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Thematic Brief: AUKUS Nuclear-Powered Submarines

Talking points


- The acquisition of a nuclear-powered submarine capability will enable Australia to be a more reliable and capable partner.
 - Australia's strategic environment has deteriorated even more rapidly than we had anticipated just a few years ago.
 - We see this capability as critical to Australia making an even stronger contribution to the security and stability of the Indo-Pacific.
- I'm pleased with the progress that has been made toward identifying the optimal pathway.

– s33(a)(iii)




- But we are at a critical juncture of the 18-month consultation period, with a substantive body of work to come over the next few months.

○ s33(a)(iii), s33(a)(ii)



- Implementing the strongest possible nuclear non-proliferation standards, and maintaining the strength and integrity of the Non-Proliferation Treaty regime is critical to Australia.

– s33(a)(iii)



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— s33(a)(iii), s33(a)(ii)

- There is an acute understanding across the Australian system that meeting nuclear stewardship requirements is critical to the process for determining the optimal pathway forward.
 - We have impressed the importance of developing a ‘nuclear mindset’ to shape the way we think, act, and learn from the UK’s nuclear culture, and to demonstrate our unyielding commitment to nuclear stewardship, including safety, security, and safeguards.
 - Building a strong and safe regulatory environment to support this work is a particular focus.

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- I seek views on:


s33(a)(ii), s33(a)(iii)

- Key opportunities and lessons learned in **growing industrial workforce supply and maintaining** skills when transitioning between different nuclear submarine programs (Dreadnaught, Astute and future submarine builds).
- Key opportunities and lessons learned in **supply chain management**

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s33(a)(iii), s33(a)(ii)



- Key lessons learned by the UK when addressing **public concerns regarding nuclear facilities.**

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Background

Australia continues to drive the AUKUS agenda forward, albeit with strong support from our UK and US partners around the sharing of nuclear propulsion information, underpinned by the signing of the Agreement on the Exchange of Naval Nuclear Propulsion Information. s33(a)(iii), s33(a)(ii)

However, the steepest part of the climb is to come with substantive and significant work to be undertaken trilaterally over coming months across stewardship, non-proliferation, industry and workforce. s33(a)(iii), s33(a)(ii)

Barrow-in-Furness

Barrow-In-Furness (Barrow) is home to the UK's premier Submarine Construction Yard capability, where the construction and consolidation of nuclear-powered submarines occurs. Barrow solely supports construction and consolidation. Sustainment of nuclear submarines, and decommissioning and disposal of capabilities, is conducted elsewhere.

s33(a)(iii), s33(a)(ii)

Your visit provides an opportunity to discuss a number of key areas to support Australia's submarine construction yard, including lessons learnt and opportunities from the UK's experience.

Point of contact

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