

AUKUS and the AMC: Summary of Key State and Federal Government Announcements

Western Australia is set to be home to the biggest naval maintenance hub in the southern hemisphere. The level of investment will deliver continuous naval ship building and see the defence sector become the 'state's second largest industry.

The below table chronologically details the state and federal government announcements over the past 12 months in relation to Australia, The United Kingdom, and the United States (AUKUS) and the Australian Marine Complex (AMC) and also makes reference to several highly relevant United States and United Kingdom developments.

Date	Agency	Title / Subject	Key Takeaways
21 October 2025	West Australian Government	US Critical Minerals Deal Supports Western Australia's Priorities	▪ The Cook Labor Government welcomed an historic Australia-US agreement supporting critical minerals and rare earths, boosting cooperation and investment to diversify Western Australia's (WA) mineral supply chains and aid defence, renewable energy, and manufacturing sectors. ▪ WA will benefit from investments including a US\$200 million contribution to the Alcoa-Sojitz Gallium Recovery Project, which is critical for defence and semiconductor manufacturing and involves Japan, the United States, and Australia. ▪ The agreement reinforces Australia's commitment to AUKUS, advancing WA's defence industry growth and the development of Henderson as a major naval maintenance and shipbuilding hub, supporting economic diversification and job creation.
17 October 2025	The Hon Pat Conroy MP Minister for Defence Industry and Minister for Pacific Island Affairs	\$19 Million to Help more Aussie Businesses Join US Submarine Supply Chain	▪ The Albanese Government invested AU\$19 million in the Australian Submarine Supplier Qualification (AUSSQ) pilot to support Australian businesses in securing US submarine supply chain contracts. ▪ The program, led by HII Australia and H&B Defence, involves 22 Australian businesses, with eight fully qualified and three invited to quote for work in the US supply chain. ▪ AUSSQ aims to grow Australia's defence industrial base, create jobs, and boost skills, strengthening national security through collaboration with the United States.

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14 October 2025	West Australian Government	New Campaign Shows Fee-Free, Low-Fee TAFE Makes AUKUS Possible	- The Cook Labor Government launched the “You Can Make It Here” campaign promoting technical and further education (TAFE) career pathways, encouraging Western Australians to skill, upskill, or re-skill for WA’s growing economy, including defence jobs linked to AUKUS. - The campaign highlights fee-free and low-fee TAFE courses, including defence-focused programs in cyber-security, engineering, and fabrication, delivered at specialized campuses like the naval base with state-of-the-art workshops. - The government invests in training through initiatives like the AU\$11.5 million AUKUS Defence Industry Incentive, offering employers up to AU\$20,000 per apprentice in priority trades, with TAFE applications open through early 2026.
7 October 2025	West Australian Government	WA Business Enters AUKUS Supply Chain	- WA engineering company, VEEM Ltd, has secured an AU\$33 million deal with one of the United States’ top defence contractors, Northrop Grumman. - The nine-year manufacturing licence agreement will enable VEEM to supply parts for Virginia-class submarines.
7 October 2025	West Australian Government	New Agency to Supercharge Defence Sector Growth in WA	- The Cook Government will create a new statutory body evolving Defence West into an independent agency to boost Western Australia’s defence sector and industries. - This agency will unlock global business opportunities, serve as a key liaison with the Australian Department of Defence, and advocate directly with top decision-makers. - The move prepares WA for AUKUS activities, including hosting nuclear-powered submarines from 2027 and supporting the AU\$12 billion Henderson Defence Precinct naval hub.
14 September 2025	The Hon Anthony Albanese MP Prime Minister of Australia The Hon Richard Marles MP Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Defence	Additional Defence Funding to Deliver the Henderson Defence Precinct	- The Albanese Government will provide AU\$12 billion towards delivering a defence precinct at Henderson to deliver continuous naval shipbuilding and AUKUS in WA. - This announcement is “<i>a significant down payment</i>” for the defence precinct”, with early independent planning advice suggesting the precinct will require an investment of approximately AU\$25 billion over the next decade. - This investment is set to underpin the delivery of:

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	The Hon Pat Conroy MP Minister for Defence Industry and Minister for Pacific Island Affairs		○ The construction of surface vessels for the Australian Defence Force, starting with Army's Landing Craft and, pending successful consolidation, the domestic build element of Australia's future general purpose frigates; ○ Facilities to support the sustainment of Australia's surface combatant vessels; ○ Contingency docking capabilities for Australia's future conventionally armed, nuclear-powered submarine fleet from the early 2030s; and ○ Depot-level maintenance, including graving docks.
10 September 2025	Parliament of Western Australia	State Development Bill 2025	▪ The <i>State Development Bill 2025</i> aims to fast-track approvals for major strategic projects, including those supporting WA's emergence as the largest naval shipbuilding and maintenance hub in the southern hemisphere under AUKUS. ▪ The bill empowers the Premier and Coordinator General to coordinate and accelerate development in key precincts vital to AUKUS-related defence manufacturing and infrastructure projects. ▪ The legislation ensures WA remains globally competitive and investment-ready while advancing economic diversification, supporting defence industry growth, and maintaining environmental and Aboriginal heritage protections.
5 September 2025	West Australian Government	\$11.5 Million Investment to Train Western Australians to 'Make It' in State's Defence Industry	▪ The WA Government has invested AU\$11.5 million into training a skilled workforce to support the development of the Henderson Defence Precinct. ▪ Delivered as part of the AUKUS Defence Industry Incentive, a key initiative under the Made in WA plan, the investment will support 435 training places in crucial shipbuilding and maintenance trades.
2 September 2025	The U.S. House of Representatives	ARMOUR Act	▪ The United States House of Representatives passed the ARMOR Act which is a broader legislative effort to reform the overall US export controls framework for advanced technologies under Pillar II of the AUKUS partnership.

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28 August 2025	The Parliament of Australia	Defence Housing Australia Amendment Bill 2025	- On 25 August 2025, the Parliament of Australia passed the <i>Defence Housing Australia Amendment Bill 2025</i>. - The amendments to the <i>Defence Housing Australia Act 1987</i>, provide Defence Housing Authority (DHA) with the ability to provide housing, and housing-related services to foreign government and defence personnel, and philanthropic organisations assisting the Australian Defence Force, to meet 'DHA's current, and future operational requirements.
21 August 2025	The Unites States Congress	AUKUS Improvement Act	Congress passed the AUKUS Improvement Act which addresses a specific bottleneck in the Foreign Military Sales process. Specifically, this legislation eliminates the requirement for prior approval by the US government for Third Party Transfers by AUKUS Authorized Users. This will help expedite support for Pillar I of the AUKUS partnership.
5 August 2025	The Hon Richard Marles MP Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Defence	Strategic Shipbuilding Agreement Secures Continuous Pipeline of Shipbuilding Work for WA	- The Albanese Government is securing a continuous pipeline of shipbuilding work in WA and creating thousands of jobs through the execution of the Strategic Shipbuilding Agreement with Australia's newly established Strategic Shipbuilder, Austal Defence Shipbuilding Australia Pty Ltd. - The Strategic Shipbuilding Agreement will allow for a steady pipeline of projects to be delivered by Austal. - It has been said that the arrangement will enable the stability and long-term planning required to accelerate the delivery of sovereign defence capabilities in WA that meet the needs of the Australian defence force.
30 July 2025	The Hon Pat Conroy MP Minister for Defence Industry and Minister for Pacific Island Affairs	Summit Held to Support Collins Class Sustainment	- A project of concern summit was held in Canberra to support the sustainment of Australia's Collins-class submarines. - The Albanese Government will invest up to AU\$5 billion over ten years to extend the Collins class submarines' service, preventing a capability gap before transitioning to future nuclear-powered submarines. - Defence and ASC Pty Ltd are developing a sustainment plan to maintain the Collins class's capabilities, focusing on workforce development and productivity improvements since its 2024 Product of Concern listing.

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25 July 2025	The Hon Pat Conroy MP Minister for Defence Industry and Minister for Pacific Island Affairs	Albanese Government Backs Australian Defence Industry and Local Jobs With \$170 Million Grant Program	- The Albanese Government has awarded a further 40 grants to support Australian businesses and back Australian jobs in its commitment to grow Australia's defence industrial base. These additional grants build on the 58 grants announced in May 2025. - These latest grants, totalling over AU\$17.3 million, will deliver priority defence capabilities, support local manufacturing, and strengthen Australia's sovereign defence industry.
2 July 2025	The Hon Richard Marles MP Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Defence	Public Consultation Opens for the Australian Naval Nuclear Power Safety Regulations	- On 2 July, public consultation opened on the regulatory framework that will underpin Australia's Naval Nuclear Power Safety Regulator (the Regulator). - The aim of the framework is to ensure the highest standards of nuclear safety and radiological protection are applied across the nuclear-powered submarine program. - The consultation period will run from 2 July to 30 July 2025, with key stakeholders and the Australian public invited to provide input. - The Regulator will operate within a national regulatory system that supports the safety of people, the public and the environment, and will be established on 1 November 2025.
27 June 2025	The Hon Pat Conroy MP Minister for Defence Industry and Minister for Pacific Island Affairs	Albanese Government Support for Austal's United States Expansion	- The Albanese Government supports Export Finance Australia's approval of a US\$150 million loan to Australian shipbuilder Austal to expand its Alabama shipyard, enabling delivery of major US Navy and Coast Guard contracts. - The funding will cover new assembly facilities, waterfront upgrades, and a ship lift system, enhancing Austal's capacity and strengthening defence industrial ties between Australia and the United States under AUKUS. - This expansion highlights Austal's role in advancing Australia's defence-industry capabilities and international partnerships, with the loan subject to final documentation and conditions.
22 May 2025	West Australian Government	WA Defence Industry Enterprises Invited to Join INDOPAC 2025	- The WA Government has called for local small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in the defence industry to join Team WA at the Indo Pacific International Maritime Exposition 2025 (INDOPAC 2025). - INDOPAC 2025 is the southern hemisphere's largest maritime and naval defence event, attracting global leaders across defence, industry, government, and academia. - INDOPAC 2025 will be held in Sydney from 4–6 November 2025.

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14 April 2025	West Australian Government	WA Joins Forces with one of the World's Biggest Defence Companies	- The WA Government has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with General Dynamics Mission Systems Inc, which is part of General Dynamics, the world's fifth-largest defence contractor with expertise in submarine design, manufacturing, delivery, and sustainment. - It is hoped that the MOU will help fast-track WA businesses that are already manufacturing vital parts of Australian submarines into the Virginia-class supply chain.
8 April 2025	West Australian Government	Major Submarine Conference set to Surface in Perth	- The Submarine Institute of Australia will host its biennial conference in Perth in August 2025. This will be the first time this event has been held in Perth since 2019. - The theme of the conference will be "Nuclear Submarines in Australia". - The conference will attract Australian and international government agencies, strategic policy, maritime academic researchers, and industry organisations.
7 April 2025	UK Ministry of Defence The Rt Hon John Healey MP Secretary of State for Defence	AUKUS Partnership Strengthened with Prime Minister Appointing New Special Representative	- The UK Prime Minister has appointed Sir Stephen Lovegrove as his Special Representative on AUKUS. - Sir Stephen will assist the Defence Secretary and National Security Adviser in advancing the AUKUS programme, leveraging his extensive experience including roles as National Security Adviser during the 2021 AUKUS announcement, Prime Minister's Defence Industrial Adviser, and Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Defence. - Last year, he was tasked by the Prime Minister and Defence Secretary to review the UK's progress on AUKUS commitments, identify challenges, and recommend ways to enhance collaboration with the United States and Australia; his findings have been presented to UK leadership and will be shared with partners and publicly released.
5 April 2025	West Australian Government	United States Defence Industry Mission to Diversify WA's Economy	- Defence is set to become WA's second-largest industry after mining - Local defence businesses could play a role in fast tracking the construction of nuclear-powered submarines in the United States.
2 April 2025	Australian Submarine Company	ASC Uplifting Australian Businesses into AUKUS Supply Chain	ASC is working with US industry partners to uplift Australian businesses into the AUKUS supply chain.

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			Through the Defence Industry Vendor Qualification Program, ASC (and others) are seeking expressions of interest from Australian businesses that manufacture a range of parts, including valves, castings, mechanical assemblies and fittings.
31 March 2025	Australian Department of Defence	AUKUS Partners Launch Innovation Challenge 2025	- The AUKUS partners have released a trilateral AUKUS Maritime Innovation Challenge 2025 (the Challenge). - The Challenge seeks innovative solutions from industry and research institutions around the world to provide capability with a focus on undersea communications and control autonomous systems.
26 March 2025	West Australian Government	Western Australia's Defence Sector Showcased on Global Stage	- Avalon 2025 is the largest aerospace and defence expo in the Southern Hemisphere. - It provided WA the opportunity to showcase its defence strengths on the global stage and for its SMEs to meet with key international industry players.
25 February 2025	US Pacific Fleet	USS Minnesota (SSN 783) Advances AUKUS With Port Visit to HMAS Stirling	- The USS Minnesota was the first of two planned US port visits to HMAS Stirling in 2025. - Each nuclear submarine visit to HMAS Stirling is a meaningful step closer to establishing a submarine rotational force. - At HMAS Stirling, the US Navy will have the opportunity to share and compare procedures, such as weapons handling, with their Australian counterparts. - There are currently 120 Australians completing training in Pearl Harbour in relation to Virginia-class maintenance skills. - Port visits are working periods that provide Australians with the ability to learn and gain proficiency maintaining a nuclear-powered war ship.
22 February 2025	Roger Cook Premier	Made In WA	- AUKUS represents one of the biggest new job creators in WA in coming years. - The Labor government will ensure WA realises the full benefits of AUKUS. - A re-elected Cook Labor Government will establish an AU\$2 million fund for local small and medium businesses to build capacity and capability to work on AUKUS-related projects, including ensuring that they comply with defence security and protocols.

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			- There are currently 238 SMEs in WA that are directly involved in the defence industry, but this number is expected to increase dramatically. - The AUKUS SME Readiness Fund will provide grants to small and medium defence businesses to help them build the capacity and capability to procure work in the defence and AUKUS supply chain.
8 February 2025	The Hon Richard Marles MP Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Defence Pete Hegseth US Secretary of Defence	Opening Remarks, Meeting with US Secretary of Defense, Washington DC	- The United States and Australia reaffirmed their strong, historic alliance with a focus on shared security priorities in the Indo-Pacific, emphasizing Australia's role as a frontline partner in the region. - The AUKUS agreement was highlighted as a critical symbol of deepened cooperation, representing a significant increase in American military presence in Australia and enhancing Australian defence capabilities through nuclear-powered submarines. - Hegseth confirmed that President Trump is very aware of and strongly supportive of AUKUS, recognizing the vital importance of the defence industrial base and Australia's substantial investment to strengthen it. - Australia is committing billions of dollars in defence spending to contribute to the US defence industrial base, reflecting a shared principle of "paying our way" and ensuring robust joint capabilities and technology sharing. - The United States expressed strong commitment to delivering Australia's first nuclear submarine on schedule, with efforts to cut red tape and increase industrial capacity.
7 February 2025	US Department of Defence	Shared Challenges, AUKUS Partnership Top Topics as U.S., Australian Defence Leaders Meet for First Time	- Hegseth said President Trump is very familiar with the AUKUS agreement and is equally supportive of it. - A major component of AUKUS involves Australia heavily investing in the US submarine industrial base. - This week, Australia made the first payment of AU\$500 million toward an AU\$3 billion promised investment.
4 February 2025	West Australian Department of Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation	Study into Replicating the Capability of the Australian Marine Complex Common User Facility (CUF) Begins	- Over the past 21 years of operation, the AMC has created more than 50,000 jobs and contributed more than AU\$3 billion to the economy. - Parts of the AMC will be transitioned into a defence precinct over the next decade. - The WA Government has launched a study into where the AMC's CUF capabilities and infrastructure can be relocated.

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			Transforming some or all of the current AMC CUF into a defence precinct will be a staged process to allow sufficient time for both critical infrastructures to be replicated and for affected users to relocate.
29 January 2025	Defence West	WA Defence and Defence Industry Strategy 2025	- The WA Defence and Defence Industry outlines the state 'government's vision and plan to expand the Australian Defence Force's presence in Western Australia and to develop the defence sector into one of the major drivers of the 'state's economic growth. - According to the strategy, by 2040 WA will: - Serve as the homeport and sustainment hub for Australia's AUKUS nuclear-powered submarines and continue supporting Collins-class submarines until retirement; - Maintain Australia's largest naval base, sustain the Navy's surface fleet including Hunter class frigates, and support continuous naval shipbuilding for Navy and Army maritime capabilities; - Expand defence capabilities across all domains and capitalize on opportunities from AUKUS Pillar 2; - Become a key contributor to the nation's guided weapons and explosive ordnance production, including major stockpile sites; - Host strong, resilient defence capabilities in northern WA aligned with national defence priorities; and - Enhance the economic and social benefits of the defence industry for local WA communities and the nation.
29 January 2025	Australian Department of Employment and Workplace Relations	Defence TAFE Centre of Excellence for Western Australia	- The Australian and WA governments are jointly investing AU\$14.6 million to create the WA Defence TAFE Centre of Excellence (the Centre) across four WA South Metropolitan TAFE campuses. - The Centre will innovate defence training across maritime, air, land, space, and information and cyber domains, with an initial focus on maritime training. - This will involve a full range of naval shipbuilding, sustainment, and maintenance activities that will help support Australia's nuclear-powered submarine capability requirements.
18 December 2024	Australian Submarine Company	Australian Government and Industry Partners	Article refers to the signing of the tasking statement.

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		Reach SSN-AUKUS Agreement	- Integrated project teams are now working to oversee tasks such as nuclear stewardship, infrastructure functional requirements, business enablement, and build preparation. - Underpinning business functions, such as nuclear safety and assurance, engineering, and build operations have also been established.
17 December 2024	The Hon Richard Marles MP Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Defence Senator the Hon Penny Wong Minister for Foreign Affairs Rt Hon John Healey MP Secretary of State for Defence (UK) Rt Hon David Lammy MP Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs (UK)	Statement on Australia-UK Ministerial Consultations (AUKMIN)	- Ministers recognised the momentous amendments to AUKUS partners' respective export control regimes, facilitating billions of dollars of licence-free defence trade and maximising innovation across the full breadth of our defence collaboration while mutually strengthening our defence industrial bases. - Ministers welcomed commitment to further enhance the UK-Australia strategic underwater warfare relationship outside of, and alongside, AUKUS. - Ministers welcomed the formation of the SSN-AUKUS Programme Interface Office within the Submarine Delivery Agency, which will coordinate and integrate the sovereign UK and Australian SSN-AUKUS programmes and supply chains.
17 December 2024	BAE Systems	Australian Government and Industry Partners Reach SSN AUKUS Agreement	- ASA, BAE Systems, and ASC Pty Ltd signed a tasking statement, which is a contractual agreement that supports the joint development of build strategy, supply chain management plans, and a workforce development strategy. - It is an important step in establishing a sovereign nuclear submarine build capability in Australia.
16 December 2024	West Australian Department of Training and Workforce Development	Delivering a Skilled Workforce for Western Australia's Defence Industry	- The WA defence industry workforce will need new and expanded skills to work on nuclear-powered submarines. In preparation, the department is already developing a nuclear skills framework. - The uplift in shipbuilding and the AUKUS submarine work has provided WA to leverage its world-leading mining industry to further develop capabilities in line with the AUKUS Pillar 2 priorities. - WA has a highly skilled and educated workforce of over 1.6 million people, with more than 860,000 holding a Certificate III or higher, and more than 420,000 holding a bachelor's degree or above.

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			The Rockingham Jobs and Skills Centre, located in the WA defence industry precinct, has a dedicated Defence Industry Team to attract skilled workers to defence industry careers.
16 December 2024	West Australian Department of Training and Workforce Development	\$35 Million Investment Bolstering WA's Defence Industry Workforce	- The Delivering a Skilled Workforce for Western Australia's Defence Industry report highlights the success of Cook Labor Government's AU\$35 million investment in growing WA's defence industry and building a skilled workforce. - More than 1,000 Western Australians have benefitted from opportunities to join the defence industry workforce.
28 November 2024	Economics and Industry Standing Committee of the Legislative Assembly of Western Australia	Report 10 – Growing the Defence Industry in Western Australia	- Increased strategic competition in the Indo-Pacific is spurring waves of additional and intensifying defence activity in WA. - An overreliance on the resources sector has exposed the state to negative external shocks (or boom-bust) dynamics in the past and there is evidence that a changing global economic landscape may be less favourable to the sustainability of this dynamic in the future. - To capitalize on defence industry opportunities in WA, challenges must be addressed, including: - skills and workforce shortages; - security clearance requirements; and - long procurement timelines and variable workflows in the defence sector. - Adequate infrastructure is essential, with the Henderson waterfront currently struggling to meet existing demand. Upgrades and relocations are needed to support future growth and the development of a new defence precinct.
31 October 2024	West Australian Department of Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation	New Defence Precinct at Henderson	- The defence precinct is a vital next step in advancing continuous naval shipbuilding in WA. - The precinct follows on from Defence's 2024 Enhanced Lethality Surface Combatant Fleet Review and the 2023 Defence Strategic Review. - The state made submissions for both reviews and advocated for more large vessel infrastructure in WA. - The defence precinct is aligned with and supported by the WA Government's Western Trade Coast Infrastructure Strategy, identifying

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			critical infrastructure for de-constraining of the Western Trade Coast, of which the AMC is part of.
16 October 2024	The Hon Anthony Albanese Prime Minister of Australia	New Defence Precinct at Henderson to Deliver Continuous Naval Shipbuilding and Nuclear-Powered Submarine Maintenance	▪ The Commonwealth Defence Precinct will underpin tens of billions of dollars of investment in defence capabilities in WA over the next two decades. ▪ It will also support 10,000 well-paid, high-skilled local jobs. ▪ The defence precinct will also be the home of depot-level maintenance and contingency docking for Australia's future nuclear-powered submarines. ▪ This maintenance capability alone will create around 3,000 jobs in WA.
16 October 2024	The Hon Richard Marles MP Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Defence The Hon Pat Conroy MP Minister for Defence Industry and Capability and Minister for International Development and the Pacific	Cooperation Agreement Between the Commonwealth of Australia and the State of Western Australia to Deliver and Sustain Australia's Future Defence Capabilities	▪ The Cooperation Agreement (CA) sets out the commitments of both the State and the Commonwealth in the delivery and sustainment of Australia's future defence capabilities. ▪ <i>"WA is making a critical contribution to Australian defence capability, plays a vital strategic role in Australia's national defence, and is positioning itself as a global leader in the defence industry"</i>. ▪ WA is fundamental to Australia's shipbuilding and marine capabilities, including the successful implementation of the AUKUS nuclear-powered submarine pathway and continuous naval shipbuilding. ▪ The Commonwealth and state agreed to work together to establish a "Commonwealth Defence Precinct" at the AMC. ▪ It is the Commonwealth's 'responsibility to develop and operate the defence precinct at the AMC. ▪ It is the Commonwealth's 'responsibility to acquire land, seabed, assets, and capabilities necessary to the establishment of the Commonwealth Defence Precinct. ▪ The state intends to exchange relevant state-owned land, seabed, assets, and capabilities necessary for the establishment of the defence precinct on terms that achieve value for money for both parties.
11 October 2024	The Hon Matt Keogh MP Minister for Defence Personnel	Hundreds of New Homes for Defence Personnel in Rockingham	▪ The agreements follow an expression of interest period seeking industry participants who can deliver new properties using their own land, land sourced from the market or a combination of the two. ▪ DHA chair, Robert Lang, said that this is <i>"a first for DHA, which will enable us to scale our housing supply for defence members and provide long-term secure investments for buyers, with DHA as the tenant"</i>.

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11 October 2024	Defence Housing Australia	Hundreds of New Defence Member Homes Coming to Rockingham, WA	- DHA, Parcel Property, and WA builders, Forma Homes and Plunkett Homes entered the first agreements for DHA's New Builds Volume Leasing Program. - Parcel, Forma, and Plunkett are to deliver 550 investor-purchased homes with long-term leases. - First dwellings are due to be delivered in FY 25/26.

HOW WE CAN HELP

We are closely monitoring the developments emerging throughout Western Australia, our local team can advise at any and all stages of defence-sector engagements.

KEY CONTACTS



Simon Moen

Partner
Perth
T +61 8 9216 0947
M +61 411 234 696
Simon.Moen@klgates.com



Luke Paterson

Partner
Perth
T +61 8 9216 0948
M +61 408 823 736
Luke.Paterson@klgates.com



Amy Lawrance

Graduate
Perth
T +61 8 9216 0935
Amy.Lawrance@klgates.com