

Environmental Impact Statement

General Fact Sheet



Introduction

On 14 March 2023, the Commonwealth Government announced the acquisition of a conventionally-armed nuclear-powered submarine capability for Australia, and that a preferred site for a Submarine Construction Yard had been identified at Osborne, South Australia.

The Minister for Planning has declared that an Impact Assessed development process under section 108(1)(c) of the Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016 will apply to construction of the nuclear-powered Submarine Construction Yard located at Osborne.

Subject to further assessment of the suitability of the preferred site, the Submarine Construction Yard will be built adjacent the existing Osborne Naval Shipyard, which is the most advanced and modern shipbuilding hub in Australia, and is owned and managed by Australian Naval Infrastructure.

Impact Assessed Development

The Impact Assessed pathway is the most rigorous level of development assessment in South Australia. It is reserved for major projects of economic, social or environmental importance to the State.

A key component of the Impact Assessed process is the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement which addresses the expected environmental, social and economic impacts and effects of the proposed development.

The Environmental Impact Statement has now been prepared by Australian Naval Infrastructure for the Osborne Submarine Construction Yard.

As part of the process, an Environmental Impact Statement is required to be made publicly available for 30 business days to ensure the community have an opportunity to understand and comment on what is proposed.

Following public consultation, ANI will prepare a formal response document. The State Planning Commission will then undertake an assessment of the proposal and make a recommendation to the Minister for Planning.

What will be located on the Submarine Construction Yard?

More than 50 buildings will be on the site providing a range of manufacturing and associated activities including fabrication, welding, painting, warehousing, storage, assembly and testing, general workshop operations and component fit out.

The Submarine Construction Yard site will be divided into three areas as shown in Figure 1 below, consisting of:

- › Submarine fabrication (Area 1) which includes buildings and workshops to manufacture submarine components.
- › Submarine outfitting (Area 2) which includes buildings used to fit out the submarine sections.
- › Submarine consolidation, launching, testing and commissioning (Area 3) which includes a launch facility and wharf.



Figure 1 - Preferred development site divided into key areas.

What is the Submarine Construction Yard timeframe?

Construction of the yard is expected to take more than a decade with site establishment works starting in 2025, and completed in three phases as illustrated in Figure 2 below:

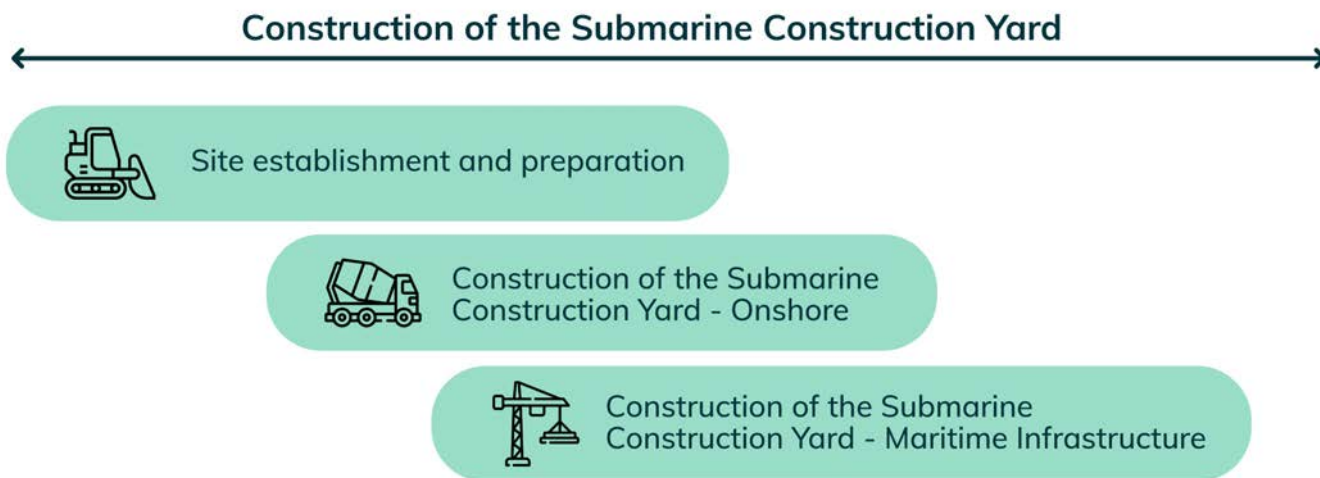


Figure 2 - Construction phases

Once built, the Submarine Construction Yard will be in operation for more than 30 years enabling five world-class submarines, known as the SSN-AUKUS, to be delivered to support security, peace and economic prosperity in the Indo-Pacific. The first Australian built nuclear-powered submarine is expected to be delivered by the early 2040s.

How will the submarine nuclear-powered propulsion systems be managed?

The nuclear-powered propulsion systems for the submarines will be delivered to the development site as a fully manufactured and sealed package that is dry and inert. At the development site the system will be stored inside a purposely constructed, safe and secure area until the submarine is ready to have the propulsion system installed in its hull.

It is anticipated the submarine construction, test and commissioning activities planned for Osborne will generate small amounts of low and very low-level radioactive waste. This will comprise waste like personal protective equipment, such as gloves, and materials including wipes, rags and plastic bags, which is similar to the waste generated by hospitals and research facilities around Australia. This low-level radioactive waste will need to be managed and temporarily stored in a licenced facility at the Osborne Submarine Construction Yard, in accordance with regulatory requirements.

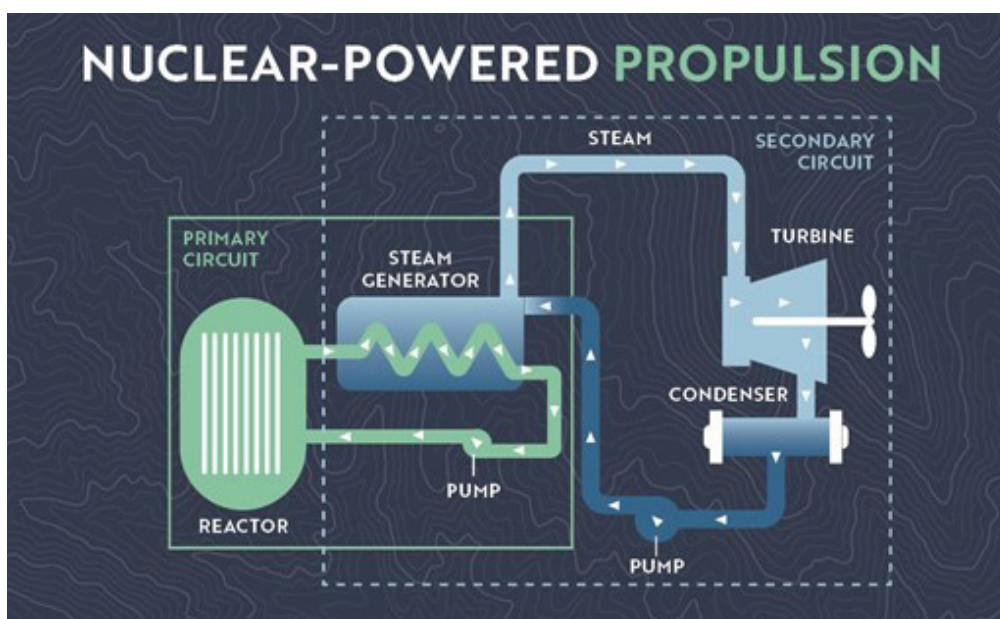


Figure 3 - Diagram of the nuclear-powered propulsion system

What effects did the Environmental Impact Statement identify?

The Environmental Impact Statement comprehensively assessed a range of sensitivities and any potential effects caused by the development during both the construction and operational phases of the Submarine Construction Yard.

Most of the effects were found to be minor in nature and can be addressed by standard mitigation measures. Some positive effects, particularly the economic benefits of the development, were also identified.

Overall, the Environmental Impact Statement identified that the development would have no significant effect on:

- › Air Quality
- › Vibration
- › Visual Amenity
- › Biosecurity
- › Marine Flora and Fauna
- › Terrestrial Flora and Fauna
- › Climate Change Adaption
- › Green House Gas Emissions
- › Waste Management
- › Flooding
- › Contamination
- › Coastal and Marine interface
- › Surface water and Groundwater
- › Aboriginal Cultural Heritage
- › Community Wellbeing
- › Heritage Places and Areas

Three residual significant effects, which are those effects that remain following the implementation of mitigation measures, have been identified by the Environmental Impact Statement, namely:

› **Local, Regional and State Economies**

There are significant long- and short-term benefits to the South Australian economy at all levels (local, regional and state) through construction and operation of the development. To maximise these, the Environmental Impact Statement identifies the need for the South Australian Government and Australian Government to consider the development's skilled labour and land requirements.

To address this impact and maximise the benefits to our community, the Commonwealth and South Australian Government are working collaboratively to develop a new Skills and Training Academy at Osborne, increase university places targeted at STEM disciplines as well as a range of other measures to grow the submarine and naval shipbuilding workforce including developing skills required for the construction of the SSN-AUKUS nuclear-powered submarines.

› **Operational Traffic and Traffic Noise**

During operation of the Submarine Construction Yard, traffic generated by the development workforce in combination with other planned growth on the Lefevre Peninsula, is expected to increase and the potential to exceed the capacity of certain existing roads in the area and also increase road traffic noise if appropriate management strategies are not adopted. These impacts can be addressed through a range of operational measures such as timing of shifts, public transport, and infrastructure improvements to be adopted as the workforce in the precinct grows. Traffic impacts generated by operations will not be felt for some time and therefore there are significant opportunities to plan for this change.

The SA Government has committed to the preparation of the Lefevre Peninsula Master Plan, which will ensure opportunities arising from the project can be maximised, including opportunities for improved public infrastructure. In addition, to support the development of this region, the Department for Infrastructure and Transport (the Department) is already upgrading transport infrastructure in the area with a \$100 million commitment to road and rail infrastructure improvements jointly funded by the South Australian and Australian governments (50:50).

www.dit.sa.gov.au/infrastructure/road_projects/LefevreUpgradeProject

› **Construction Noise**

During construction, the Environmental Impact Statement identifies that nearby properties could experience short-term noise effects during the daytime however this is manageable and expected for a development of this size and scale.

During operation of the Submarine Construction Yard, noise levels are predicted to comply with relevant criteria for plant and equipment.

Strategic Assessment

On 24 November 2023, the Commonwealth Minister for the Environment and Water and the Australian Submarine Agency entered into an agreement to undertake a Strategic Assessment of the Osborne Submarine Construction Yard under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999.

The Australian Submarine Agency is undertaking concurrent engagement on the Strategic Assessment for the Submarine Construction Yard from Monday 3 February to Monday 17 March 2025.

Details can be found at www.asa.gov.au/projects/osborne-submarine-construction-yard

How can I find out more?

You can view the Environmental Impact Statement Report and supporting documents by scanning the QR code below:



Or visit the YourSAy website: www.yoursay.sa.gov.au/submarine-construction-yard-eis

A hard copy is also available to view at:

- › Planning and Land Use Services – Level 9, 83 Pirie Street, Adelaide
- › Port Adelaide Library – 2-4 Church St, Port Adelaide

You can talk to a member of the project team at a community drop-in session at the following dates, times and locations:

- › 11.30am-1.30pm, Wednesday 19 February 2025, State Library, Cnr North Terrace & Kintore Ave, Adelaide
- › 5pm-7pm, Thursday 20 February 2025, Port Adelaide Plaza, 200-220 Commercial Road, Port Adelaide
- › 1pm -3pm, Friday 21 February 2025, Function Room, Lefevre Community Stadium, 514 Victoria Road, Osborne
- › 1pm-3pm, Saturday 22 February 2025, Function Room, Lefevre Community Stadium, 514 Victoria Road, Osborne.

If you have any questions about the Environmental Impact Statement process you can contact PlanSA on 1800 752 664 or email PlanSA@sa.gov.au

For further information about the Submarine Construction Yard visit www.ani.com.au/nuclear-powered-submarine-construction-yard

Consultation closes 5pm, Monday 17 March 2025.

Undertaking meaningful, authentic engagement with the local community and stakeholders is an important part of the Impact Assessed development process. The engagement has been designed in accordance with the Community Engagement Charter.

How can I have my say?

We would like to hear your views on the Environmental Impact Statement Report which is available for public feedback from **Monday 3 February to Monday 17 March 2025**. During this time you can lodge a written submission about any aspect of the Report.

You can provide your feedback in the following ways:

- › **Via our online survey** at www.yoursay.sa.gov.au/submarine-construction-yard-eis or scan the QR code.
- › **By completing the PlanSA submission form** available at www.plan.sa.gov.au/have_your_say/notified_developments/state_developments
- › **By email:** SPCreps@sa.gov.au with “Submarine Construction Yard EIS submission” in the subject line.
- › **In writing addressed to:**
Attention Robert Kleeman
Manager Crown and Impact Assessment
Planning and Land Use Services
Department of Housing and Urban Development
GPO Box 1815, Adelaide SA 5000.

How will I know my feedback has been used?

Each submission will be registered, and you will receive an email confirming receipt. Your responses will be made available on the PlanSA and YourSAy website. Personal addresses, email addresses and telephone numbers will not be published, however, business information will be.

What are the next steps?

A What We Heard Report will be prepared, summarising all the feedback received during this engagement process and published on the PlanSA and YourSA websites.

Your feedback will be important in developing ANI's Response Document. The State Planning Commission will also consider your input when making a recommendation to the Minister for Planning. The Minister's final decision will be published on the PlanSA and YourSAy websites.

We are required to evaluate this engagement process to ensure that it is genuine, fit for purpose and transparent. Participants will be contacted and asked to complete a short evaluation survey after the engagement process has finished.

Do you need these materials translated?

If you require translation services to help you understand this information, please contact:

- › Australian Government Translating and Interpreting Services: 13 14 50
- › South Australian Government Interpreting and Translating Centre: 1800 280 203.

