Australian Government
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Westport and Henderson Defence Precinct

WA Westport Program

- The Westport program is a WA Government initiative to develop a new container port supported by road and rail infrastructure. Under the program, port operations will be relocated from existing facilities in Fremantle to a new container port in Kwinana and existing Kwinana Bulk Terminal will be redeveloped as Fremantle Port approaches capacity in the later 2030s.
- In 2025, the WA Government announced $30 million to prepare the Kwinana Industrial Area for construction of Westport. WA Government has since committed a further $22.5 million to support landside infrastructure planning and design work to replace.
- The program is in the project definition phase. The Westport Program Office has published an indicative schedule (Attachment A). The WA Government has started Commonwealth and State environmental approval processes. It has also introduced legislation for a dedicated authority to deliver the Westport program. The Bill proposes a standalone Westport Authority, governed by a Board and led by a CEO, with powers to make decisions, enter commercial arrangements and attract specialist expertise.
- The Westport Program Office is in the process or has recently procured consultants to assist in marine infrastructure design and port technical advisory services. This includes a contract for marine and geotechnical investigations and a technical advisor to assist with the planning of the proposed marine and port infrastructure.

Links to the Henderson Defence Precinct (HDP)

- Westport development is close to Defence facilities on Cockburn Sound undergoing upgrades for AUKUS and Defence shipbuilding activity - namely HMAS Stirling and the HDP. Note that WA Government in April 2026 also declared the Western Trade Coast as the State's first State Development Area. Located south of Perth between Munster and Rockingham, the Western Trade Coast encompasses both Westport and HDP.

s 47B(a) , s 47C

- Separately, the Commonwealth has funded several road and rail infrastructure projects that will support moving container trade from Fremantle to Kwinana through the Infrastructure Investment Program's (IIP) National Land Transport FFA. This includes $33.5 million for scoping planning works for enabling road and rail connections and $350 million for the Kwinana Freeway upgrade. WA matched these investments, in line the Australian Government's preference for 50:50 funding splits for IIP projects.

Australian Government
Australian Submarine Agency

ASA

The NPS Enterprise Social Licence Framework

February 2026

Current context

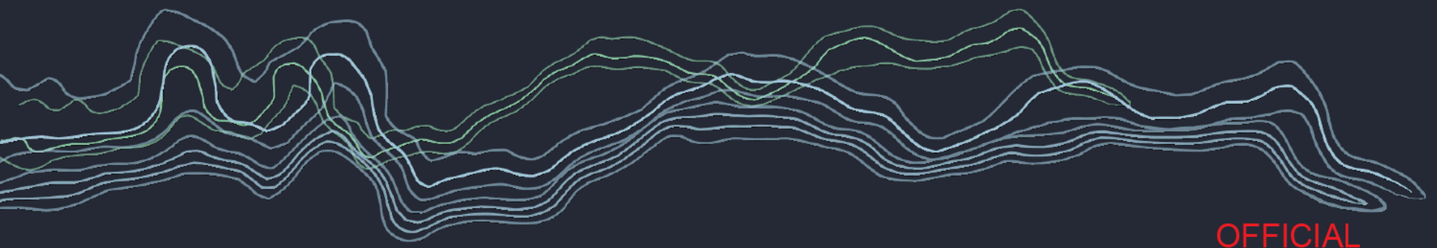
Awareness about AUKUS is low, with almost half of Australians having either just heard the name, or knowing nothing about the partnership between Australia, the UK and US.

However, Australians are concerned about the global strategic environment: most say the world has gotten less safe over the past decade, and that Australia can no longer rely on its geographic isolation to stay safe.

-Excerpt from Redbridge research

At the national level, there is not broad awareness for AUKUS. Australians are concerned about maintaining Australian sovereignty, the costs of the program and the nuclear aspects.

At a state and local level, communities are interested in understanding the business and workforce opportunities but also are concerned about the impacts of major infrastructure development, housing, traffic, education.



Guiding principles for engagement

Engage proactively and transparently – i.e. “no surprises”	Maintain open, two-way dialogue	Build trust through consistent messaging and representatives	Invest in reputation early
Anticipate and plan proactively for challenges	Leverage independent expertise and representation	Transparency and accountability	Make information accessible and publically digestible
Set clear objectives and measure progress	Understand audience and tailor engagement to their needs	Foster community ownership and resilience	Listen actively to stakeholder perspectives and respond promptly



NPS Enterprise Stakeholders*

Federal Government

ASA
Safely and securely acquire, construct, deliver, technically govern, sustain and dispose of Australia's conventionally-armed nuclear-powered submarine capability for Australia, via the AUKUS partnership.

AFP
To help protect and secure Australia's nuclear submarine program.

ANSTO
Operates Australia's only nuclear reactor for research and industry, provides nuclear expertise to support the NPS Program.

ARWA
Leading the safe and secure long-term management and disposal of Australia's radioactive waste. Support radioactive waste disposal policy for nuclear-powered submarines.

Defence
Support the ASA's many streams of work to implement the NPS program

Department of Education
Provide strategic direction and national leadership of Australia's education system – through early years, school, youth, higher education, international and research

DEWR
Provide advice on utilising Australia's skills and training system to support the workforce requirements of the Nuclear-powered Submarine Program.

DISR
Support the ASA's industry engagement.

PM&C
Enable coordination and collaboration across Government to support the NPS Program.

Federal Regulators

ANNPSR
Australia's independent regulator for naval nuclear propulsion.

ARPANSA
Australian Government's primary authority on radiation protection and nuclear safety and the independent regulator of Commonwealth entities that use or produce radioactive materials to conduct their business.

ASNO
ASNO regulates nuclear materials in accordance with treaty-level agreements with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and bilateral partners on nuclear security, safeguards and non-proliferation.

DCCEEW
DCCEEW regulates compliance (of NPS activities) against relevant codes, standards, guidance, licence conditions and legal requirements in relation to environmental protection.

Industry

ANI
Supports SSN Construction as the owner, developer and manager of infrastructure and related facilities at Osborne Submarine Construction Yard.

ASC
Sovereign Submarine Build Partner for the construction of SSN-AUKUS

Sovereign Submarine Sustainment Partner for Australia's nuclear-powered submarine fleet.

BAE
Sovereign Submarine Build Partner for the construction of SSN-AUKUS.

State Government

SA State Government
Collaborate with Federal Government and manage state matters related to the NPS Program.

WA State Government
Collaborate with Federal Government and manage state matters related to the NPS Program.

Local Government and Community

First Nations Communities

Local Governments
Mayors and elected officials and management.

Local Chambers of Commerce
Local small business leaders.

Local Interest Groups

Trilateral Partners

UK (Ministry of Defence, Submarine Delivery Agency and Defence Nuclear Organisation)
Support Australia's nuclear-powered submarine program.

US (Department of War and Naval Reactors)
Support Australia's nuclear-powered submarine program.

*This will be further developed as part of ongoing stakeholder mapping

MEETING MINUTES | AUKUS Pillar 1 National Social Licence Working Group	
Meeting 1	
Date	Thursday 5 February 2026
Time	0900–1215 ACDT
Location/Format	In person, Adelaide Town Hall
Chair	Kylie Wright, Assistant Director-General, Strategy, Engagement and Policy, Australian Submarine Agency
Secretariat	s 22(1)(a)(ii) Director, Australia Submarine Agency
Attendees	Attached
Apologies	Mikaela James Nikki Lightfoot s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Actions	1. ASA/Industry to develop a joint engagement calendar 2. ASA to circulate Social Licence Framework for comment 3. ASA to develop fact sheets for community distribution 4. ASA to finalise and publish FAQs 5. Industry to share current advertising campaigns

s 47E(d)

CONFIRMED	
ANSTO	
Cassandra Casey (Breen)	YES
ANNPSR	
CDRE Guy Holthouse	YES
Office for AUKUS (SA Government)	
s 22(1)(a)(ii)	YES
	YES – attending as an observer
	YES
Defence West (WA Government)	
s 22(1)(a)(ii)	YES
ASC	
s 22(1)(a)(ii)	YES
BAE Systems	
s 22(1)(a)(ii)	YES
ANI	
s 22(1)(a)(ii)	YES – will be accompanied b s 22(1)(a)(ii)
	YES
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet	
Luke McGowan	YES
ARWA	
s 22(1)(a)(ii)	YES
	YES
Defence SA	
Jessica Hernandez	YES
ASA	
Kylie Wright	YES
s 22(1)(a)(ii)	YES
	YES – The Content Group
	YES
	YES
	YES
	YES
	YES
APOLOGIES	
Nikki Lightfoot	NO – sending s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Mikaela James	NO – scheduling conflict
s 22(1)(a)(ii)	NO – sending reps s 22(1)(a)(ii)
	NO – sending rep s 22(1)(a)(iii)
	NO – sending rep, s 22(1)(a)(iii)
	NO – on leave
	NO – sending rep, s 22(1)(a)(ii)
	NO