



OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF WAR
2700 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-2700

Mr. David Nockels

First Assistant Secretary Defence Trade, Regulation, and Industrial Collaboration
Strategy, Policy, and Industry Group
Department of Defence
R1, Russell Offices
Canberra, ACT, 2600

Dear Mr. Nockels,

DAVID

**LETTER TO THE AUSTRALIAN DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE REGARDING
STREAMLINING EXPORT CONTROL REQUIREMENTS BETWEEN THE
AUSTRALIAN DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE AND THE DEPARTMENT OF WAR OF
THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

The U.S. Department of War of the United States of America (U.S. DoW) presents its compliments to the Australian Department of Defence (ADOD), together referred to as 'the Participants', and has the honor to refer to recent discussions between our governments about our shared interest in streamlining cooperation on defense projects and programs covered by international agreements and arrangements. This includes bilateral and multilateral projects and programs approved for the Australia-United Kingdom-United States (AUKUS) partnership and Australia's Guided Weapons and Explosive Ordnance (GWEO) Enterprise.

Consistent with the Australia-U.S. Ministerial Consultations in 2025 and the endorsement of the GWEO Shared Pathway, the U.S. DoW also sees value in facilitating the transfer of export-controlled goods, technology and related services between the United States and Australia (Transfers) in a practical and efficient manner, in satisfaction of our respective laws, regulations, policies, and international obligations and commitments.

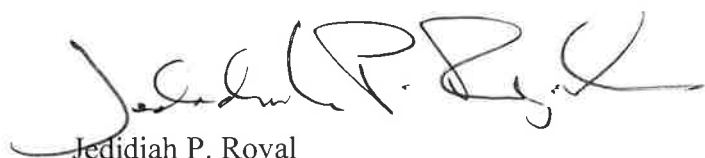
The U.S. DoW supports maximizing the use of available exemptions for AUKUS and Australia's GWEO Shared Pathway under the United States' International Traffic in Arms Regulations (ITAR) (such as § 126.4 and § 126.7) and Australia's *Defence Trade Controls Act 2012* (including associated subsidiary instruments). These efforts are intended to support ongoing and future work related to AUKUS and the GWEO Shared Pathway, within the scope of our respective export controls regimes.

Each Participant intends to provide appropriate guidance to its respective U.S. DoW and ADOD components to maximize the use of available exemptions. The Participants intend to each provide guidance to prospective exporters and information on the use of these exemptions in support of projects and programs under AUKUS and the GWEO Shared Pathway. The Participants further intend to support each other in efforts to make comprehensive information available to their respective government and industry stakeholders on appropriate export control license exemptions, including explanations of how such stakeholders may use the appropriate exemptions and how they may engage with our governments, as appropriate, as mutually determined by the Participants, and to the extent permitted by the Participants' respective laws and regulations, including with respect to the availability of funds. This may include facilitating training and outreach activities, as mutually determined by the Participants.

The Participants intend to work within their respective national systems to ensure national processes exist to coordinate on potential denials by either Participants' government or formal requests made by the other Participant's government and/or an industry partner and intend to use any available exemptions to ensure both Participant decisions are made consistent with the spirit of this letter.

This letter represents U.S. DoW acknowledgement of the above proposals and reflect an understanding between the Participants regarding our mutual intentions concerning the subject matter of our letters. This understanding is not intended to create any rights or obligations under international law or domestic law.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jedidiah P. Royal', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Jedidiah P. Royal
Principal Deputy Secretary of War
Office of the Secretary of War for Policy, Indo-Pacific Security Affairs
Department of War

18 February 2026