



Australian Government
Defence

Air Commodore RM Tilley
Director General
Capital Facilities and Infrastructure
Brindabella Business Park
PO Box 7925
CANBERRA BC ACT 2610
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[REDACTED]

Mr Graham Perrett MP

Chair
Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Mr Perrett

**COMMUNITY CONSULTATION REPORT
SUBMARINE ROTATIONAL FORCE – WEST PRIORITY WORKS PROJECT**

1. The Submarine Rotational Force – West Priority Works Project was referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works (PWC) on 6 June 2024. The project proposes to deliver facilities and infrastructure at HMAS *Stirling*, Western Australia, to support the initial establishment of the Submarine Rotational Force – West in 2027.
2. The project will deliver maritime infrastructure, new and upgraded facilities and infrastructure to accommodate the operational, maintenance and sustainment functions required by the Submarine Rotational Force – West. These works are in addition to previously approved living-in accommodation, training facilities and early works notified to the Committee, and complement the supporting facilities and infrastructure for the Submarine Rotational Force – West that have been exempted from referral to the PWC.
3. This letter is to inform the Committee of the nature and extent of community consultation that has been undertaken by the Department of Defence for the proposed works. The aim of the consultation is to ensure local communities and other stakeholders are:
 - a. well informed about project details through effective and proven communication channels; and
 - b. provided the opportunity to raise any concerns or issues, or to seek further information so that, wherever feasible, Defence can address these in its proposed works.
4. The following stakeholder and community consultation activities were delivered in accordance with the project’s comprehensive community engagement plan:
 - a. Advertising community information sessions in both state-wide and local newspapers. Details and an example advertisement are at **Annex A**.

- b. Advertising community information sessions on social media using geo-targeting to ensure notification of community and stakeholders within the Rockingham area. An example social media post is at **Annex A**.
 - c. A flyer advising of upcoming PWC public consultation sessions was letterbox dropped to 63,450 residents in the Rockingham, Kwinana, Cockburn and Fremantle Local Government Areas. An example of the flyer is at **Annex B**.
 - d. Conducting community information sessions in Rockingham, with a pop-up session on 20 July 2024 and two drop-in sessions on 22 July 2024. Information resources that Defence presented to the public are at **Annex C**, while the level of attendance and a summary of topics and key issues raised during community information sessions are at **Annex D**.
 - e. Inviting key stakeholders, including Federal, State and Local Members of Government, to receive a private briefing about the project. An example of the invitation that was sent out is at **Annex E**, and a list of all stakeholders engaged by the project, including the status of each engagement, is at **Annex F**.
 - f. Submissions were reviewed and their key issues and themes raised are in **Annex G**.
 - g. A summary of all questions and issues raised by community and stakeholders, with Defence's response, is at **Annex H**.
5. Information about the proposed works was generally well received at the community information sessions and feedback to date has focused on concerns about local infrastructure impacts (housing, traffic and local roads), as well as uncertainty over the AUKUS program and conventionally armed, nuclear-powered submarine capability as a whole. Objections to proposed work have been raised and are largely based upon opposition to AUKUS and/or the use of nuclear propulsion for submarines, and concerns about management of radioactive waste and environmental impacts.
6. Comments raised by members of the community focused on:
- a. traffic impacts on local roads in Rockingham;
 - b. concerns about accommodation and impacts on housing affordability and supply in an already constrained market;
 - c. job creation, local employment and training opportunities, and the timeline for participation;
 - d. environmental impacts on Garden Island / *Meeandip* and surrounding area, particularly penguins and water quality;
 - e. concerns about management of radioactive waste and potential safety risks to people and the environment; and
 - f. continued access to Garden Island / *Meeandip* for recreation and fishing.

7. While no further consultation activities are planned in relation to the PWC approval process, Defence acknowledges that further briefings to Federal, State and Local Members of Government may be required in relation to the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* and the *Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency* referrals.

Yours sincerely,

RM Tilley

Air Commodore

Director General Capital Facilities and Infrastructure

30 July 2024

Annexes:

- A. Advertisements (Newspapers and Digital)
- B. Example of Community Mailout Notice
- C. Examples of Community Information Session Resources (Information Boards and Community Information Handout)
- D. Community Information Session Attendance and Summary of Topics and Key Issues Raised
- E. Example of Letter of Invitation to Key Stakeholders
- F. Status of Key Stakeholder Communications
- G. Summary of submissions received
- H. Summary of topics and key issues raised during consultation sessions and stakeholder meetings

ADVERTISING CHANNELS AND PUBLICATION DATES

Location	Publication	Dates Published
Western Australia	The West Australian	13 July 2024 20 July 2024
Rockingham/Kwinana/ Cockburn	The Sound Telegraph	17 July 2024
Fremantle/Cockburn	PerthNow	18 July 2024

EXAMPLE OF NEWSPAPER ADVERTISEMENT



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Submarine Rotational Force – West Infrastructure Project

Notice of community drop-in sessions

Parliamentary Approvals on the Public Works

We're planning a series of drop-in information sessions and community pop-up stalls in the coming week to share more about our plans for infrastructure upgrades at HMAS *Stirling* and ask for your feedback.

The proposed construction works are subject to Parliamentary approval. Written submissions to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works are now open. This round of public consultation is to support the public hearing, which occurs in addition to environmental approvals.

During these community information sessions, you can drop in to talk to the members of the project team about the planned infrastructure works at HMAS *Stirling*. There won't be a formal presentation at these events—you'll be able to ask the project team questions in a more informal setting.

Rockingham

Rockingham Shopping Centre

Saturday 20 July

10:00am-3:00pm

Rockingham

Gary Holland Centre

Monday 22 July

10:00am-12:30pm | 2:00pm-4:30pm





For more information about upcoming information sessions, visit www.defence.gov.au/submarine-rotational-force-west

For more information on written submissions relating to the project visit www.sph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Joint/Public_Works

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EXAMPLE OF DIGITAL ADVERTISEMENT

Defence Australia Sponsored (demo)

We're planning a series of drop-in information sessions and community pop-up stalls in the coming week to share more about the infrastructure upgrades at HMAS Stirling and their referral for a Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works inquiry. During these community information sessions, you can drop in to talk to the members of the project team about the planned infrastructure works at HMAS Stirling. There won't be a formal presentation at these events – just an opp... [See more](#)

We want to hear your thoughts on infrastructure works at Garden Island (*Meeandip*)

Swipe to see details of upcoming community information sessions

Rockingham
Rockingham Shopping Centre
Saturday 20 July 2024
10:00am-3:00pm

Community consultation sessions [Learn more](#) | **Rockingham Shopping Centre** [Learn more](#)

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Defence Australia Sponsored (demo)

We're planning a series of drop-in information sessions and community pop-up stalls in the coming week to share more about the infrastructure upgrades at HMAS Stirling and their referral for a Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works inquiry. During these community information sessions, you can drop in to talk to the members of the project team about the planned infrastructure works at HMAS Stirling. There won't be a formal presentation at these events – just an opp... [See more](#)

Rockingham
Gary Holland Centre
Monday 22 July 2024
10:00am-12:30pm
2:00pm-4:30pm

Gary Holland Community Centre [Learn more](#) | [For more information click here](#) [Learn more](#)

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EXAMPLE OF COMMUNITY MAILOUT NOTICE



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June 2024

Submarine Rotational Force – West Infrastructure Project

Notice of community drop-in sessions

Parliamentary Approvals on the Public Works

The Department of Defence will conduct drop-in information sessions to outline the proposed construction works at HMAS *Stirling* on Garden Island (*Meeandip*).



The proposed construction works are subject to Parliamentary approval. The focal point of Parliamentary approval is the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works (known as PWC).

The works involve construction of new facilities and infrastructure to support the scale of infrastructure required for conventionally-armed, nuclear-powered submarines. This includes both visiting and rotational submarines and for Australia's own nuclear-powered submarines in the future.

Consulting with stakeholders and local communities is an integral part of the planning process. We are committed to ensuring interested stakeholders and the community are both heard and informed across all phases of the Project.

We have begun initial consultation with key stakeholders and the community, including Traditional Owner groups through the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Commonwealth)* environmental referral we are undertaking in June 2024.

Our next round of public consultation will be to support the PWC referral and public hearing. This is a distinct process that is an Australian Government approval pathway that occurs in addition to environmental approvals.

We're planning a series of drop-in information sessions and community pop-up stalls in coming weeks to share more about our plans for infrastructure upgrades at HMAS *Stirling* and ask for your feedback.

During these community information sessions, you can drop in to talk to the members of the project team about the planned infrastructure works at HMAS *Stirling*. There won't be a formal presentation at these events – you'll be able to ask the project team questions in a more informal setting.



Drop-in information sessions and community pop-up stalls

For more information about upcoming information sessions, visit www.defence.gov.au/submarine-rotational-force-west


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EXAMPLES OF COMMUNITY INFORMATION SESSION RESOURCES

- PWC referral and project overview
- Public submissions for PWC
- Project timeline
- Upgrades to Diamantina Pier
- Controlled Industrial Facility
- HMAS *Stirling* map

INFORMATION DISPLAY BOARDS




Parliamentary Works Committee Referral

About the SRF-West Infrastructure Project

- It will deliver the facilities needed for the safe and secure operation of the submarines from 2027.
- Some Early Construction Work will start in 2024.
- Most work is expected to start in 2025, following environmental approvals and Parliamentary Approval, under the Parliamentary Works Committee (PWC).
- The majority of work proposed was referred to the PWC on 6 June 2024.

What is the PWC?

- It assesses capital projects proposed by Commonwealth Departments (including Defence).
- It considers the purpose, need, scope, cost effectiveness and public value of proposed projects and reports to Parliament.
- It aims to ensure that Commonwealth-funded works are delivered effectively and efficiently and deliver value to the Australian public.
- The approval process is a separate standalone Australian Government approval process—it is in addition to environmental approvals.



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Public submissions for PWC

- Members of the public have an opportunity to make a submission, as part of the assessment process.
- Public submissions are very important. They provide opportunity for individuals, groups and organisations to make comment on proposals and help inform the PWC's decision.
- After the submission period closes, the PWC will hold a public hearing.
- At the public hearing, the PWC will ask questions and seek clarification of anything raised in Defence's submission or public submissions.
- Authors of public submissions may be invited to give evidence at the public hearing if the PWC believes the inquiry will benefit from it.

How do I make a public submission?



You can make a submission on the SRF-West Infrastructure Project by visiting www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Joint/Public_Works/DODSubRotationalForce, or scan the QR code. Further information on making a submission is available on the PWC website www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/House/Making_a_submission.



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Project timeline



To find out more about the planned infrastructure works at HMAS Stirling, you can visit www.defence.gov.au/submarine-rotational-force-west

Contact us

- @ srf-west.infrastructureproject@defence.gov.au
- www.defence.gov.au/submarine-rotational-force-west

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Upgrades to Diamantina Pier

One of the required upgrades to the existing maritime infrastructure on HMAS *Stirling* is to upgrade berthing infrastructure and services for nuclear-powered submarines along Diamantina Pier.

This work will require additional dredging to the sea floor around the pier and is subject to the PWC referral. The render below shows an artist's impression of the upgraded pier upon completion.



Artist's impression of HMAS Stirling Main Base Precinct – Project Element 1 maritime infrastructure. Upgraded berthing infrastructure and dredging for nuclear-powered submarines.

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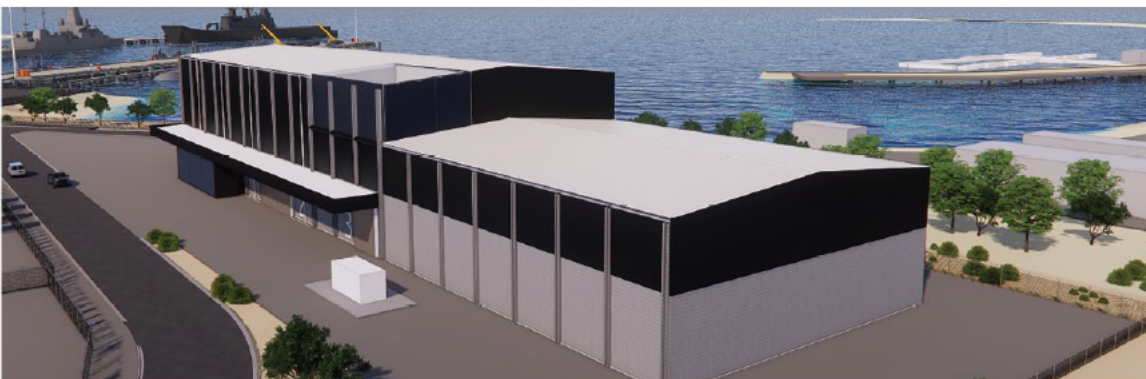


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Controlled Industrial Facility

The Controlled Industrial Facility (CIF) will be a technical and engineering industrial workshop for servicing and repair of naval nuclear propulsion components and tools. It will receive, manage, treat, decontaminate and temporarily store the low-level, solid and liquid radioactive material generated from the submarines during their operations.

This facility is subject to our PWC referral. The render below shows an artist's impression for the site.



Artist's impression of HMAS Stirling Main Base Precinct – Project Element 3 maintenance and sustenance facilities. Controlled Industrial Facility (collocated with the radiological controls technical field office).

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HMAS Stirling



COMMUNITY INFORMATION HANDOUT



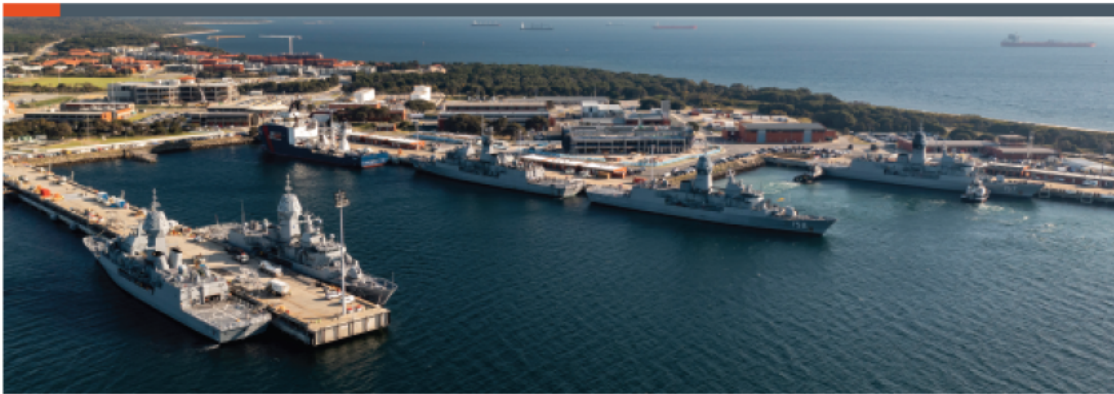
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Defence

July 2024

Submarine Rotational Force – West Infrastructure Project

Parliamentary approvals

The Australian Government will invest up to \$8 billion over the next decade to expand HMAS *Stirling*, on Garden Island (*Meeandip*).



The SRF-West Infrastructure Project will support the scale of infrastructure required for conventionally-armed, nuclear-powered submarines—both for visiting rotational submarines and for Australia's own nuclear-powered submarines in the future. The project is being delivered in coordination with other upgrades already underway at HMAS *Stirling*, and most of the project will be completed within the existing base footprint.

Parliamentary approval for the Priority Works elements of the SRF-West Infrastructure Project is being sought from the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works (known as the PWC).

What is the PWC?

The PWC assesses capital projects proposed by Commonwealth Departments (including Defence). It considers the purpose, need, scope, cost effectiveness and public value of proposed projects and reports to Parliament. It aims to ensure that Commonwealth-funded works are delivered effectively and efficiently, and deliver value to the Australian public.

The PWC is a joint committee that includes six Members of the House of Representatives and three Senators, who consider the project and report to the Parliament on whether the proposed work should be delivered. Importantly, the PWC approval process is a separate, standalone Australian Government approval process—it is in addition to environmental approvals.

On 30 May 2024, the Parliament approved an exemption from referral to the PWC for certain elements of the SRF-West Infrastructure Project that need to be delivered more urgently.

The urgent work includes in-ground engineering services, working, training and living-in accommodation, an emergency response and control centre, and infrastructure and minor maritime works to support increased mooring requirements.

The Priority Works proposed under the SRF-West Infrastructure Project was referred to the PWC on 6 June 2024, and members of the public can make a submission to the PWC inquiry.

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What are PWC public submissions?

As part of the PWC inquiry process, there is an opportunity for members of the community to make a submission. Public submissions are a very important component of the Committee's assessment. They are an opportunity for individuals, groups and organisations to comment on proposals and ensure the Committee is better informed of the community's views on the proposed project. Once the submission period closes, the Committee will hold a public hearing where it will be able to ask questions and seek clarification of anything raised in Defence's submission or in submissions made by other organisations and individuals. Authors of public submissions may be invited to give evidence at the public hearing if the Committee believes the inquiry will benefit from it.

How do I make a public submission?



You can make a submission on the SRF-West Infrastructure Project by visiting www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Joint/Public_Works/DODSubRotationalForce, or scan the QR code.

There is no set format for submissions. A submission may contain facts, opinions and argument and may be accompanied by appendices and other supporting data. Further information on making a submission is available on the PWC website www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/House/Making_a_submission.

Project timeline



Community consultation sessions

Consulting with stakeholders and local communities is an integral part of the planning process. Since March 2024, Defence has been consulting key stakeholders and the community—including Traditional Owner groups—as part of our environmental approvals process under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Commonwealth).

Our public consultation sessions in July 2024 are designed to support the PWC referral and public hearing. During the sessions, we will be sharing more about our plans for infrastructure upgrades at HMAS Stirling and asking for your feedback. Feedback on key issues and community sentiment at PWC community information sessions will be collated by Defence, compiled into a report and submitted to the PWC inquiry.

Where can I find out more information?



To find out more about the planned infrastructure works at HMAS Stirling you can visit www.defence.gov.au/submarine-rotational-force-west, or email the project team at srf-west_infrastructureproject@defence.gov.au.



**COMMUNITY INFORMATION SESSION
ATTENDANCE AND SUMMARY**

Details

Community information sessions were planned to build awareness and understanding about the project and gather feedback. A pop-up community information session was held on Saturday 20 July 2024 at the Rockingham Shopping Centre (1 Council Avenue, Rockingham) from 10:00am to 3:00pm. This session was aimed at community members who may not be aware of the project or not motivated to attend a drop-in information session. Over five hours, the project team engaged with approximately 380 people and collected feedback from 124 people. Of the 124 people who provided feedback, 90% indicated they were local residents and/or businesses. Only 13% of those providing feedback indicated they had previously engaged with the project, indicating the benefit of holding an information session in a public, high-traffic venues to reach community members and increase awareness about the project.

Two drop-in community information sessions were held on Monday 22 July 2024 at the Gary Holland Community Centre (19 Kent Street, Rockingham) from 10:00am to 12:30pm and 2:00pm to 4:00pm. 40 people attended across both sessions and 28 people provided feedback to the project team. Of the 28 people who provided feedback, all were local residents and/or businesses. More than 20% had previously engaged with the project.

This round of consultation followed two rounds of consultation in early 2024 that focused on potential environmental impacts and contributed to the preparation of *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act* referral submissions.

Resources

There were six large poster boards displaying information about the project scope and process, maps of planned work, project timeline and images of proposed facilities (**Annex C**). Factsheets about the PWC process and project scope were also made available (**Annex C**). The consultation team included the following members/groups:

- Defence’s Project Delivery Team
- Consultant Project Management Team
- Consultant Communication Team
- Representatives from the Australian Submarine Agency

Attendance

Venue	Attendees	Interest group (if indicated)
Rockingham Shopping Centre Saturday 20 July 2024 10:00am to 3:00pm	Approximately 380, with feedback collected from 124 people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 97 local residents • 8 local businesses • 6 local resident and local business
Gary Holland Community Centre Monday 22 July 2024 10:00am to 12:30pm 2:00pm to 4:30pm	40 people, across two sessions with feedback collected from 28 people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 22 local residents • 3 local resident and local business
Total attendees	Approximately 420 people, with 152 providing feedback	

Key points raised during the community information sessions included:

Pop-up community information session

Of the 124 people who gave feedback:

- 32% related to general project information, such as the project scope and timing, and the PWC process.
- 26% raised issues about AUKUS, the optimal pathway, trilateral agreement or political positions.
- 20% were interested in jobs and economic opportunities including:
 - job creation and local employment and training opportunities
 - interest in understanding more about the types of jobs that may be available and employment timelines.
- 13% raised concerns about accommodation and housing, including:
 - concern about impact on current housing availability and affordability in an already constrained housing market
 - interest in how additional housing requirements will be met
 - understanding Defence Housing Australia's role in providing housing.
- 11% raised concerns about the use of nuclear as a power source and management of radioactive waste, specifically:
 - opposition to nuclear
 - questions and concerns about safe management, transfer, storage and disposal of radioactive waste.
- 11% raised concerns about environmental impacts, in particular local wildlife, such as penguins and quokkas, and water pollution.
- 8% raised concerns about impacts to recreation, fishing and access to and around Garden Island / *Meeandip*, specifically maintaining access for recreation and fishing activities.
- 6% raised issues involving impacts to transport infrastructure and traffic, including:
 - impacts to current road and railway network
 - concerns about traffic on Parkin Street, Point Peron Road and Safety Bay Road, Rockingham, in particular.
- Less than 1% (1 person) raised concerns about security related to AUKUS and HMAS *Stirling* as a potential target.

Drop-in community information sessions


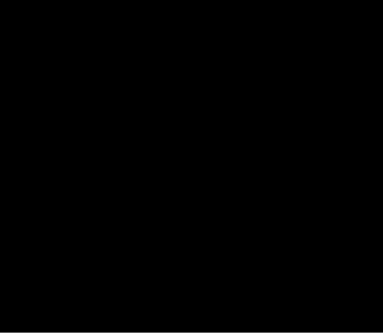
Of the 28 people who provided feedback:

- 46% related to general project information, such as questions about scope and timing of project, and the PWC process.
- 11% raised perspectives about AUKUS, the optimal pathway, trilateral agreement or political positions.
- 40% were concerned about traffic and impacts to local roads, particularly:

D-3

- increased traffic and impacts of oversized vehicles on Parkin Street, Safety Bay Road and Point Peron Road, Rockingham
- potential extension to Garden Island Highway.
- 32% raised concerns about accommodation and housing, including the anticipated size of the workforce and the pressure this may put on existing social infrastructure and services (housing, education and health).
- 25% asked questions about the management of radioactive waste, in particular the Controlled Industrial Facility and how this would be managed safely
- 21% were interested in job and local employment opportunities, with four people identifying as currently working in marine construction or maintenance sectors.
- 18% raised concerns about environmental impacts, including:
 - questions about the assessment process
 - a freshwater spring near Diamantina Pier.
- 18% raised concerns about continued access to and around Garden Island / *Meeandip* for recreational fishing. Two people mentioned they were members of a local fishing club and heard about the information session through their club.
- 7% raised concerns about security risks but did not provide specific concerns.

EXAMPLE OF LETTER OF INVITATION TO KEY STAKEHOLDERS

	<p>Australian Government Department of Defence Security and Estate Group</p>	<p>First Assistant Secretary Infrastructure Security and Estate Department of Defence 2026 2 1000</p>
		
<p>Proposed Infrastructure works at HMAS <i>Stirling</i>, Garden Island (Submarine Rotational Force – West)</p>		
<p>HMAS <i>Stirling</i> is pivotal to establishing and supporting Australia’s future nuclear-powered submarine capability alongside Navy surface combatant vessels. On behalf of Defence, I would like to offer you a personal briefing on the proposed infrastructure works at HMAS <i>Stirling</i> to enable the safe and secure operation and maintenance of nuclear-powered submarines as part of the Submarine Rotational Force – West from 2027.</p>		
<p>The works will deliver:</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• upgraded maritime infrastructure to accommodate new submarines• reliable shore power• new and refurbished existing facilities to accommodate operational, maintenance, logistics, and administrative support functions• enhancements to physical security		
<p>Defence is aware that the HMAS <i>Stirling</i> project is one of several projects occurring in the Cockburn Sound area over the same timeframe. Defence and the Australian Submarine Agency are continuing to coordinate planning interfaces with the Western Australian Government.</p>		
<p>Defence also recognises the importance of adequate transport planning and local road upgrades, acknowledging the increase in Defence activities at HMAS <i>Stirling</i>. Defence is proactively engaged across the three tiers of government to address upgrades to local road infrastructure in Rockingham.</p>		
<p>Elements of the works for Submarine Rotational Force – West were referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works (PWC) on 06 June 2024. The project details, subject to Parliamentary approval, can be viewed on the PWC website at the following address: https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Joint/Public_Works</p>		

In support of the PWC hearing, Defence will conduct community information drop-in sessions on the proposed works in the coming weeks. Your constituents may be interested in attending these sessions.

Venue	Date	Times
Rockingham Shopping Centre 1 Council Ave Rockingham WA 6168	20 July 2024	10:00am-3:00pm
Gary Holland Centre 19 Kent St Rockingham WA 6168	22 July 2024	10:00am-12:30pm 2:00pm-4:40pm

If you or your staff would like to accept this invitation for a personal briefing, please contact the Project Director, [REDACTED] via email:

[REDACTED] or via telephone: [REDACTED]

To find out more about the planned infrastructure works at HMAS *Stirling*, visit www.defence.gov.au/submarine-rotational-force-west or email srf-west.infrastructureproject@defence.gov.au.

Yours sincerely,



15 July 2024

STATUS OF KEY STAKEHOLDER COMMUNICATIONS

ORGANISATION AND MEMBER	NOTES
FEDERAL GOVERNMENT	
<p>Hon Madeleine King MP Federal Member for Brand</p>	<p>15 July 2024. Defence emailed a letter to Hon Madeleine King providing project information, contact details, a site link and an invitation to contact Defence for a personal briefing.</p> <p>18 July 2024. Defence was advised that Ms King was unwell and not available for a briefing at this stage.</p> <p>26 July 2024. Ms King’s office requested a briefing during the August sitting period. This is being coordinated.</p>
STATE/TERRITORY GOVERNMENT	
<p>Hon Paul Papalia WA Minister for Defence Industry</p>	<p>15 July 2024. Defence emailed a letter to Hon Paul Papalia providing project information, contact details, a site link and an invitation to contact Defence for a personal briefing.</p> <p>No response to date.</p>
<p>Hon Magenta Marshall MLA WA Member for Rockingham</p>	<p>15 July 2024. Defence emailed a letter to Hon Magenta Marshall providing project information, contact details, a site link and an invitation to contact Defence for a personal briefing.</p> <p>15 July 2024. Ms Marshall’s office advised that she would be on maternity leave until September, and has asked for an update upon her return.</p>
LOCAL GOVERNMENT	
<p>Her Worship the Mayor Deb Hamblin City of Rockingham</p>	<p>12 July 2024. Defence emailed a letter to Mayor Deb Hamblin providing project information, contact details, a site link and an invitation to contact Defence for a personal briefing.</p> <p>No response to date.</p>
<p>His Worship the Mayor Peter Feasey City of Kwinana</p>	<p>12 July 2024. Defence emailed a letter to Mayor Peter Feasey providing project information, contact details, a site link and an invitation to contact Defence for a personal briefing.</p> <p>22 July 2024. Defence held a meeting with the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, CEO and six Councilors at Kwinana Council Offices. Defence provided an overview of the project and the approvals process, including early works, exempted works, EPBC Act referrals and site licence approval. The scope of the project, as referred to the PWC, was explained, including the Controlled Industrial Facility and its purpose.</p> <p>Council raised concerns about impacts on housing and cumulative impacts on infrastructure from Westport and HMAS <i>Henderson</i> work.</p> <p>Council asked about management of radioactive waste, recreational access, local employment opportunities, accommodation and housing commitments, traffic studies and impacts, emergency services on</p>

ORGANISATION AND MEMBER	NOTES
	base and potential security threat, impacts on infrastructure and services from increased capacity at the base.
<p>His Worship the Mayor Logan Howlett City of Cockburn</p>	<p>12 July 2024. Defence emailed a letter providing project information, contact details, a site link and an invitation to contact Defence for a personal briefing.</p> <p>23 July 2024. Defence and ASA held a briefing with Cockburn Deputy Mayor, Councillors and staff as well as Kwinana Councillors and staff at Cockburn Council Offices. Defence provided an overview of the project and the approvals process, including early works, exempted works, EPBC Act referrals and site licence approval. The scope of the project, as referred to the PWC, was explained, including the Controlled Industrial Facility and its purpose.</p> <p>Council raised concerns about impacts on housing and cumulative impacts on infrastructure from Westport and HMAS <i>Henderson</i> work.</p> <p>Council asked about nuclear safety and management of radioactive waste, recreational access, local employment opportunities, accommodation and housing commitments, traffic studies and impacts, emergency services on base and potential security threat, impacts on infrastructure and services from increased capacity at the base.</p>
<p>Her Worship the Mayor Hannah Fitzhardinge City of Fremantle</p>	<p>12 July 2024. Defence emailed a letter providing project information, contact details, a site link and an invitation to contact Defence for a personal briefing.</p> <p>No response to date.</p>
<p>Perth South West Metropolitan Alliance</p>	<p>12 July 2024. Defence emailed a letter providing project information, contact details, a site link and an invitation to contact Defence for a personal briefing.</p> <p>18 July 2024. Defence met with Mr Carter during meetings with Cockburn and Kwinana Councils.</p> <p>Mr Carter reiterated the contents of the Perth South West Metropolitan Alliance submission. The need for a way for the Commonwealth to support local councils to mitigate the external infrastructure impacts on the local councils when we increase the population and activity at a base. His idea is something like Developer Contributions but understands that it is unlikely to be the way forward.</p> <p>Mr Carter also raised the issues with planning for the increased workforce needed and the competition for trades and housing. He was concerned about the ability to manage the influx of people that is planned for the South Perth area noting that without AUKUS there was already expected to be significant growth.</p>
COMMUNITY AND BUSINESS GROUP	
<p>South West Aboriginal Land and Sea Council</p>	<p>12 July 2024. Defence emailed a letter providing project information, contact details, a site link and an invitation to contact Defence for a personal briefing.</p>

ORGANISATION AND MEMBER	NOTES
	Defence continues to liaise with the South West Aboriginal Land and Sea Council as part of ongoing liaison for the environmental and cultural heritage assessment of project works.
Gnaala Karla Booja Aboriginal Corporation	<p>12 July 2024. Defence emailed a letter providing project information, contact details, a site link and an invitation to contact Defence for a personal briefing.</p> <p>Defence continues to liaise with the Gnaala Karla Booja Aboriginal Corporation as part of ongoing liaison for the environmental and cultural heritage assessment of project works.</p>
Whadjuk Aboriginal Corporation	<p>12 July 2024. Defence emailed a letter providing project information, contact details, a site link and an invitation to contact Defence for a personal briefing.</p> <p>No response to date.</p>
Australian Industry and Defence Network WA	<p>12 July 2024. Defence emailed a letter providing project information, contact details, a site link and an invitation to contact Defence for a personal briefing.</p> <p>25 July 2024. Defence held a meeting with the Vice President of The Australian Industry and Defence Network, Mr Adrian Wiseman, at the Babcock Offices.</p> <p>Defence provided an overview of the project community consultations undertaken recently and discussed the themes of public feedback including job and training opportunities. Defence explained the fast-tracked approvals process, including the PWC exempt works, early works, EPBC Act referrals, construction licence and the recently approved site licence.</p> <p>Mr Wiseman raised concerns from industry that are most commonly raised such as the limited availability of affordable housing or short-term accommodation such as hotels, in the surrounding areas and the competition from the mining industry on workforce availability.</p> <p>Defence discussed the scope of the regulated and non-regulated works in the initial phase of the project. A high-level overview of the facilities within the controlled area, including the Controlled Industrial Facility, Power Station, Pure Water Plant, Submarine Pier and supporting services, was also provided.</p> <p>Mr Wiseman raised concerns about the impact of the restrictions of the causeway due to inclement weather and the increased activity to HMAS Stirling. He also queried the impact of the increased traffic to Henderson given the limited entry/exits and the zoning restrictions.</p> <p>Defence confirmed the contractor and subcontractor procurement tender documents are available on the Defence website and the successful tenderers will be made known on AusTender post contract award.</p> <p>Mr Wiseman and Defence acknowledged the greatest barriers to subcontractor participation in the project is the security and International Traffic in Arms Regulations requirements.</p>
Rockingham-Kwinana Chamber of Commerce	<p>12 July 2024. Defence emailed a letter providing project information, contact details, a site link and an invitation to contact Defence for a personal briefing.</p>

ORGANISATION AND MEMBER	NOTES
	No response to date.
Master Builders WA	12 July 2024. Defence emailed a letter providing project information, contact details, a site link and an invitation to contact Defence for a personal briefing. No response to date.

SUMMARY OF SUBMISSIONS RECEIVED

Details

Members of the public, including individuals, groups or organisations, provided submissions to the PWC. As at 30 July 2024, 19 submissions were received by the Committee from a range of interest groups and individuals. Submissions were received from:

1. Perth South West Metropolitan Alliance
2. WARM Quakers
3. City of Rockingham
4. Individual (name withheld)
5. Imagine Futures
6. Nuclear Free WA and Stop AUKUS WA
7. Lois Van Geloven
8. Medical Association for Prevention of War
9. Tellus
10. Friends of Earth Australia
11. Bill Meehan
12. Robyn Walsh
13. Phoebe Corke
14. Brian Jenkins
15. Ben Rose
16. Ieva Tomsons
17. Toni Collinge
18. Jean Jenkins
19. Lynn Thomas

Summary of key points raised in submissions

Submissions raised concerns about:

- Environmental impacts, including dredging, water quality and impacts to flora and fauna.
- Concerns about reporting, monitoring and reduce greenhouse gas emissions associated with the project.
- Potential impacts on First Nations cultural heritage.
- Radioactive waste management including proximity to residential population, opposition to accepting US or UK waste, the ARPANSA licencing process and the need for a permanent disposal site to be determined.
- Economic and employment opportunities need more planning and support for local businesses and workforce to benefit, realise opportunities for training and education, and adequate planning to secure workforce needed.
- Need for adequate planning and consultation with key stakeholders to ensure housing and accommodation supply, in a market already under pressure in terms of affordability and availability.
- Traffic congestion will continue to impact local roads and planning and investment is needed for local and state government to address infrastructure.
- Concern about security risks of SSNs in region.

- Opposition to and concern about AUKUS, calling for access to more information and public debate about policy decisions
- Concern about relative timing and scope of approval processes, including PWC, ARPSNA and EPBC Act referrals.

KEY POINTS RAISED IN SUBMISSIONS

Key points raised	Defence response
<p>Environmental impacts of work on flora and fauna, including penguins.</p>	<p>Defence has prepared technical studies to understand the potential environmental, social and economic impacts of the proposed infrastructure to Garden Island, Cockburn Sound and the wider region.</p> <p>These investigations will provide additional information to form a strong understanding of the current environmental status around HMAS <i>Stirling</i>, as well as guiding specific practices to minimise, or where possible eliminate, negative environmental impacts.</p> <p>Construction (including demolition) phase impacts on both flora and fauna will be managed through the implementation of project-specific construction environmental management plans, which may include avoidance areas.</p> <p>Regular environmental monitoring will take place throughout the SRF-West construction process to ensure a minimum of disturbance, as well as ongoing monitoring during operation of the base.</p> <p>Defence has completed a significant environmental investigation and has developed a referral package for the Maritime Intrusive Works that includes protection of the little penguin colony on Garden Island. The referral has been submitted to the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water for assessment under the EPBC Act.</p> <p>Monitoring has been regularly conducted on the Careening Bay colony of little penguins since December 2020 to address uncertainty in the critical life-history processes of the penguins. The success of the Garden Island colony indicates that the penguins have thrived with the existing background sound levels.</p>
<p>Environmental impacts of work such as dredging on marine environment, including seagrass and water quality.</p>	<p>Defence has prepared technical studies to understand the potential environmental, social and economic impacts of the proposed infrastructure to Garden Island, Cockburn Sound and the wider region, including dredging in the marine environment.</p> <p>No seagrass was observed within the proposed dredge areas and spoil ground during environmental studies undertaken for this project.</p> <p>A quantitative baseline condition assessment of benthic habitats and seagrass cover is in progress. Mapping and characterising the subtidal benthic communities and habitats, their distribution and diversity within the proposed construction footprint, proposed dredge disposal areas and respective adjacent areas.</p> <p>Defence has completed a significant environmental investigation and has developed a referral package for the Maritime Intrusive Works. The referral has been submitted to the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water for assessment under the EPBC Act.</p>

Key points raised	Defence response
Concerns about reporting, monitoring and reduce greenhouse gas emissions associated with the project.	Defence greenhouse gas emissions data is reported as part of the Net Zero in Government Operations Annual Progress Report published by the Department of Finance.
Potential impacts on First Nations cultural heritage	Defence has been engaging with, and will continue to engage with, Traditional Owners in the Cockburn Sound region to identify, safeguard and mitigate impacts to cultural heritage. Defence’s approach to the preservation and management of Cultural Heritage will be assessed in accordance with the requirements of the EPBC Act.
Radioactive waste management including proximity to residential population, opposition to accepting US or UK waste and the ARPANSA licencing process.	<p>The Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency (ARPANSA) are responsible for assessing and regulating the conditions for obtaining and maintaining a licence for all nuclear activities including safe operations, training, personnel competency management and emergency response. This includes substantive plans and detailed emergency plans.</p> <p>ARPANSA issued a site preparation licence to the Australian Submarine Agency on 8 July 2024 to prepare a site for the prescribed radiation facility, known as the ‘Controlled Industrial Facility’. The siting licence approval is the first stage of a stringent licencing process that requires separate applications for site preparation, construction, operation and decommissioning of the Controlled Industrial Facility.</p> <p>In their public response on the site preparation licence, ARPANSA stated that it had concluded that the proposed Controlled Industrial Facility is compliant with the requirements of the ARPANS Act and Regulations, and also with applicable international best practice for the safe storage and management of radioactive waste. In addition, ARPANSA also performed independent verification of information provided in the application which included performing an assessment of the radiological consequences of a credible worst-case incident at the proposed facility. ARPANSA found that, in this worst-case scenario, any radiological doses off-site were negligible and predicted doses on site at HMAS <i>Stirling</i> were significantly less than statutory dose limits. This worst-case scenario was derived from considering a wide number of events (and combination of events) including human-caused (for example security events) and natural incidents (for example seismic, bushfire, flooding, etc.) (ARPANSA approves siting licence for ASA Controlled Industrial Facility ARPANSA).</p>
Disposal site for radioactive waste not yet selected or determined.	<p>Determining suitable locations and methods for the disposal of nuclear waste generated by nuclear-powered submarines will take time and requires community consultation and detailed consideration of technical requirements.</p> <p>In 2023, the Australian Submarine Agency (ASA) and Defence conducted a review, working with relevant agencies including the Australian Radioactive Waste Agency, to inform the decision-making process to manage and dispose of high-level waste in the current or future Defence estate. The ASA is now working through the next steps to inform future advice to the government.</p> <p>All management of radioactive waste will be done in accordance with our domestic and international legal obligations and commitments.</p>

Key points raised	Defence response
<p>Economic and employment opportunities need more planning and support for local businesses and workforce to benefit, realise opportunities for training and education, and adequate planning to secure workforce needed</p>	<p>Early industry engagement has identified that while the construction industry in WA is currently busy, there is appetite and capacity to support this project. Contracts will comply with Commonwealth polices regarding local industry and Indigenous business participation. Currently, a local participation rate of more than 85% is expected.</p> <p>This will be communicated with industry as the project progresses to the delivery phase.</p>
<p>Need for adequate planning and consultation with key stakeholders to ensure housing and accommodation supply, in a market already under pressure in terms of affordability and availability</p>	<p>Defence is committed to working with community and local councils to ensure impacts are minimised and taking consideration of the local housing market. Defence Housing Australia is considering a number of options to meet the long-term housing demands for the nuclear-powered submarine capability. Options include a diverse range of housing stock in a number of different locations to reduce the impact on local services and community infrastructure. Defence is also constructing additional on island accommodation for Australian and international service members.</p>
<p>Traffic congestion will continue to impact local roads and planning and investment is needed for local and state government to address infrastructure</p>	<p>Defence recognises the importance of adequate transport planning and local road upgrades in line with the increase in Defence activities at HMAS <i>Stirling</i>. Defence is working closely with the City of Rockingham and WA State Government on transport studies, including identifying opportunities for road upgrades to improve traffic flow for the local community. This cooperation includes contributing to a specific study on the Cape Peron Transport Needs that has been developed by the City of Rockingham under the Cape Peron Planning Investigation Area.</p> <p>Defence is also seeking options from construction contractors to reduce daily vehicle traffic during the construction period. This includes the establishment of an onsite concrete batching plant and the development of worker transport strategies. As part of the Early Works, an extra lane to the base entry is planned to mitigate entrance delays resulting in traffic queuing.</p>
<p>Concern about security risks of conventionally armed, nuclear-powered submarines in region</p>	<p>Defence and ASA will develop a robust security and emergency management system to meet the regulatory and best practice requirements for nuclear safety and security at HMAS <i>Stirling</i>.</p>
<p>Opposition to and concern about AUKUS, calling for access to more information, engagement with community and public debate about policy decisions</p>	<p>This is outside the scope of consideration for the infrastructure project and is a strategic decision by the Australian Government.</p> <p>For more information regarding the use of conventionally armed, nuclear-powered submarines please refer to the Australian Submarine Agency - Australia's nuclear-powered submarines Australian Submarine Agency (asa.gov.au)</p>

Key points raised	Defence response
<p>Concern about relative timing and scope of approval processes, including PWC, ARPASNA and EPBC Act referrals</p>	<p>Defence complies with the relevant legislation and planning approval processes. For this project, it has included assessment of all works under the EPBC Act through self-assessment or referral to DCCEEW for environmental impacts and assessment under PWC Act. Defence has consulted with community and stakeholders under the scope of both EPBC Act referral and PWC referral.</p> <p>ARPNSA licencing assessments are managed by the ASA with support from Defence.</p> <p>Defence has agreed upon a concurrent review and approval process with other Government agencies including with the Department of Finance, the Department of Climate Change Energy the Environment and Water. A concurrent approval process for all elements of the works has been agreed to due to the timelines required to deliver the project and meet the requirements of the Optimal Pathway. This process does not compromise on the independence of the Regulators or the PWC.</p>

SUMMARY OF TOPICS AND KEY ISSUES RAISED DURING CONSULTATION

TOPIC	RAISED BY	DEFENCE RESPONSE
<p>Traffic impacts on local roads including Point Peron Road, Safety Bay Road, Parkin Street, Russell Road, Rockingham and the extension of the Garden Island Highway.</p>	<p>Local community City of Kwinana City of Cockburn Australian Industry and Defence Network WA</p>	<p>Defence recognises the importance of adequate transport planning and local road upgrades in line with the increase in Defence activities at HMAS <i>Stirling</i>.</p> <p>Defence is working closely with the City of Rockingham and WA State Government on transport studies, including identifying opportunities for road upgrades to improve traffic flow for the local community.</p> <p>This cooperation includes a specific study on the Cape Peron Transport Needs that has been developed by the City of Rockingham under the Cape Peron Planning Investigation Area.</p> <p>Defence is also seeking options from construction contractors to reduce daily vehicle traffic during the construction period. This includes the establishment of an onsite concrete batching plant and the development of worker transport strategies.</p> <p>As part of the referred works, an extra lane to the base entry is planned to mitigate entrance delays resulting in traffic queuing.</p>
<p>Impacts to housing supply and affordability and DHA approach to provide accommodation</p>	<p>Local community City of Kwinana City of Cockburn</p>	<p>Defence is committed to working with community and local councils to ensure impacts are minimised and taking consideration of the local housing market.</p> <p>Defence is considering a number of options to meet the long-term housing demands for the nuclear-powered submarine capability. Options include a diverse range of housing stock in a number of different locations to reduce the impact on local services and community infrastructure.</p> <p>Defence is also constructing additional on island accommodation for Australian and international service members.</p>
<p>Impacts to social infrastructure (education and health services) to accommodate increased population</p>	<p>Local community</p>	<p>Defence continues to liaise with local and state government to highlight the increase in Military personnel and families in the region to enable future planning for the education and health requirements.</p>

TOPIC	RAISED BY	DEFENCE RESPONSE
<p>Management of radioactive waste and risk to local environment and community, including in emergency situations</p>	<p>Local community City of Kwinana City of Cockburn</p>	<p>The Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency (ARPANSA) are responsible for assessing and regulating the conditions for obtaining and maintaining a licence for all nuclear activities including safe operations, training, personnel competency management and emergency response. This includes substantive plans and detailed emergency plans.</p> <p>ARPANSA issued a site preparation licence to the Australian Submarine Agency on 08 July 2024 to prepare a site for the prescribed radiation facility, known as the ‘Controlled Industrial Facility’. The site preparation licence approval is the first stage of a stringent licencing process that requires separate applications for siting, construction, operation and decommissioning of nuclear powered conventionally-armed submarines.</p> <p>In their public response on the site preparation licence, ARPANSA stated that it had concluded that the proposed Controlled Industrial Facility is compliant with the requirements of the ARPANS Act and Regulations, and also with applicable international best practice for the safe storage and management of radioactive waste. In addition, ARPANSA also performed independent verification of information provided in the application which included performing an assessment of the radiological consequences of a credible worst-case incident at the proposed facility. ARPANSA found that, in this worst-case scenario, any radiological doses off-site were negligible and predicted doses on site at HMAS <i>Stirling</i> were significantly less than statutory dose limits. This worst-case scenario was derived from considering a wide number of events (and combination of events) including human-caused (for example security events) and natural incidents (for example seismic, bushfire, flooding, etc.).</p>

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TOPIC	RAISED BY	DEFENCE RESPONSE
<p>Disposal site not yet selected or determined.</p>	<p>City of Cockburn</p>	<p>Determining suitable locations and methods for the disposal of nuclear waste generated by nuclear-powered submarines will take time and requires community consultation and detailed consideration of technical requirements.</p> <p>In 2023, the Australian Submarine Agency (ASA) and Defence conducted a review, working with relevant agencies including the Australian Radioactive Waste Agency, to inform the decision-making process to manage and dispose of high-level waste in the current or future Defence estate. The ASA is now working through the next steps to inform future advice to the government.</p> <p>All management of radioactive waste will be done in accordance with our domestic and international legal obligations and commitments.</p>
<p>Maintaining access to Garden Island / <i>Meeandip</i> for fishing and recreational activities</p>	<p>Local community City of Kwinana</p>	<p>HMAS <i>Stirling</i> and other Defence establishments occupy approximately 30% of Garden Island/Meeandip. These areas are restricted areas.</p> <p>The public areas are accessible by boat to designated shorelines during daylight hours. There is no intent to change this access to Garden Island and surrounding areas.</p> <p>The Naval Waters surrounding the island and causeway are regulated in accordance with the provisions of the <i>Control of Naval Water Act (1918)</i> and the <i>Controlled of Naval Waters Regulations (1922)</i>. The public is permitted to enter these waters and access the island foreshore where access has not been prohibited by formal notification.</p>

TOPIC	RAISED BY	DEFENCE RESPONSE
<p>Environmental impacts of work on flora and fauna, including penguins.</p>	<p>Local community</p>	<p>Defence has prepared technical studies to understand the potential environmental, social and economic impacts of the proposed infrastructure to Garden Island, Cockburn Sound and the wider region.</p> <p>These investigations will provide additional information to form a strong understanding of the current environmental status around HMAS <i>Stirling</i>, as well as guiding specific practices to minimise, or where possible eliminate, negative environmental impacts.</p> <p>Construction (including demolition) phase impacts on both Flora and Fauna will be managed through the implementation of project-specific construction environmental management plans which may include avoidance areas.</p> <p>Regular environmental monitoring will take place throughout the SRF-West construction process to ensure a minimum of disturbance, as well as ongoing monitoring during operation of the base.</p> <p>Defence has completed a significant environmental investigation and has developed a referral package for the Maritime Intrusive Works that includes protection of the Little Penguin colony on Garden Island. The referral and assessment will comply with the EPBC Act.</p> <p>Monitoring has been regularly conducted on the Careening Bay colony of little penguins since December 2020 to address uncertainty in the critical life-history processes of the penguins. The success of the Garden Island colony indicates that the penguins have thrived with the existing background sound levels.</p>

TOPIC	RAISED BY	DEFENCE RESPONSE
<p>Environmental impacts of work such as dredging on marine environment, including seagrass and water quality.</p>	<p>Local community</p>	<p>Defence has prepared technical studies to understand the potential environmental, social and economic impacts of the proposed infrastructure to Garden Island, Cockburn Sound and the wider region (for example, dredging in the marine environment).</p> <p>No seagrass was observed within the proposed dredge areas and spoil ground during environmental studies undertaken for this project.</p> <p>A quantitative baseline condition assessment of benthic habitats and seagrass cover is in progress. Mapping and characterising the subtidal benthic communities and habitats, their distribution and diversity within the proposed construction footprint, proposed dredge disposal areas and respective adjacent areas.</p>
<p>Concern about security risks and increased potential for the base and/or region to be targeted</p>	<p>Local community City of Kwinana</p>	<p>Defence and ASA will develop a robust security and emergency management system to meet the regulatory and best practice requirements for nuclear safety and security at HMAS <i>Stirling</i>.</p>
<p>Opportunities for local participation in employment, training and supply chain, when and how this will be communicated.</p>	<p>Local community City of Kwinana</p>	<p>Early industry engagement has identified that while the construction industry in WA is currently busy, there is appetite and capacity to support this project. Contracts will comply with Commonwealth policies regarding local industry and Indigenous business participation. Currently, a local participation rate of more than 85% is expected. This will be communicated with industry as the project progresses to procurement.</p> <p>ASA will continue to develop engagement strategies along with commercial partners for ongoing maintenance and support contracts for the submarine operations.</p>
<p>Opposition to use of conventionally armed, nuclear-powered submarines</p>	<p>Local community</p>	<p>This is outside the scope of consideration for the infrastructure project and is a strategic decision by the Australian Government.</p> <p>For more information regarding the use of conventionally armed, nuclear-powered submarines please refer to the Australian Submarine Agency - <u>Australia's nuclear-powered submarines Australian Submarine Agency (asa.gov.au)</u></p>

TOPIC	RAISED BY	DEFENCE RESPONSE
<p>AUKUS, the optimal pathway and other political positions, and impact of USA election on project</p>	<p>Local community City of Kwinana</p>	<p>This is outside the scope of consideration for the infrastructure project and is a decision for the Australian Government.</p> <p>For more information regarding the strategic plan for this program please refer to the Australian Submarine Agency - AUKUS Nuclear-Powered Submarine Pathway Australian Submarine Agency (asa.gov.au).</p>
<p>Capability of HMAS <i>Stirling</i> emergency services</p>	<p>City of Kwinana</p>	<p>Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency’s licensing requirements necessitate that Nuclear facilities and sites have emergency preparedness and response plans in place for likely emergency scenarios.</p> <p>These plans are substantive in nature and require approval from the regulator before they can be operated, before and after a licence has been issued.</p> <p>The primary objective of any emergency response involving radioactive materials is to protect on-site personnel, the public and the environment from any potentially harmful effects.</p>
<p>Capital costs of project is not the best use of funding</p>		<p>The SRF-West Priority works will assess value for money through all phases of the project. This is achieved through critical analyses and reviews of scope, design, constructability, and estimated cost (both capital and whole of life) to ensure the public funds are being best spent.</p> <p>Independent cost plan reviews are conducted at each key design milestone to validate the quantities, rates and measurements against the Cost Plan.</p> <p>Commentary about redistributing the public funds to alternatives is outside of the scope of consideration for the infrastructure project and is a decision of the Australian Government.</p>