 naval nuclear reactors that have collectively travelled more than 240 million kilometres without a single radiological incident. UK and US SSNs have never experienced a reactor accident or release of radioactive material that has had an adverse effect on human health or the quality of the environment. A sophisticated security and safety architecture will surround Australia's nuclear-powered submarine (NPS) program, building on our 70-year unblemished track record of operating nuclear facilities and conducting nuclear science activities.

What is stewardship?

Australia uses the phrase 'nuclear stewardship' to describe the responsible planning, operation, application and management of nuclear material, technology, and facilities. As Australia will be a non-nuclear-weapon state with a naval nuclear propulsion capability, stewardship will also include the implementation of appropriate safeguard arrangements as agreed between Australia and the International Atomic Energy Agency.

Australia is unwavering in its commitment to safely and securely steward its nuclear-powered submarines, through their entire life cycles. It will also draw on the UK and US' decades of experience and world-leading expertise in delivering, operating and maintaining nuclear powered submarines.

What is the 'sovereign ready' milestone?

'Sovereign ready' is an important milestone on the pathway that will allow Australia to systematically and carefully develop its capacity and capability to steward submarines over time. It refers to the point at which Australia has the ability to safely own, operate, maintain and regulate a sovereign conventionally armed, nuclear-powered submarine capability.

The UK and the US are committed to supporting Australia to achieve this milestone before it receives conventionally-armed, nuclear-powered submarines. Australia's target date for achieving the 'sovereign ready' milestone is the early 2030s, enabling it to acquire its first Virginia class SSN from the US in the early 2030s.

How will Australia safely operate its nuclear-powered submarine capability?

Informed by UK and US expertise, Australia will develop a comprehensive safety management system to support the safe operation of Australia's nuclear-powered submarine enterprise. This will be underpinned by a system of regulation calibrated to the unique needs of Australia's SSN capability. Regulatory oversight will occur across the nuclear aspects of the submarine platform and supporting facilities and infrastructure, and will leverage the work of existing nuclear regulators.

How will Australia manage radioactive waste?

As a responsible nuclear steward, Australia will manage all radioactive waste from its nuclear powered submarines domestically. This includes radioactive waste with lower levels of radioactivity generated by day-to-day submarine operations and maintenance. And radioactive waste with higher levels of radioactivity, including spent fuel, which is produced when submarines are decommissioned at the end of their service life. Australia has safely and securely managed radioactive waste for decades, including 70 years of experience managing waste from facilities like its multi-purpose nuclear reactors at Lucas Heights. Australia will continue to ensure the highest standards of safety, security and non-proliferation safeguards are applied to this material, in accordance with Australia's domestic and international obligations, including the Treaty of Rarotonga. All radioactive waste will be managed within the framework of Australia's Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement and Additional Protocol.

Where will Australia store and dispose of radioactive waste?

No decision has been made on a location within Australia for the disposal of radioactive waste from nuclear-powered submarines. Further technical work and consultation is required to determine preferred disposal pathways. Operational radioactive waste will be stored on Defence sites in Australia.

www.asa.gov.au

Defueling Australia's nuclear-powered submarines is not expected to occur for decades. However, the complexity of the task means that early planning will be important.

(Continued on page 15)

USS Emory S Land arrives in Sydney

Aussie sailors sub off US repair ship for home visit

Extract from Bray Boland Story AAP

Australian sailors learning the ropes of submarine maintenance for the nation's incoming nuclear fleet have sailed into Sydney Harbour on board a US naval ship.

USS Emory S Land created a spectacle of military unity as it coasted into Sydney alongside Royal Australian Navy ships on Friday.

The vessel carries the knowledge and capabilities needed for the maintenance of Australia's future submarine fleet.

The US ship's commander said the visit showcased the interoperability of the AUKUS defence pact allies.

"With AUKUS in the last few years, it's really given a new scale to what we are doing," Commanding Officer Captain Brent Spillner said.

Half of the 35 RAN crew in training made their way home for a long-awaited visit with families.

"It's part of the AUKUS initiative to train Australian technicians to work on US submarines," Captain Spillner said.

"They showed up in January in Guam, we put them

right to work and they've been an invaluable asset to us."

A growing number of RAN sailors are training with the US Navy to build knowledge about nuclear submarine technology.



USS Emory S Land berths at Fleet Base East

Photo CPOIS Helen Frank

Defence 28 June 2024

USS Emory S. Land, a fully capable and mission-ready submarine tender which provides expeditionary intermediate-level maintenance, services, and logistics support to deployed submarines,

In January 2024, 37 RAN officers and sailors went aboard the ship in Guam as part of a knowledge exchange. Over the past five months RAN personnel have been integrating with US sailors building the unique knowledge, skills and experience in how the US conducts nuclear-powered submarine (SSN) maintenance and rehearsing the interoperability needed to support AUKUS forces around the globe. The Royal Australian Navy welcomed the arrival of the submarine tender USS Emory S. Land to Sydney. Fleet Base East is the ship's fourth port visit in Australia which forms part of a Western Pacific deployment providing maintenance and logistics support to U.S. Navy and allied partner vessels.

Australians are among the crew on board the US ship so they can learn how to maintain submarines. (Dean Lewins/AAP PHOTOS)© Provided by AAP



Nuclear Stewardship and Waste

(Continued from page 14)

As an initial step, Defence - working with relevant agencies including the Australian Radioactive Waste Agency - will undertake a review in 2023 to identify locations in the current or future Defence estate that could be suitable to store and dispose of intermediate-level waste and high level waste, including spent fuel. The outcomes of the review will inform a more detailed process which will include consultation and engagement with community and Indigenous groups, and consideration of wider social license and economic implications.

What facilities will be required for managing radioactive waste?

The storage and disposal of radioactive waste from Australia's nuclear-powered submarines will require:

- Facilities and highly-trained people to remove radioactive waste and spent fuel.
- Transport in sealed and secure containers to storage or disposal facilities.
- Purpose-built facilities for interim storage and permanent disposal of radioactive waste, including spent fuel.
- Social license earned and regional communities.

DVA Contacts

Provider enquiry numbers

- Provider invoicing & billing enquiries: [1300 550 017](tel:1300550017)
- Provider enquiries: [1800 550 457](tel:1800550457)
- Transport bookings: [1800 550 455](tel:1800550455)
- [Veterans' Affairs Pharmaceutical Advisory Centre](#) (VAPAC): [1800 552 580](tel:1800552580)

Hearing or speech impairment assistance

- If you are deaf, or have a hearing impairment or speech impairment, contact us through the [National Relay Service](#) (NRS):
- Talk To You (TTY) users phone [1800 555 677](tel:1800555677) then ask for 1800 838 372
- Speak and Listen users phone [1800 555 727](tel:1800555727) then ask for 1800 838 372
- Internet relay users connect to the [NRS](#) then ask for 1800 838 372

Claim Processing

As at 31 May 2024, DVA had 76,207 claims on hand, comprised of 3,003 unallocated claims and 73,204 claims being processed.

In the financial year to date (1 July 2023 to 31 May 2024):

- DVA received 80,931 claims
- DVA made 92,750 determinations
- the average time taken to process MRCA Initial liability claims was 370 days, a decrease of 68 days (or 15.5%), compared to the previous

Information on health services may be obtained from DVA. The contact numbers for health care providers requiring further information or prior financial authorisation for all States & Territories are listed below:

PHONE NUMBER:

Telephone:
[1800 VETERAN \(1800 838 372\)](tel:1800VETERAN(1800838372))

International callers:

[+61 2 6289 1133](tel:+61262891133)

POSTAL ADDRESS FOR ALL STATES AND TERRITORIES:

Health Approvals & Home Care Section department of Veterans' Affairs

GPO Box 9998

BRISBANE QLD 4001

DVA WEBSITE:

<http://www.dva.gov.au/providers/allied-healthprofessionals>

DVA email for prior financial authorisation:
health.approval@dva.gov.au

The appropriate prior approval request form can be found at: <https://www.dva.gov.au/providers/servicesrequiring-prior-approval>

CLAIMS FOR PAYMENT

For information about claims for payment visit: www.dva.gov.au/providers/how-claim

Claim Enquiries: 1300 550 017
(Option 2 Allied Health)

Claims will take a variety of times to complete based on whether or not the claim is prioritised for allocation to a decision maker and the complexity of the claim itself. For example, if the service of the individual crosses two or more Acts or contains a lot of health conditions and injuries or both. This results in some claims being decided faster than the average time, while some claims take longer.

For any condition, to make the claiming process smoother, follow these 3 steps:

- **Step 1:** Get your medical practitioner to confirm your diagnosis.
- **Step 2:** Supply the documents you need to;
- **Step 3:** Check if you are already eligible for free health care and treatment.

OPEN
Veterans & Families
Counselling
ARMS
1800 011 046



**SAFE ZONE
SUPPORT**

FREE ANONYMOUS
COUNSELLING LINE
CALL 1800 142 072

**Defence
Family
Helpline**



1800 624 608

**Defence
All-hours
Support Line**



1800 628 036