



THE AUKUS NUCLEAR-POWERED SUBMARINE PATHWAY

A PARTNERSHIP FOR THE FUTURE

PATHWAY TO AUSTRALIA'S NUCLEAR-POWERED SUBMARINE CAPABILITY

AUKUS partners have identified an Optimal Pathway that will:

DELIVER Australia a conventionally-armed, nuclear-powered submarine (SSN) capability as soon as the early 2030s.

ELEVATE all three nations' industrial capacity to produce and sustain advanced and interoperable nuclear-powered submarines for decades to come.

EXPAND our individual and collective undersea presence in the Indo-Pacific and contribute to global security and stability in the region.

Embedded Personnel, Port Visits and Submarine Rotational Force-West

Beginning in 2023, Australian military and civilian personnel will embed with the UK and US Navies and – subject to necessary arrangements – within UK and US submarine industrial bases. This will accelerate the training and development of Australian personnel.

The US plans to increase SSN port visits to Australia beginning in 2023, with Australian sailors joining US crews for training and development. The UK will increase port visits to Australia from 2026.

Building on these increased port visits, from as early as 2027, the UK and the US plan to establish a rotational presence of one UK Astute class submarine and up to four US Virginia class at HMAS Stirling, Western Australia. This initiative will be known as Submarine Rotational Force-West (SRF-West).

Acquisition of US Virginia Class SSNs

To expand Australia's stewardship capacity and provide it with an SSN capability as soon as possible, Australia intends to acquire an existing SSN capability – the US Virginia class SSN.

The US intends to sell Australia three Virginia class submarines pending approval from US Congress, with the potential to sell up to two more if needed. The first Virginia class SSN is planned to be delivered to Australia in the early 2030s.

Acquiring Virginia class SSNs will ensure there is no submarine capability gap during the retirement of Australia's existing diesel-powered submarine fleet.

SSN-AUKUS

AUKUS partners will deliver SSN-AUKUS – a trilaterally-developed submarine based on the UK's next-generation design that incorporates technology from all three nations, including cutting edge US submarine technologies. SSN-AUKUS will be the future attack submarine for both Australia and the UK.

Australia and the UK intend to start building SSN-AUKUS in their domestic shipyards before the end of this decade.

Australia plans to deliver the first Australian-built SSN-AUKUS to the Royal Australian Navy in the early 2040s, while the UK will deliver its first SSN-AUKUS to the Royal Navy in the late 2030s.

AUKUS partners appreciate the enormity of this endeavour and are committed to being responsible stewards of naval nuclear propulsion technology.

This pathway will ensure Australia safely and securely operates and sustains its nuclear-powered submarines.

PATHWAY TO AUSTRALIA'S NUCLEAR-POWERED SUBMARINE CAPABILITY

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

