

## 2.1 – Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Joint Statement on AUKUS

September 16, 2021

On the day following the announcement of the AUKUS partnership, Australian PM Morrison and Foreign Minister Marise Payne issued a joint statement focused on informing the general public of the agreement. In the statement, they emphasized the advantages of nuclear-powered submarines over conventional, diesel-powered submarines. They also dedicated several paragraphs to describing the decision to cancel the Attack-class conventional submarine program, which began in 2015 in partnership with France and Lockheed Martin Australia. The two leaders addressed concerns among constituents and the defence industry regarding the potential loss of jobs and the “talent pool” of the submarine workforce. The end of the statement emphasized additional capabilities that Australia will acquire from the United States, including long-range strike capabilities, and a \$1 billion investment to begin building a “sovereign guided weapons manufacturing enterprise.” Additional capabilities to be purchased include:

- Tomahawk cruise missiles
- Joint air-to-surface standoff missiles (extended range) (JASSM-ER)
- Long-range anti-ship missiles (extended range) (LRASM)
- Precision strike guided missiles for land forces (unspecified)