




# AUKUS nuclear-powered submarine pathway

 Joint media release

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## The Hon Richard Marles MP

Deputy Prime Minister

Minister for Defence

### Media contact

[dpm.media@defence.gov.au](mailto:dpm.media@defence.gov.au)

[02 6277 7800](tel:0262777800)

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## Anthony Albanese MP

Prime Minister of Australia

### Ministerial contact

Prime Minister's Office - [02 6277 7744](tel:0262777744) - [Media@pm.gov.au](mailto:Media@pm.gov.au)

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Today's significant AUKUS announcement about 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.

The agreement will:

Strengthen Australia's national security and contribute to regional stability in response to unprecedented strategic challenges.

Build a future made in Australia, by Australians, with record investments in defence, skills, jobs and infrastructure.

Deliver a superior capability after a decade of inaction and mismanagement.

Australia, the United Kingdom and the United States have agreed to a phased approach that delivers on the commitments of the Albanese Government and provides significant, long-term strategic benefits for all three countries.

For Australia, the three key elements are:

Increased visits of US submarines commencing in 2023 and UK submarines from 2026, and, beginning in 2027, rotations of UK and US submarines to Australia – this will be key to Australian jobs, infrastructure, technology and our ability to be sovereign ready.

From as early as the 2030s, delivery of three US Virginia class nuclear-powered submarines to Australia – ensuring there is no capability gap.

Australia and the UK will deliver SSN-AUKUS, a new conventionally-armed nuclear-powered submarine, based on a UK design, incorporating cutting edge Australian, UK and US technologies. The UK will deliver its own first SSN-AUKUS in the late 2030s, with the first SSN-AUKUS built in Australia delivered in the early 2040s.

We expect the phased approach will result in \$6 billion invested in Australia's industrial capability and workforce over the next four years, creating around 20,000 direct jobs over the next 30 years.

This whole of nation effort also presents a whole of nation opportunity; for new jobs, new industries, and new expertise in science, technology, and cyber.

Businesses right across the country in every state and territory will have the opportunity to contribute to and benefit from these opportunities over decades.

Over the next four years, this will see \$2 billion in expected investment into South Australia, and a further \$1 billion in Western Australia.

This commitment from the Australian Government will require funding for the phased approach to amount to around 0.15 per cent of GDP per year, averaged over the life of the program.

Our plan elevates Australia's industrial capacity to produce and sustain advanced SSNs, alongside our AUKUS partners.

Importantly, the SSNs will be an Australian sovereign capability, commanded by the Royal Australian Navy and sustained by Australians in Australian shipyards.

Australia has a proud record of leadership in the international nuclear non-proliferation regime.

Australia and our AUKUS partners are committed to setting the highest nuclear non-proliferation standard for Australia's acquisition of SSNs, in continued close cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

These enhanced defence capabilities will make Australia and our partners better able to deter conflict, and help ensure stability and strategic balance are maintained in the Indo-Pacific.

Together with our AUKUS partners, the Albanese Government will deliver the Optimal Pathway, providing a superior and sovereign capability, generations of jobs and a record level of investment which will keep Australians safe.

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