

Nuclear technology in Australia



Nuclear stewardship

Responsible nuclear stewardship is fundamental to Australia building, operating and sustaining a nuclear-powered submarine capability.

The United States and United Kingdom have set and maintained exemplary safety records in the operation of their submarine nuclear reactors for decades. Australia will look to replicate that safety record by leveraging their decades of experience as excellent stewards of this technology.

For more than 60 years, Australia has operated nuclear facilities and conducted nuclear science and technology activities, providing us experience in stewardship of nuclear facilities. The Australian Government will engage with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) throughout the program and maintain Australia's exemplary nuclear non-proliferation credentials. The Government has also directed the Department of Defence to ensure our national nuclear organisations are closely consulted at all stages.

Australia will maintain its commitments to nuclear non-proliferation and the safe and responsible use of nuclear technology and materials. Australia's new submarines will **not** carry nuclear weapons.

Over the next 18 months, Australia will work with the United Kingdom and United States, to intensively examine the full suite of requirements that underpin nuclear stewardship, with a specific focus on safety, design, construction, operation, maintenance, disposal, regulation, training, environmental protection, installations and infrastructure, basing, workforce, and force structure.



Nuclear safety



Nuclear security



Nuclear regulation & assurance



Workforce training



Waste management



Environmental protection

The Australian Government will:

- ✓ maintain our exemplary nuclear non-proliferation credentials
- ✓ continue our longstanding history of safety and regulatory capability
- ✓ engage regularly with international and national nuclear regulators.

The Australian Government will not:

- ✗ have nuclear weapons on the submarines
- ✗ seek to build a civil nuclear power industry
- ✗ be required to refuel the submarines during their lifetime
- ✗ dispose of nuclear waste in an unsafe manner.