GOVERNMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

AUKUS Community Taskforce Report

October 2026



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List of Acronyms and Abbreviations

The following acronyms and abbreviations are used throughout this report.

Acronym / abbreviation	Full term
ADF	Australian Defence Force
AIM WA	Australian Institute of Management Western Australia
AMC	Australian Marine Complex
ANSTO	Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation
ARPANSA	Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency
ASA	Australian Submarine Agency
ASC	Australian Submarine Corporation
AUKUS	Australia, United Kingdom and United States security partnership
CCF	Cross-Cutting finding reference
CCIWA	Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Western Australia
DFES	Department of Fire and Emergency Services
DHA	Defence Housing Australia
DISCE	Defence Industry Skills Centre of Excellence
DMFS	Defence Member and Family Support
DPC	Department of the Premier and Cabinet (WA)
DTWD	Department of Training and Workforce Development
ECA	Education and Community Assets finding reference
ED	Emergency department
FTE	Full-time equivalent
GITNWG	Garden Island Transport Network Working Group
GKB	Gnaala Karla Booja Aboriginal Corporation
GP	General practitioner
HCS	Health and Community Services finding reference
HMAS	His Majesty's Australian Ship
HOU	Housing finding reference
MLA	Member of the Legislative Assembly
NAAWA	Naval Association of Australia (Western Australia)
NDIS	National Disability Insurance Scheme
NPS	Nuclear-Powered Submarines
PBS	Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme
PPE	Personal protective equipment
RACGP	Royal Australian College of General Practitioners
REC	Recommendation reference
RGH	Rockingham General Hospital
RHCA	Reciprocal Health Care Agreement
RPT	Roads and Public Transport finding reference
RSL	Returned and Services League
SRF-West	Submarine Rotational Force-West
STEM	Science, technology, engineering and mathematics

TAFE	Technical and Further Education
UK	United Kingdom
US	United States
WA	Western Australia
WACSSO	Western Australian Council of State School Organisations
WAPHA	WA Primary Health Alliance
WAVED	WA Virtual Emergency Department
WTC	Western Trade Coast



Chair’s Foreword

Rockingham has a proud history of supporting Australia's defence capability. As the home of HMAS Stirling, our community will play an important role in Western Australia's defence future and the once-in-a-generation opportunities created by AUKUS.

AUKUS will strengthen Australia's national security and create significant economic opportunities for Western Australia. The scale of investment associated with the program represents a transformational opportunity for the State, particularly in Rockingham and the southern corridor.

As the local Member for Rockingham, I want to ensure that our local community has a strong voice in shaping our future and sharing the benefits associated with this growth.

To identify local opportunities and challenges associated with AUKUS, and ensure local perspectives informed government planning and decision-making, the Western Australian Government established the AUKUS Community Taskforce in February 2026.

Over the past six months, the Taskforce has heard from hundreds of community members and organisations across the region. I would like to thank the 855 people who responded to the Community Views Survey, as well as the many community organisations, industry representatives, education providers, and government agencies that contributed their time, expertise, and local knowledge.

A clear message emerged throughout this engagement. While the community recognises the opportunities AUKUS presents for local jobs, skills, and economic growth, they also want confidence that future demand will be anticipated, planned for, and managed in a way that supports existing and future residents.

What was particularly encouraging throughout the Taskforce's work was this constructive nature of the engagement. People were not only identifying problems, they were also offering solutions and a willingness to work together to ensure AUKUS is implemented in a way that benefits the local community and leaves a positive legacy for future generations.

I am proud that through the work of the Taskforce, we have already secured commitments in areas our community identified as priorities. These include $1 million for master planning at Rockingham General Hospital, short-term improvements to the road network accessing Garden Island, and expanded local training capacity through South Metropolitan TAFE's Rockingham campus. These are practical investments that will help our community prepare for growth and ensure local people are better placed to benefit from the opportunities AUKUS brings.

This final report reflects the views, experiences, and perspectives shared with the Taskforce throughout its consultation program. It provides practical, evidence-based findings and recommendations to support ongoing planning and decision-making as AUKUS progresses.

While the Taskforce's work is now complete, I will continue to advocate for the issues raised through this process to be addressed through continued collaboration with the Western Australian Government, the Australian Government, the City of Rockingham, industry, community organisations, and local community.

There is still significant work ahead. AUKUS will shape Western Australia for decades to come. By planning early, working collaboratively, and listening to the community, we have an opportunity to ensure Rockingham and the surrounding region remain great places to live, work, raise a family, and retire.

I would like to thank the members of the Taskforce, community organisations, industry representatives, government agencies, and residents who contributed their time, experience, and perspectives. Your contributions have helped shape a practical and evidence-based roadmap for Government consideration and a strong foundation for the next phase of delivery.

As the local Member for Rockingham, I will continue to make sure our community's voice is heard as that work continues.



Magenta Marshall MLA

Chair, AUKUS Community Taskforce

Member for Rockingham



Executive Summary

The AUKUS Community Taskforce (the Taskforce) was established in February 2026 by the Premier of Western Australia (WA), the Hon. Roger Cook MLA, and the Member for Rockingham, Magenta Marshall MLA, as a time-limited community engagement and advisory forum. The Taskforce was created to support community understanding of AUKUS and Submarine Rotational Force-West (SRF-West), identify local opportunities and challenges associated with the program, strengthen community readiness, and ensure community perspectives inform government planning and decision-making.

Chaired by Magenta Marshall MLA, with the Director General of the Department of the Premier and Cabinet (DPC) serving as Deputy Chair, the Taskforce brought together representatives from the Australian Government, the WA Government, the City of Rockingham, industry and the community. Australian Government representatives participated as subject matter experts, providing AUKUS-related policy advice and supporting a consistent approach to community engagement and social licence activities across governments.

The establishment of the Taskforce reflects the shared commitment of the WA and Australian Governments to work with local government and communities to support effective community engagement, coordinated planning and investment in the services and infrastructure needed to strengthen community readiness, and to help ensure local communities are well positioned to share in the benefits associated with AUKUS.

SRF-West will commence from 2027, involving a rotational presence of United States (US) and United Kingdom (UK) nuclear-powered submarines (NPS) at HMAS *Stirling*. Through SRF-West, WA will host the rotational deployment of US and UK naval personnel and their families. While this presents significant opportunities for Rockingham and surrounding areas, it has also raised community questions about the implications for housing, health services, transport, schools and community infrastructure.

Over a six-month period, the Taskforce undertook an extensive program of engagement with local, WA and Australian government agencies, service providers, Defence representatives, community organisations and industry stakeholders. This work was complemented by the

Community Views Survey, which attracted 855 responses and more than 2,500 website visitors, generating a strong evidence base to inform the Taskforce's understanding of community perceptions of the opportunities and challenges associated with AUKUS.

What the Taskforce Heard

A consistent message emerged throughout the Taskforce's engagement. Community members recognise the opportunities associated with AUKUS, including local jobs, skills development, defence industry expansion and increased investment in WA. At the same time, they want confidence that governments are planning effectively for future demand and that local communities will be prepared for the changes associated with AUKUS and SRF-West.

The community expressed a strong desire to see the benefits of AUKUS delivered locally, without adding pressure to housing, transport, health services, schools and community infrastructure. Stakeholders consistently identified coordinated planning, clear communication, timely investment and ongoing community engagement as important to maintaining confidence that communities are well positioned to share in the benefits associated with AUKUS.

Key Findings

The Taskforce examined four key areas identified as most relevant to community wellbeing and liveability: housing; health and community services; roads and public transport; and education and community assets.

Defence modelling suggests that SRF-West and AUKUS initiatives will account for only around four to five per cent of total forecast population growth across the broader Cockburn Sound region over the long term, with most population growth expected to occur regardless of AUKUS-related activity. Consistent with this modelling, the Taskforce found that many of the concerns raised by community members reflect existing pressures associated with population growth and increasing demand for services and infrastructure. While these challenges largely pre-date AUKUS, stakeholders frequently expressed concern that Defence and defence industry activity could intensify existing pressures if governments do not plan and invest ahead of demand.

The Taskforce also found that uncertainty regarding future workforce numbers, family arrivals and associated service demand is contributing to community concern and presents challenges for government planning. A consistent theme across consultation was that community support for AUKUS is closely linked to confidence that governments are planning effectively, sharing information openly and ensuring local communities are well positioned to benefit from the opportunities associated with the program.

Recommendations and the Way Forward

This report presents the findings arising from the Taskforce's consultation and deliberations and presents a comprehensive list of community-informed recommendations to the WA Government. While informed by the contributions of all Taskforce members, including Australian Government representatives acting in their capacity as subject matter experts, it is a WA Government document prepared by the Taskforce Chair in accordance with the Taskforce's Terms of Reference and submitted to the WA Government for consideration. The findings and recommendations reflect the views and evidence gathered through engagement with Taskforce members, stakeholders, and the community, but should not be taken as representing the formal position or endorsement of any individual member or organisation.

The recommendations respond to the priorities identified across the Taskforce's four areas of focus, while also addressing broader challenges that emerged consistently throughout consultation. These include the need for better data and information sharing, coordinated planning across governments, clearer public communication and continued engagement with communities affected by AUKUS.

The Taskforce found that maintaining community confidence will require governments to plan ahead, communicate openly, share information effectively, and demonstrate how local concerns are being addressed. The recommendations presented in this report therefore focus on strengthening coordination, supporting infrastructure and service planning, and ensuring local communities are well positioned to share in the opportunities associated with AUKUS.

Together, the Taskforce's findings and recommendations provide a practical roadmap to enhance WA's preparedness for SRF-West and maximise the long-term social and economic benefits of AUKUS for Rockingham and WA.

What is AUKUS?

AUKUS is a trilateral security partnership between Australia, the UK, and the US. The partnership comprises two pillars: Pillar I, which will deliver Australia's future conventionally armed, NPS capability, and Pillar II, which focuses on strengthening cooperation across a range of emerging and advanced technologies.

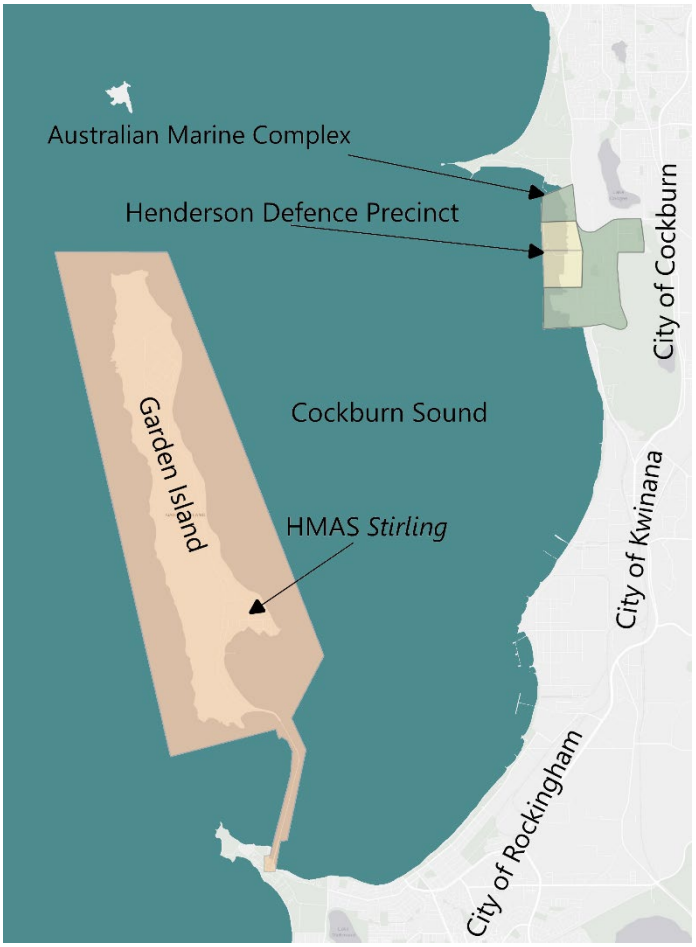


Figure 1 Map showing location of HMAS *Stirling* (Garden Island) and the Henderson Defence Precinct

WA will play a central role in supporting the delivery and sustainment of Pillar I. Australia is set to acquire three in-service Virginia-class NPS from the US from the early 2030s. Australia's sovereign Virginia-class NPS will be based at HMAS *Stirling*, the home of our current submarine fleet (Figure 1). From 2027, AUKUS partners will have a rotational presence at HMAS *Stirling* of one UK and up to four US NPS. This presence, known as Submarine Rotational Force - West (SRF-West), will help Australia build the necessary operational capabilities and skills to be sovereign ready, so Australia can safely and securely own, operate, maintain and regulate its fleet of NPS. UK and US engagement in WA will contribute not only to SRF-West, but also to workforce development, industry collaboration and community-level relationships that support the long-term success of AUKUS.

In addition, the Australian Government is establishing the Henderson Defence Precinct to deliver sustainment and contingency docking capabilities for Australia's future NPS and growing surface fleet.

Australia's acquisition of NPS is the single largest investment in defence capability in our nation's history and represents a transformational moment for our nation, our Defence Force and our economy.

What does AUKUS mean for WA?

The delivery of AUKUS in WA extends beyond Defence facilities and requires coordinated planning across all levels of government. While the Australian Government leads the delivery

of AUKUS, the WA Government plays a critical role in ensuring the infrastructure, services and workforce needed to enable its successful implementation are in place. The Australian and WA Governments are committed to working together to ensure AUKUS is delivered in a way that benefits local communities.

Housing, transport, health services, education, workforce development, and community infrastructure have been consistently identified as priority areas, particularly in Rockingham, Kwinana, and Henderson, where many of the direct and indirect impacts of Defence-related activity are expected to be experienced.

The WA Government has already recognised the importance of these priority areas through the *WA Defence and Defence Industry Strategy 2025*, which sets out a whole-of-government approach to supporting growth in the defence sector while ensuring communities share in the benefits of defence investment. The Strategy recognises the importance of community engagement, workforce development, infrastructure planning and strong partnerships across government, industry and the community.

Local government is an important partner in these efforts. As the level of government closest to the community, local governments help identify local priorities, plan for community infrastructure and services, and provide a critical link between residents, industry and government decision-makers.

Realising the opportunities presented by AUKUS will require careful planning to ensure that growth associated with Defence investment is supported by appropriate infrastructure, services, and workforce capacity. Maintaining community confidence and ensuring local communities are well positioned to share in the benefits of AUKUS will be critical to the program's long-term success in WA.



Further information on AUKUS in WA, including commonly asked questions relating to population growth, housing, transport, health services, NPS and radioactive waste management, is provided at **Appendix A**.



About the AUKUS Community Taskforce

Taskforce Establishment and Membership

In February 2026 the Premier of WA, the Hon. Roger Cook MLA, and the Member for Rockingham, Magenta Marshall MLA, established the AUKUS Community Taskforce. The Taskforce served as a time-limited community engagement and consultative forum focused on understanding the opportunities and challenges that AUKUS and the commencement of SRF-West from 2027 may present for Rockingham and surrounding areas.

Chaired by Magenta Marshall MLA, with the Director General of DPC serving as Deputy Chair, the Taskforce comprised senior representatives from local, WA and Australian governments, community organisations and industry. Members provided information and advice throughout the Taskforce's consultation period; however, the recommendations represent the viewpoint of the Chair. A full list of member organisations is provided in the Terms of Reference at **Appendix B**.

Taskforce Scope

The Taskforce operated from February to September 2026 as a time-limited forum established to better understand and respond to opportunities and challenges arising from the commencement of SRF-West and the arrival of US and UK defence personnel and their families.

The Taskforce’s role was to engage with communities in Rockingham and surrounding areas on matters relevant to the delivery of the AUKUS program. This includes supporting community understanding of AUKUS developments, identifying local opportunities and concerns, and ensuring community perspectives were considered in government decision-making.

The Taskforce focused on community-level impacts and opportunities. Its remit included identifying local needs relating to housing, transport, health services, education and community infrastructure, and developing recommendations to support community readiness, address concerns and maximise the benefits of AUKUS-related activity. These recommendations were provided to the WA Government for consideration.

Stakeholder Consultations

Through a structured program of stakeholder engagement, the Taskforce consulted approximately 50 organisations through roundtables and bilateral meetings. Participants included local governments, service providers, industry representatives, and community organisations.

Through this engagement, the Taskforce developed an evidence-based understanding of community perspectives on the opportunities and challenges associated with AUKUS and SRF-West and translated these insights into practical recommendations for the WA Government's consideration. Consultation findings were synthesised into a series of thematic reports, which form the principal chapters of this report. A full list of organisations consulted is provided at **Appendix C**.

Community Views Survey

To support this work, the Taskforce undertook a Community Views Survey to capture local perspectives on the opportunities and challenges associated with AUKUS. This survey formed a key component of the Taskforce's broader engagement program and complemented the stakeholder consultations.

The survey was open from 3 February to 2 March 2026. It was designed as a short survey, comprising a small number of demographic questions and open-ended questions aligned to the Taskforce's key areas of focus: housing, health and community services, roads and public transport, education, and community assets.

The survey received 855 responses and provided a valuable source of community input to support the Taskforce's work.

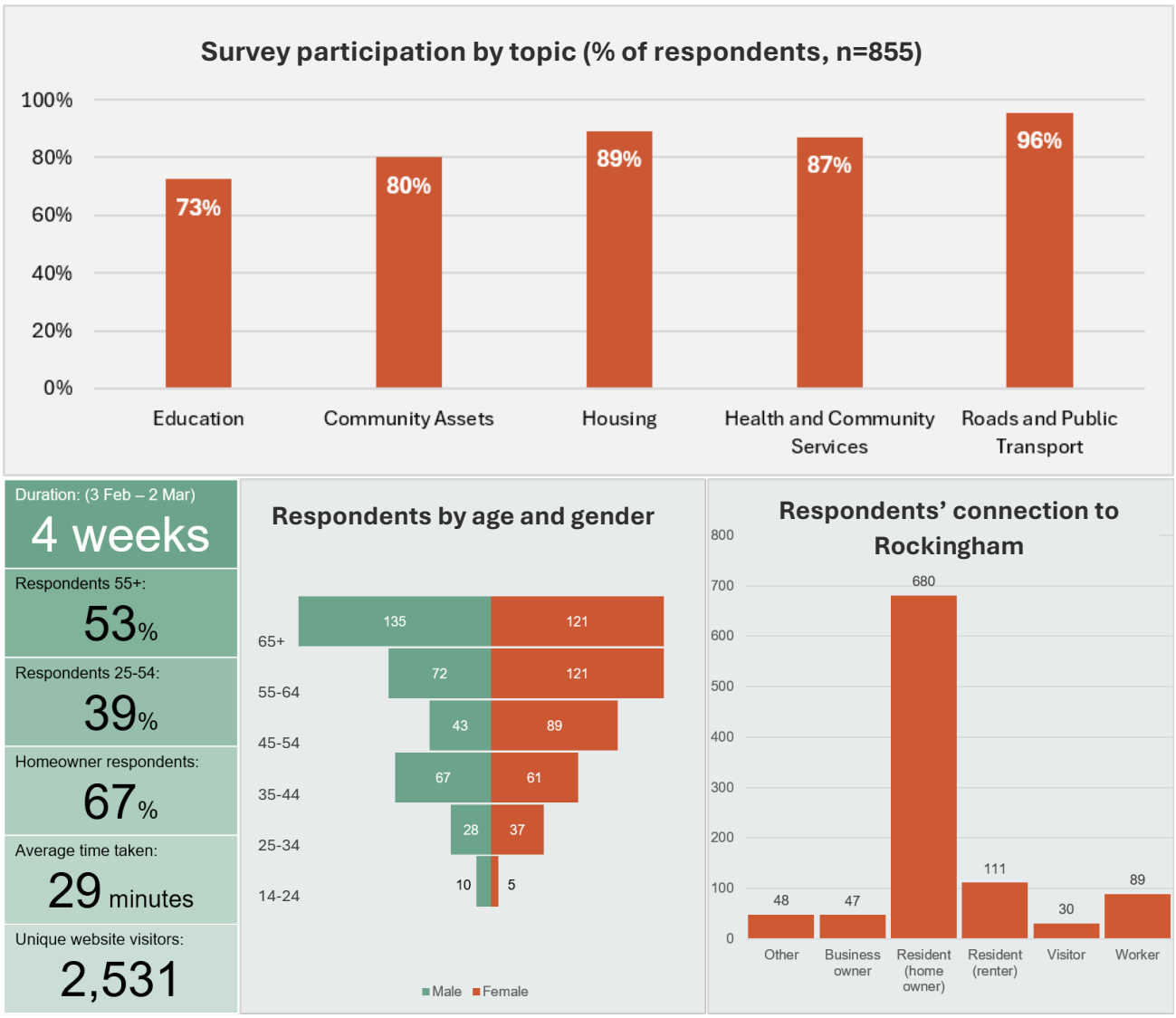


Figure 2 Survey patterns of engagement

The survey generated strong community participation, attracting more than 2,500 unique visitors to the survey website. Respondents engaged extensively with the survey, with high participation across all topic areas and an average completion time of approximately 30 minutes.

As shown in Figure 2, roads and public transport, housing, and health and community services were the topics most frequently addressed by respondents. Participation was strongest among established residents, with 53 per cent of respondents aged over 55 and 67 per cent identifying as homeowners. The survey's open-ended design generated detailed feedback on

community priorities, concerns and opportunities, helping to inform the Taskforce's findings and recommendations.

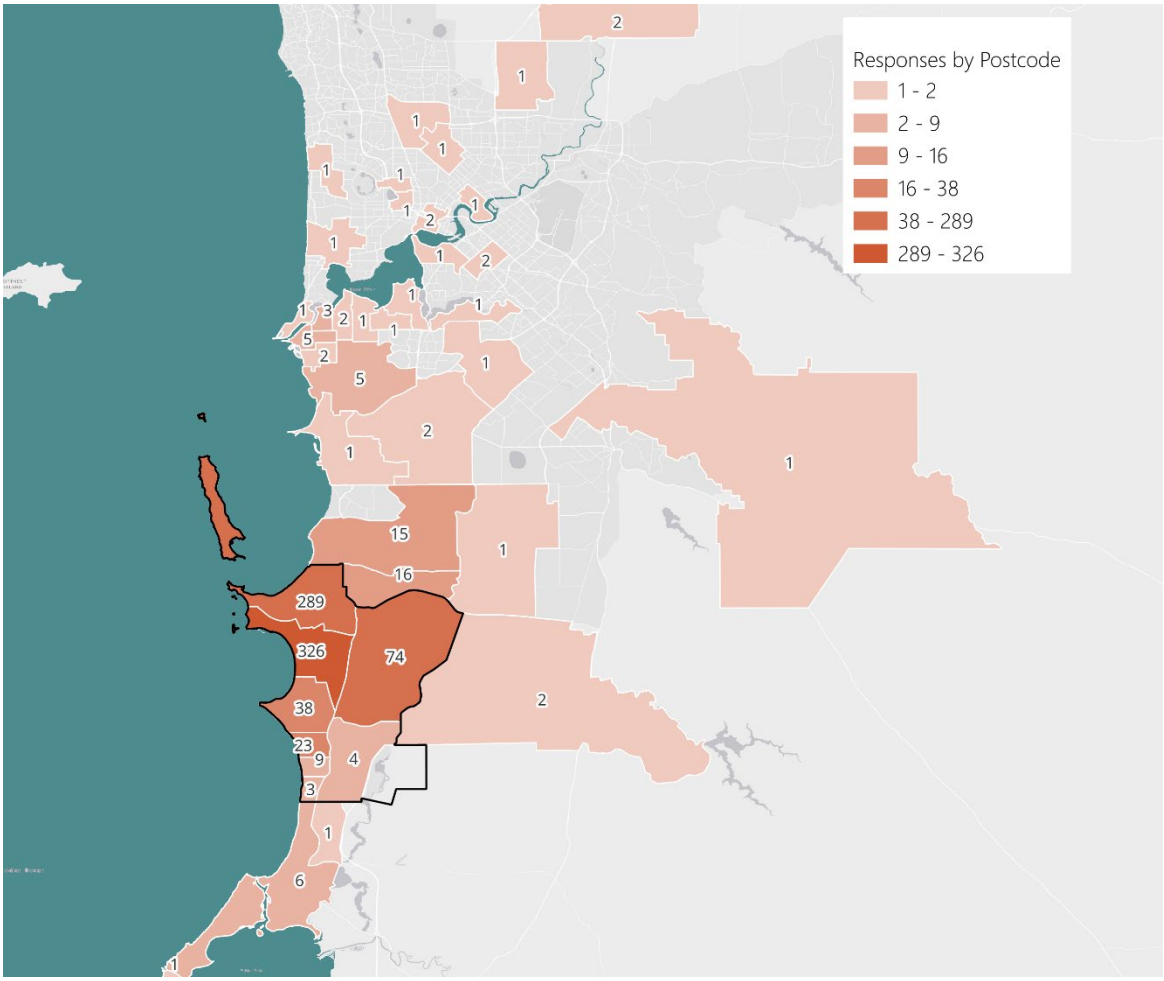


Figure 3 Community Views Survey responses by postcode – All responses

While responses were received from across the Perth metropolitan area, engagement was largely concentrated in communities closest to HMAS *Stirling*, with approximately 90 per cent of responses originating from the Rockingham and Kwinana areas. This concentration is consistent with the Taskforce's geographic focus and the communities most directly affected by AUKUS-related activity. Figure 3 shows the distribution of responses by postcode.

Developing Findings and Recommendations

The Taskforce drew on evidence gathered through stakeholder consultations, the Community Views Survey, and supporting information provided by government agencies and stakeholders. To support consistent analysis across all thematic areas, issues identified through consultation were categorised as:

- pre-existing challenges that would be expected to arise irrespective of AUKUS-related growth;

- challenges perceived to be exacerbated by AUKUS-related growth; or
- new or emerging challenges attributable to, or more acutely perceived, in connection with AUKUS-related activity.

This framework provided the primary lens through which the Taskforce considered the evidence and developed its findings. It helped distinguish broader system-wide challenges, such as housing affordability, hospital demand, workforce shortages and population growth pressures, from issues more directly related to AUKUS.

While many of the challenges identified by the Taskforce pre-date AUKUS, the Taskforce focused on areas where AUKUS-related growth may intensify and compound existing pressures, create new challenges or opportunities, or require targeted planning, investment, coordination or communication responses. This approach informed the development of the findings and recommendations presented throughout this report.



Findings and Recommendations

The AUKUS Community Taskforce examined four key areas: housing, health and community services, roads and public transport, and education and community assets. This work was informed by community survey responses, stakeholder consultations, and advice from Taskforce members.

Across these areas, the Taskforce considered whether concerns reflected existing pressures, pressures that may be exacerbated by AUKUS, or new challenges emerging as a result of AUKUS-related activity. This approach helped distinguish between long-standing issues and those likely to be influenced by future AUKUS and defence-related population growth and investment. In addition to the thematic findings and recommendations, the Taskforce also identified a number of cross-cutting findings and recommendations that apply across multiple focus areas.

Detailed findings for each thematic area are presented in the relevant chapters of this report. This section consolidates the Taskforce's headline recommendations, highlighting the actions considered most important to supporting successful AUKUS implementation while maintaining community confidence and quality of life in the Rockingham region.

Findings and recommendations are categorised by a colour-coding system under the following naming convention:

HOU-01, HOU-02, ... for FINDINGS

REC-01, REC-02, ... for RECOMMENDATIONS

Housing

HOU-01 – There are community concerns that AUKUS-related population growth will add more pressure to housing affordability and availability. These concerns are amplified by a lack of community awareness around incoming personnel numbers and Defence housing arrangements, including perceptions that Defence may outcompete local renters and prospective homebuyers. The ASA has advised that the total number of incoming personnel and their families will be about 2,300, living in the broader 30km region surrounding HMAS *Stirling*. This represents less than 5 per cent of the forecast dwelling supply expected to be delivered across the region over the next five years. Of the 1,200 SRF-West personnel from the US and UK, around half will be unaccompanied and live on base at HMAS *Stirling*.

HOU-02 – Defence industry growth is expected to drive employment opportunities in supporting industries, including the service sectors, contributing to further population growth in the southern corridor and increasing demand for a diverse housing supply.

REC-01 - The WA Government to work with the Department of Defence and Australian Submarine Agency to monitor and report cumulative housing demand and supply impacts associated with AUKUS, and with the assistance of the Australian Submarine Agency provide the community with timely and regular information on expected personnel numbers, timing and Defence housing arrangements.

HOU-03 – Although it is not the primary driver of housing affordability and availability challenges in the region, the associated growth in Defence industries and related service industries occurs at a time when social and affordable housing and crisis accommodation is already under pressure. Defence Housing Australia is prioritising expanding local housing supply through new builds to help meet this demand, including through Defence Housing Australia's New Builds Volume Leasing Program.

HOU-04 – Government agencies are identifying land parcels with development potential and working with industry to bring forward additional development opportunities. Additional strategic sites are also being considered to establish an ongoing pipeline of future development. Work is underway on mechanisms that would allow industry to identify and nominate suitable sites. Land parcels are being progressed for future housing developments, including the Dixon Road Playing Fields and Karnup train station housing precinct, supporting the delivery of a mix of housing options and employment opportunities.

REC-02 – The WA Government to communicate the work being undertaken by DevelopmentWA and Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage to identify land parcels and the actions being taken to increase overall housing supply. DevelopmentWA to investigate the feasibility of dedicating a portion of any newly released land to social and affordable housing.

REC-03 – The WA Government to investigate the feasibility and continue to bring forward social and affordable housing projects in the South-West metropolitan area, working with the Australian Government as appropriate, to increase supply and diversity of housing available to essential workers and families.

HOU-05 – While the release of State and Crown-owned land in the southern corridor is subject to economic viability and other planning considerations, the WA Government should actively identify and fast-track viable opportunities to support developments around Rockingham and other existing and planned station precincts.

REC-04 – The WA Government to monitor and prioritise land release development opportunities around existing and planned southern corridor stations, including through precinct planning and accelerated planning processes where appropriate, to support housing supply as market conditions evolve.

HOU-06 – While land supply and development opportunities in the southern corridor are relatively strong, housing developments are constrained by sequencing of infrastructure, construction capacity and development pipelines.

REC-05 – The WA Government, in partnership with local government, infrastructure providers and industry, to accelerate the delivery of housing supply in the southern corridor through coordinated infrastructure provision, streamlined approvals, development sequencing and workforce capacity measures, and identify other potential barriers to housing delivery.

HOU-07 – Existing housing insecurity in the Rockingham region may be exacerbated by broader population growth and increased housing pressures. Ensuring adequate pathways into longer-term housing and homelessness support services will be important for supporting vulnerable people and maintaining community wellbeing as the region grows.

REC-06 – The WA Government should explore options to expand capacity for housing support and homelessness services in the Rockingham region to ensure services can respond to existing need and anticipated population growth associated with AUKUS.

Health and Community Services

HCS-01 – Existing population growth trends have increased demand on local healthcare services. Defence growth will play a small part in this increased demand for health services through the arrival of defence personnel, civilian workers and their families, but is not the primary driver. While the Department of Defence is implementing healthcare arrangements to help manage these impacts, limited community awareness of these arrangements is contributing to uncertainty about future demand on local health services.

REC-07 – The Department of Defence and Australian Submarine Agency to ensure clear and coordinated communication of Defence health arrangements to improve community understanding and reduce perceived risk and system uncertainty. This may include Defence providing information on the role of HMAS *Stirling* in delivering routine and non-specialist healthcare, and how these arrangements interact with the public health system, as well as the Australian Submarine Agency providing information on private health insurance arrangements for US and UK SRF-West personnel and dependents.

HCS-02 – Rockingham General Hospital is experiencing increasing demand for health services associated with population growth and demographic change. Stakeholders identified concerns that existing pressures could be exacerbated by population growth associated with AUKUS-related activity, highlighting the need for capacity enhancements to ensure the hospital can meet future demand.

REC-08 – The WA Government to prioritise short-term capacity enhancements at Rockingham General Hospital, including additional diagnostic infrastructure and a transit lounge, where supported by service demand.

REC-09 – The WA Government to complete a long-term master plan for the Rockingham General Hospital and progress the recommendations identified in the master plan as a priority.

HCS-03 – Physical access constraints, including transport connectivity, road access and parking capacity, affect the accessibility and efficiency of health services in the Rockingham area, contributing to challenges in accessing care and increasing pressure on hospital operations.

REC-10 – The WA Government to assess options to improve access to the hospital precinct, including potential new transport connections, road network upgrades, improved parking and the strategic use of adjacent land to support future growth.

HCS-04 – Workforce availability and sustainability present ongoing challenges across the health sector, reflecting recruitment and retention pressures, workforce fatigue and increasing demand. These constraints are limiting service capacity and impacting access, continuity of care and overall system performance.

REC-11 – The WA Department of Health to strengthen workforce attraction, retention and sustainability in the region, in alignment with the *WA Health Workforce Strategy 2034*, to improve service capacity, reliability and access.

HCS-05 – Pressure on primary care is contributing to avoidable demand on hospital emergency departments, with patients presenting for care that could otherwise be managed in community or primary care settings. Improving access to affordable primary care is one factor that may help reduce this pressure and the Australian Government is strengthening Medicare by expanding bulk-billing incentives, with four practices in Rockingham

participating in the Bulk Billing Incentive Program, and one Medicare Urgent Care Clinic in Rockingham.

> **REC-12** – WA Government to increase community awareness of Medicare Urgent Care Clinics in the southern corridor and communicate the services and capabilities they provide to encourage greater utilisation, and advocate for additional services or expansion where there is demonstrated need.

HCS-06 – Mental health, aged care and community services in the Rockingham area are operating at high utilisation, reflecting broader demand pressures and capacity constraints. Limited access to these services is contributing to unmet need and flow-on impacts across the system, including increased reliance on hospital services. The WA Government is addressing high utilisation of mental health beds by constructing the Rockingham Mental Health Emergency Centre which will include eight short-stay beds and two Behavioural Assessment beds.

> **REC-13** – The WA Government to explore opportunities to expand community-based mental health, aged care and social support services in the Rockingham area, working with the Australian Government as appropriate, to support early intervention and help reduce downstream demand on hospital services.

> **REC-14** – The WA Government to continue to work with the Australian Government to develop measures to increase aged care capacity in Rockingham, improve access to appropriate local placements for older people and reduce the number of patients remaining in hospital while awaiting residential care.

Roads and Public Transport

RPT-01 – Key transport corridors and local roads in the Rockingham area are experiencing congestion during peak periods, with sections of the network approaching or exceeding capacity. Demand associated with access to HMAS *Stirling* and the Garden Island Causeway places additional pressure on the transport network, contributing to congestion and delays for both local communities and Defence-related movements.

RPT-02 – Heavy vehicles accessing HMAS *Stirling* and the Garden Island Causeway are placing additional pressures on the Rockingham local road network, with some heavy vehicles travelling on local roads that were not designed or intended to accommodate this level of heavy traffic. This contributes to congestion, impacts on local roads and surrounding communities, and has highlighted the need for broader strategic transport planning and access improvements to support AUKUS-related activities and future growth in the region.

> **REC-15** – The WA Government work with the Department of Defence, Australian Submarine Agency and industry to assess and progress freight and logistics solutions that minimise heavy vehicle movements on the local road network, especially Parkin

Street, including facilitating greater uptake of alternative transport modes, such as marine transport, where feasible.

RPT-03 – The WA Government established the Garden Island Transport Network Working Group, bringing together Australian, WA, and local government representatives to drive immediate and coordinated action. The Working Group has proposed short- and medium-term solutions to deliver practical upgrades to improve network performance and safety, while reducing congestion. These improvements will also deliver benefits beyond the defence workforce, through better lighting, safer and more connected pedestrian routes and improved access for the broader Rockingham community.

REC-16 – Main Roads WA to implement short and medium-term local road network improvements outlined in the Garden Island Transport Network Improvement Action Plan.

RPT-04 – Transport infrastructure in Rockingham and across the southern corridor is expected to experience increased demand from Defence and industry growth associated with HMAS *Stirling* and the Henderson Defence Precinct. Stakeholders highlighted the importance of maintaining road and public transport connectivity to support workforce mobility and access to employment opportunities.

REC-17 – The WA Government to work with the Department of Defence and other stakeholders to establish a coordinated long-term approach to transport planning and investment that addresses access, freight movement, network resilience and community impacts associated with AUKUS-related activities, Westport and other major projects.

REC-18 – The WA Government to investigate options to improve public transport connectivity across the southern corridor, including improved connections and better integration with existing rail and bus services.

REC-19 – The WA Government to finalise planning and commence construction for the Karnup Train Station to improve connectivity in the southern corridor, support population growth, and alleviate pressure on roads and public transport, working with the Australian Government as appropriate.

RPT-06 – The Department of Defence is trialling a bus service between Rockingham Station and Garden Island to reduce pressure on local roads and parking facilities as workforce numbers increase. The Department of Defence is leasing a car park from the WA Public Transport Authority for users of the bus service, although initial uptake appears limited.

REC-20 – The Department of Defence and WA Public Transport Authority to continue to monitor use of the dedicated car park at Rockingham Station to better understand the reasons for low patronage and determine whether promotion or measures to encourage the service are required, and to inform whether the Department

of Defence continues to have dedicated car bays or explores other options to ease congestion on local Rockingham roads.

Education and Community Assets

ECA-01 – School infrastructure in the Rockingham and broader southern corridor is under pressure, with capacity constraints limiting the ability to accommodate additional student demand. While a small contributor to the overall student demand, uncertainty around the timing and distribution of AUKUS-related student arrivals constrains precise forward planning and is contributing to community concern about access to school places.

REC-21 – The Australian Submarine Agency, in consultation with the Department of Defence and the WA Government, to provide regular forecasts on the timing, location and composition of AUKUS-related workforce and family arrivals. This would help improve planning certainty and support timely education, infrastructure and service planning.

REC-22 – The WA Government to investigate options for further resourcing within the South Metropolitan Education Regional Office, if required, to improve system coordination and support to schools in managing AUKUS-related enrolments, including:

- providing a central coordination point for placement and transition of AUKUS-linked students;
- supporting schools to respond to increased demand for student support services and cultural transition assistance;
- strengthening engagement with the Department of Defence, families and cross-government stakeholders; and
- supporting schools to provide clear and consistent communication to local communities regarding enrolment processes, capacity, and planning responses.

REC-23 – The WA Government to support the WA Department of Education in seeking additional transportable classrooms if required, to provide an agile and scalable response to overall population growth, including SRF-West personnel arrivals.

ECA-02 – AUKUS will increase demand for skilled workers in the southern corridor, creating opportunities for local residents to access training, upskilling, and long-term careers in the defence industry. AUKUS and naval shipbuilding will support around 10,000 jobs in Western Australia, providing significant opportunities in the region.

ECA-03 – Significant investment is already being made by both the Australian and WA Governments to support workforce development, defence industry participation, and job creation associated with AUKUS. This includes (but is not limited to) the Defence Industry

Pathways Program, the Defence Industry Internship Program, the Jobs for Subs program, and the Defence Industry Vendor Qualification Program.

REC-24 – The WA Government, the Department of Defence, and the Australian Submarine agency to continue and expand investment in defence industry workforce development, training infrastructure and STEM/career pathway initiatives in the southern corridor, to provide skilling opportunities for local residents, including continuing efforts to attract and retain underrepresented groups such as women.

ECA-04 – A range of education, training and reskilling pathways already exist to support defence industry workforce needs through the Department of Training and Workforce Development (DTWD), South Metropolitan TAFE, and the Defence Industry Skills Centre of Excellence (DISCE). However, stakeholders identified opportunities to strengthen awareness, accessibility and utilisation of these pathways to support local participation in emerging defence industry opportunities.

REC-25 – The WA Government to work with relevant stakeholders to investigate opportunities to enhance the utilisation of existing tertiary education infrastructure in the Rockingham and Kwinana region to support future workforce development needs.

REC-26 – The WA Government, in partnership with the Department of Defence and the Australian Submarine Agency, to strengthen awareness of, and access to, training and re-skilling pathways linked to AUKUS-related employment opportunities. This would support local workforce participation in the southern corridor and maximise the economic benefits of these roles for local workers and communities, including people from diverse backgrounds and circumstances.

ECA-05 – AUKUS provides an opportunity to strengthen awareness of defence-related careers among students in primary and secondary schools, and enhance participation in STEM subjects and defence industry career pathways.

REC-27 – The WA Department of Education and Department of Training and Workforce Development to work with the Department of Defence to build on existing defence career taster experiences to be based in the southern corridor.

REC-28 – The WA Department of Education to encourage participation in current STEM subjects, courses and learning opportunities for people from diverse backgrounds and circumstances, together with the development and implementation of new learning and training opportunities to support the defence industry.

REC-29 – The WA Department of Education and Department of Training and Workforce Development to explore options to strengthen partnerships between schools, TAFEs, universities and industry to support pathways into Defence and Defence industry careers.

ECA-06 – Many sporting, aquatic and recreation facilities across the Rockingham region are already operating at or past capacity. Despite recent State and local government investment in community infrastructure, continued population growth is expected to place additional pressure on these facilities. Investment in expanding and improving these facilities will benefit the whole Rockingham community, while also creating greater opportunities to actively welcome and include Defence personnel and their families into the local community. Ensuring service families can participate and build connections in the local community will play an important role in supporting successful integration and will be important to the long-term success of AUKUS.

REC-30 – Building on existing State and local government investment in community infrastructure, all levels of government should consider funding opportunities to support priority sporting, aquatic, recreation and youth facilities in the southern corridor to help communities respond to the population growth and increased demand associated with AUKUS-related activity.

REC-31 – The WA Government to consider options for leveraging industry investment in community facilities, in consultation with relevant Australian, Government agencies as appropriate.

ECA-07 – AUKUS presents an opportunity to promote the southern corridor's natural environment and tourism attractions, supporting community integration, encouraging visitation, and strengthening awareness of the region's unique environmental assets.

ECA-08 – AUKUS presents an opportunity to strengthen support for newly arriving Australian and overseas Defence families to facilitate successful integration into the local community. Building strong connections between Defence families and the broader community will be important to maintaining social cohesion, supporting a sense of belonging, and ensuring the long-term success of SRF-West.

REC-32 – The Department of Defence and the Australian Submarine Agency to work closely with the US Navy, Royal Navy, community providers, and the WA and Local Governments to continue to develop and deliver coordinated arrival information and welcome materials for AUKUS-linked personnel and their families. This could include information on services, education, community and recreational opportunities, and local tourism and environmental attractions to support smoother integration into local communities.

ECA-09 – Existing community infrastructure and support services provide a strong foundation for community integration. However, stakeholders indicated that Defence family support facilities may not currently have sufficient capacity to meet future demand. Population growth associated with Defence and industry activity may increase demand for these services, requiring investment to expand capacity, improve suitability and increase community awareness of available support.

ECA-10 – Marilla Community Centre is a valuable resource for community integration and support for Defence and non-Defence families. However, its capacity to provide support at their current location is constrained and there is a lack of visibility of its services.

REC-33 – The Department of Defence and the Australian Submarine Agency to continue to strengthen partnerships with local community organisations, such as the Marilla Community Centre, to support the successful integration of incoming US, UK and Defence families.

ECA-11– The Rockingham area has a strong presence of valuable RSL and veterans' organisations that present an untapped opportunity to support AUKUS in WA.

REC-34 – The WA Government, the Department of Defence, and the Australian Submarine Agency, with the City of Rockingham, to continue to strengthen communication and coordination with RSLs and the Rockingham Navy Club to ensure these organisations are empowered to support AUKUS in WA.

ECA-12 – Sporting organisations are partnering with Defence, industry and education providers to support STEM engagement, work placements, and workforce development initiatives. AUKUS presents an opportunity to strengthen these partnerships and use sport as a platform to increase awareness of defence industry careers and training pathways for young people.

REC-35 – The WA Government, in consultation with the Australian Government as appropriate, to work with industry partners to strengthen partnerships between schools, sport, and the defence industry that promote STEM learning, career awareness, work experience, and pathways into AUKUS-related employment opportunities.

ECA-13 - Gnaala Karla Booja Aboriginal Corporation (GKB) is the Noongar regional corporation representing the Rockingham area under the South West Native Title Settlement. Traditional Owners hold important cultural knowledge and connections to Country that are relevant to the planning and delivery of major projects in the region. The scale of investment and development anticipated in the region presents opportunities to strengthen the recognition of Noongar culture and for Traditional Owners to play a greater role in welcoming new personnel, families, and communities to the region.

ECA-14 - GKB is experiencing increased demand for consultation and engagement associated with major projects and investment across its region. This is contributing to consultation fatigue and placing additional pressure on an organisation with limited resources and a large geographic area of responsibility. GKB currently operates from a single office in Davenport and is responsible for a region covering approximately 30,424 square kilometres.

REC-36 – The Department of Defence and the Australian Submarine Agency to work with GKB to explore opportunities for a cultural welcoming initiative for personnel and families relocating to the region as part of AUKUS implementation.

REC-37 – The WA Government to work with GKB to explore options to strengthen its presence in the Rockingham area, recognising the increasing demand for engagement associated with major regional investment and development, including AUKUS-related activity.

REC-38 – The Department of Defence to engage with GKB to continue to explore opportunities for greater Aboriginal participation in environmental stewardship, land management, and cultural heritage activities associated with Defence operations.

Cross-Cutting Findings

While most findings relate to specific policy areas, the Taskforce also identified several cross-cutting findings that emerged across housing, health and community services, transport, and education and community assets. These relate to population planning, community confidence, information sharing and whole-of-government coordination, and are presented below.

CCF-01 - Services for US and UK families under SRF-West are being supported through direct engagement with WA and Australian Government agencies. However, coordination of support and access to AUKUS-related information varies across agencies.

REC-39 – The WA Government to work with the Australian Government to support structured and coordinated engagement across Government agencies delivering family and community services, to ensure that agencies are able to access relevant information, understand their respective roles and responsibilities, and effectively plan and coordinate support services for US and UK personnel and their families.

CCF-02 – Sporting clubs and community recreation organisations in Rockingham are well placed to support the integration of incoming AUKUS personnel and families by providing opportunities for volunteering, community participation, and engagement with local communities.

REC-40 – The WA Government, in collaboration with the Department of Defence, local governments and community organisations, support initiatives that connect incoming US and UK personnel and families with local sporting, cultural, volunteer and community activities to strengthen community integration.

CCF-03 – While AUKUS and SRF-West are expected to support jobs and investment, community members and stakeholders perceive that associated workforce growth, defence

industry expansion, and construction activity may intensify existing pressures on housing, transport, social infrastructure, and community services in the southern corridor.

> **REC-41** – The WA Government to work with the Department of Defence and the Australian Submarine Agency to develop and communicate projected population growth figures, including clearly identifying the proportion of anticipated population growth and associated service demand attributable to AUKUS-related workforce growth and multiplier effects.

CCF-04 – Information on AUKUS-related arrivals, including workforce and demographic data, is being shared across all levels of government to support planning. However, as workforce numbers, likely residential locations, school catchments and population impacts are largely based on indicative projections until closer to the commencement of SRF-West, uncertainty remains and presents challenges for planning of enabling services and infrastructure.

> **REC-42** – The Australian Submarine Agency to publish and regularly update a list of key facts about AUKUS and its impacts on WA.

> **REC-43** – Department of Defence and Australian Submarine Agency to continue to provide timely workforce projections and, where available, information on likely residential locations, school catchments and demographic characteristics to support planning for public transport, education, health and other community services.

CCF-05 – A more coordinated whole-of-government approach would improve visibility of AUKUS-related planning and provide greater clarity around agency roles, responsibilities and service delivery arrangements.

> **REC-44** – The Australian Submarine Agency to consider establishing and leading a cross-government community engagement mechanism (for example a community reference group) to address questions and concerns, supported by the WA Government and the City of Rockingham.

> **REC-45** – The Department of the Premier and Cabinet to work closely with the Australian Submarine Agency and the Department of Defence to strengthen AUKUS data analysis and sharing across State Government agencies.

CCF-06 – A coordinated approach to public communication and community engagement across Local, State and Australian Governments would help ensure all information about AUKUS and its impacts is communicated clearly, consistently, and in ways that are accessible to communities across Western Australia.

> **REC-46** – The WA Government to continue engagement with WA communities impacted by AUKUS.

> **REC-47** – The WA Government, Australian Government, and the City of Rockingham to work together to develop an AUKUS Community Benefits Strategy that ensures the benefits of AUKUS extend beyond Defence operations and deliver long-term economic and social value for the community.

Collectively, these recommendations are designed to strengthen coordination, information sharing, and community engagement across all levels of government as AUKUS-related activity increases in Western Australia. They are informed by consultation findings that many of the challenges raised by stakeholders reflect existing growth pressures. However, uncertainty regarding the scale and timing of AUKUS-related demand continues to present challenges for planning and communication. Addressing these issues will support more effective decision-making, service planning and community confidence as the program progresses.



Housing Deep Dive

In March 2026, the AUKUS Community Taskforce consulted with stakeholders across government, industry, and the community to understand the impacts of AUKUS on housing in Rockingham and surrounding areas. This chapter summarises the key themes, needs and opportunities identified through engagement and subsequent Taskforce analysis.

Key themes identified

Five key themes relating to the impacts of AUKUS on housing emerged from the engagement activities outlined in this chapter. These themes informed the Taskforce's findings and helped shape the recommendations presented in this report. The key themes are:

1) AUKUS seen as intensifying existing community concerns rather than creating new ones.
2) There is major concern about ability of communities to absorb change.
3) The community accepts AUKUS as inevitable and already underway, but support is conditional on community concerns being heard and addressed.
4) Housing growth is linked to broader issues of road congestion, parking pressure, schools, hospitals, and public transport capacity.
5) The community is solutions oriented, indicating a willingness to engage constructively.



Stakeholder consultations

The following agencies and organisations were consulted on housing matters:

- **Defence Housing Australia** on activities to sustainably grow the housing stock for Australian and allied Defence personnel in the region and forecast growth as SRF-West commences from 2027.
- **Department of Defence, Infrastructure Division** on the accommodation for sailors and submariners on HMAS *Stirling* naval base and the infrastructure works to support the growth of personnel and ship sustainment on Garden Island.
- **DevelopmentWA** on the range of Local, State, and Australian Government residential planning and construction activities in the region, focusing on the Karnup site and coordination between the WA Government and Defence Housing Australia to respond to demand.
- **Defence Families of Australia** on the experiences of Defence personnel and their families accessing housing and community services in the Rockingham area.

Survey outcomes: Local needs and opportunities

Housing emerged as a dominant theme across the Community Views Survey, with 763 of the 855 respondents providing comments on housing-related issues. Participants consistently described housing availability and affordability as already under significant strain, with AUKUS widely perceived as exacerbating existing pressures rather than creating new ones. Many respondents expressed concern that AUKUS-related demand

could further reduce housing accessibility and affordability, potentially displacing long-term residents and making it harder for younger generations to remain in the area.

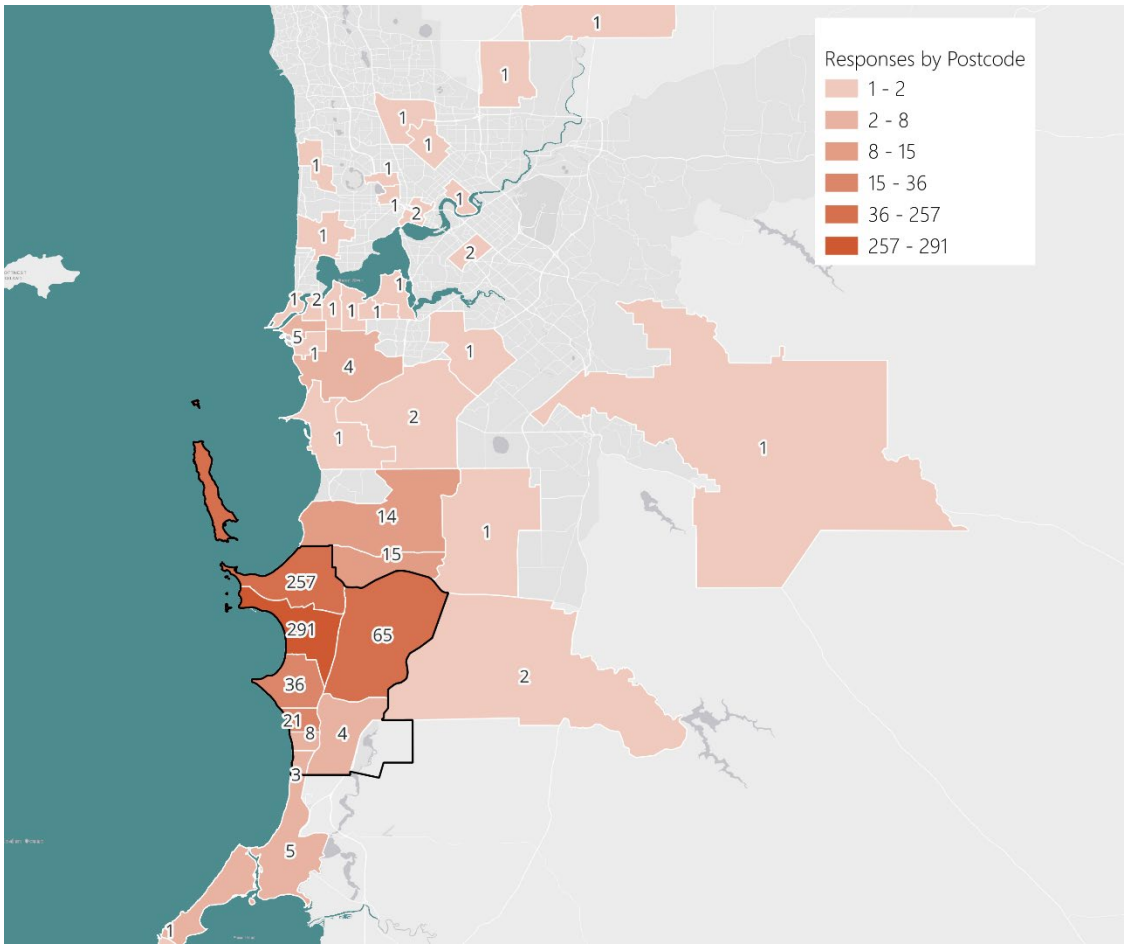


Figure 4 Community Views Survey Responses by Postcode - Housing

Despite the concerns raised, feedback was notably constructive. Respondents identified opportunities to deliver additional housing through activation of vacant land and under-used sites, supported stronger provision of social and affordable housing, and acknowledged the need for increased density – albeit cautiously and conditional on good design, protection of local amenities and preservation of Rockingham's coastal character.

> "Detached homes on large blocks are becoming increasingly unaffordable due to rising land values and construction costs. Medium- and high-density developments reduce the land cost per dwelling, making housing more accessible to a broader range of people. Increasing housing supply also helps ease upward pressure on prices and provides more diverse options for downsizers, singles, young couples and key workers who may not need or want a traditional family home.
>
> Homeowner in Port Kennedy 6172

A consistent theme was that housing growth cannot be considered in isolation: respondents repeatedly linked new housing to the need for coordinated investment in transport, schools, health services and other community infrastructure.

Overall, the survey reveals a mix of uncertainty and goodwill, with confidence closely linked to visible, well-planned delivery that supports long-term liveability.

Key insights from the Community Views Survey

- AUKUS is seen as intensifying existing community concerns - it is a contributing factor but not the sole driver.
- Respondents express concern about the community's ability to absorb change.
- The community accepts AUKUS as inevitable and underway, with a degree of goodwill towards its potential benefits.
- Respondents are solutions-oriented, indicating a willingness to engage constructively.
- Continued support depends on well-planned growth being delivered on time, rather than concerns being acknowledged without action.

AUKUS Community Taskforce meeting

The AUKUS Community Taskforce met on 26 March 2026 to consider housing related issues. The meeting featured key presentations from Defence Housing Australia on the housing procurement and leasing activities in Perth's southern corridor and from the WA Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage on initiatives to unlock land and housing supply, including infrastructure enabling mechanisms and housing diversity initiatives.

Key observations from the presentations and discussion at the meeting included that housing pressures in Rockingham and the southern corridor are significant and largely pre-existing, with AUKUS expected to add pressure rather than being the primary driver. Members emphasised the importance of establishing a single, agreed evidence base for AUKUS-related workforce, dependant and construction projections to support planning, coordinated infrastructure delivery, and consistent community messaging on the actual impacts of AUKUS-related population growth.

Community feedback and stakeholder consultations discussed at the meeting indicated concerns around housing affordability, homelessness and displacement of vulnerable residents, alongside mixed views on increased density, while also identifying opportunities through purpose-built accommodation and better utilisation of under-used land.

Overall, the Taskforce agreed that coordinated action across all levels of government – linking housing supply with transport, health, and social infrastructure, and supported by clear communication – will be critical to managing AUKUS-related impacts while promoting housing affordability and accessibility for the local community. The relatively modest impact of AUKUS on population growth and housing demand in the region was a theme of the Taskforce's discussions and an agreed key message for public communications.



Health and Community Services Deep Dive

In April 2026 the AUKUS Community Taskforce met with key stakeholders in government, industry and the community to identify and understand intersections between AUKUS and health and community services in the Rockingham and surrounding areas. This chapter summarises the key themes, needs, and opportunities identified through engagement and subsequent Taskforce analysis.

Key themes identified

Five key themes relating to the intersection of AUKUS and health and community services emerged from the engagement activities outlined in this chapter. These themes informed the Taskforce's understanding of current pressures, future needs, and potential opportunities, shaped the findings of this report, and helped inform the recommendations for government consideration. The key themes are:

1) Capacity pressures at Rockingham General Hospital.
2) Workforce capacity and staff wellbeing.
3) Primary care access constraints driving people to the emergency department (ED)
4) Existing demands on mental health, aged care and community services.
5) Community expectations that AUKUS investment will support service uplift and preserve local access.



Stakeholder consultations

The Taskforce consulted a range of health, primary care, Defence, and community service stakeholders to better understand the potential impacts of AUKUS on health services in Rockingham and surrounding areas. Stakeholders generally agreed that local health services are already experiencing significant demand pressures, particularly across emergency departments, primary care, mental health, and workforce availability. Consistent themes included challenges attracting and retaining healthcare workers, increasing demand for services, limitations in primary care access, and the importance of improving coordination across the health system.

While AUKUS was not generally viewed as the primary cause of existing pressures, stakeholders considered it likely to intensify demand over time if population growth is not matched by service and workforce expansion. Discussions highlighted the role of Defence health services, private healthcare arrangements for allied personnel, and ongoing planning by Defence, health providers, and community organisations to accommodate future growth. Stakeholders also identified opportunities to strengthen system capacity, improve integration between hospital and primary care services, expand mental health supports, and provide clear public communication regarding the health impacts and service arrangements associated with AUKUS.

Stakeholders consulted

- Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP)
- US Navy AUKUS Liaison Officers
- Rockingham Peel Group and Consumer Advisory Council
- Anglicare WA
- Open Arms – Veterans & Families Counselling
- WA Primary Health Alliance (WAPHA)
- Defence Member and Family Support (DMFS)
- Djinda Health

- Australian Defence Force Joint Health Command / Joint Health Unit

Survey outcomes: Local needs and opportunities

Health and community services emerged as a significant theme across the Community Views Survey, with 745 of the 855 respondents providing comments on health and community services-related issues (Figure 5).

Participants consistently described local health services as operating under significant demand pressures, particularly in relation to hospital capacity, workforce availability and access to primary care. AUKUS-related growth was generally perceived as likely to exacerbate existing challenges rather than create new ones, with Rockingham General

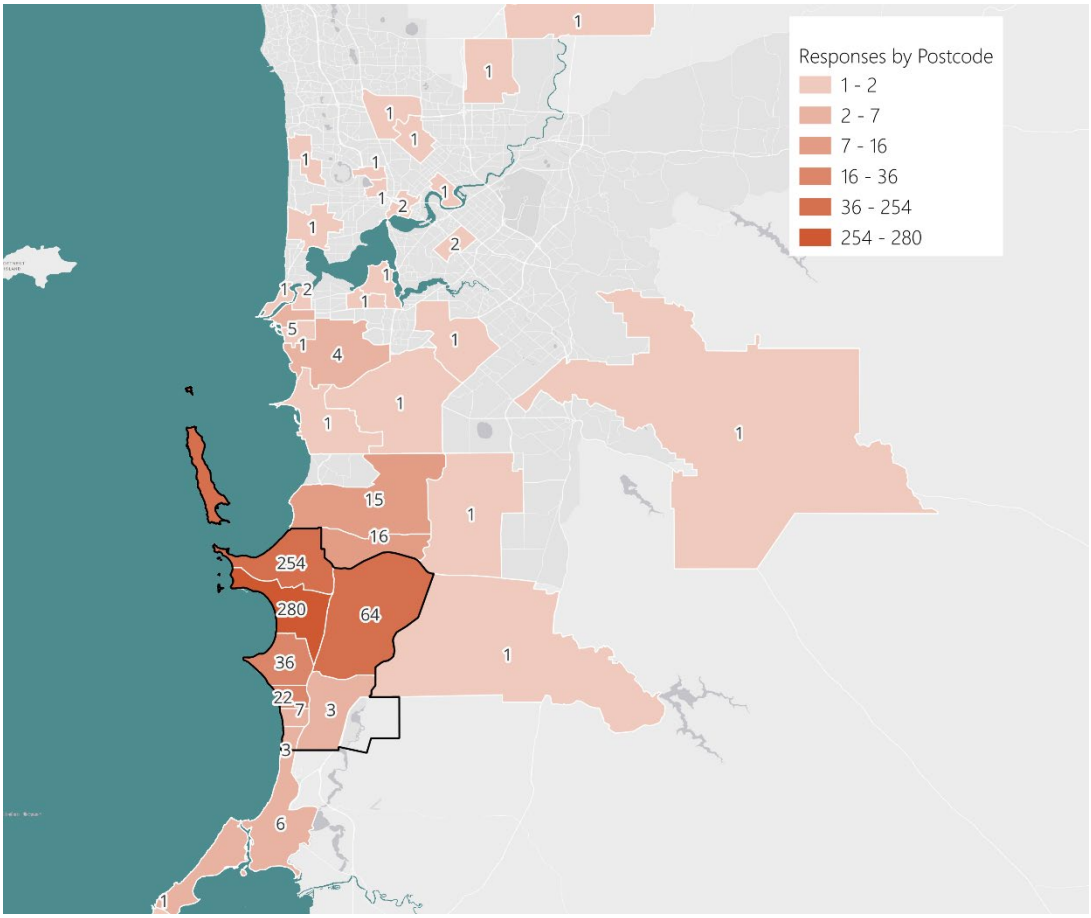


Figure 5 Community Views Survey Responses by Postcode - Health and Community Services

Hospital frequently identified as a key indicator of the region's capacity to accommodate future population growth.

Despite these concerns, feedback was notably constructive. Respondents articulated clear expectations around what would make a difference, including targeted workforce attraction and retention, strengthening primary care and alternatives to Emergency Departments, and clearer articulation of Defence health arrangements to manage perceived spill-over into the public system. A recurring theme was that health and community services cannot be considered in isolation, with respondents emphasising the need for coordinated planning across transport, parking and community infrastructure to support access.

> "I'm concerned about the impact on health services. It's evident the hospital is already under stress. They do a brilliant job and need to be better supported.
>
> Renter in Rockingham 6168

Overall, the survey reflects a mix of uncertainty and goodwill. Community confidence appears closely tied to early, visible and well-communicated action that delivers service uplift ahead of, or alongside, growth—rather than retrospective responses once pressures are felt.

Key insights from the Community Views Survey

The key insights organised according to the "pre-existing", "AUKUS increased", and "AUKUS introduced" rubric are set out below.

Pre-existing challenges

- **Rockingham General Hospital is operating under significant demand pressures:** Respondents highlight demands on emergency and inpatient services as an existing system pressure rather than something newly created by AUKUS.
- **Workforce challenges are viewed as an existing condition:** Respondents suggested staff shortages and fatigue are important considerations alongside infrastructure investment to support improved access.
- **Primary care access is presented as a key driver of system demand:** Respondents identified primary care access, including GP and bulk billing availability, as a contributing factor to the use of Emergency Departments for care that could otherwise be delivered in the community.
- **Community services (mental health, aged care and related supports) are in high demand, resulting in follow-on effects**: Respondents describe long wait times and limited availability of community services, and link service shortfalls to higher demand on Emergency Departments.

Challenges increased by AUKUS-related growth

- **Perception of AUKUS-driven population growth increasing demand on Rockingham General Hospital:** Respondents link current and anticipated growth with additional demand on emergency and inpatient services and indicate that acceptance of further growth is contingent on visible hospital capacity uplift.
- **Perception of AUKUS-driven population growth intensifying workforce pressures:** Respondents believe that workforce capacity pressures are likely to increase with growth, highlighting the importance of aligning staffing levels to support service reliability and access.
- **GP clinics are seen as likely to face growing demand, increasing reliance on Emergency Departments:** Respondents noted that access to alternative care pathways, including GPs, influences ED demand, with population growth likely to increase demand on hospital services without improvements in primary care access.
- **Physical access (parking, transport and entry/egress) is seen as likely to come under increasing pressure with higher throughput:** When considering what actions would make a difference, respondents' comments frequently included access measures, reinforcing that growth influences not only clinical capacity but also the enabling infrastructure.

Pressures introduced or newly perceived in connection with AUKUS

- **Uncertainty about Defence health arrangements is identified as a recurring AUKUS-related concern**: Respondents raise questions about how Defence adjacent populations (including families and contractors) will access care, and whether there will be spillover into the public system.
- **Information gaps may amplify perceived risk and system uncertainty**: A notable share of AUKUS-linked pressure is described in terms of uncertainty about the program's scale, timing and service interaction.
- **Nuclear-related health and safety concerns**: While not a dominant theme, a number of respondents raised concerns relating to the potential for incidents involving radioactive substances. These comments point to a heightened need for clear communication and confidence in emergency and health preparedness arrangements.
- **Community support for AUKUS-related growth is expressed as conditional on how it is managed.** Respondents emphasise that health and community services should be expanded early and visibly, rather than upgraded after pressures emerge. This expectation around timing and delivery is raised specifically in connection with AUKUS and represents a new condition for community acceptance of growth.

AUKUS Community Taskforce meeting

The AUKUS Community Taskforce met on 30 April 2026 to consider how AUKUS is seen as intersecting with health and community services in Rockingham and surrounds. The meeting featured key presentations from the US Navy on their healthcare arrangements, including TRICARE, and from the South Metropolitan Health Service on their AUKUS readiness.

Key observations from the presentations and discussion at the meeting included that:

- Demands on health and community services in Rockingham are substantial and largely pre-existing, driven by population growth, workforce constraints, and socio-economic factors, with AUKUS expected to add incremental demand rather than being the primary driver.
- Rockingham General Hospital and primary care services are managing high demand across ED, mental health, paediatrics, and general practitioner (GP) access through a range of measures, including private hospital overflow arrangements, service reconfiguration, extended service hours, workforce optimisation, and strengthened community-based care pathways.
- Defence and the US Navy have established arrangements to minimise impacts on civilian services, including TRICARE-based private healthcare for US personnel, embedded mental health support, on-base primary care, and planning for additional Defence health infrastructure.
- Stakeholders emphasised the importance of clear, evidence-based communication to support community understanding of AUKUS-related demand and distinguish it from broader system pressures.
- While longer-term solutions will require coordinated Commonwealth–State action across workforce, primary care access, infrastructure planning and transport, there is a strong local expectation that health services in Rockingham will need to expand over time to keep pace with growth, irrespective of AUKUS.



Roads and Public Transport Deep Dive

In May and June 2026, the AUKUS Community Taskforce met with key stakeholders in government, industry, and the community to identify and understand intersections between AUKUS and roads and public transport in Rockingham and surrounding areas. This chapter summarises the key themes, needs, and opportunities identified through engagement and subsequent Taskforce analysis.

Key themes identified

Six key themes relating to the intersection of AUKUS and roads and public transport emerged from the engagement activities outlined in this chapter. These themes informed the Taskforce's understanding of current pressures, future needs, and potential opportunities, shaped the findings of this report, and helped inform the recommendations for government consideration. The key themes are:

1) Traffic congestion and bottlenecks on key corridors.
2) Garden Island access – new corridor vs optimisation of existing network
3) The impact of future demand forecasting on planning.
4) Coordination and resourcing challenges across governments that are impacted by major programs of work (including Defence, Westport, and Perth Airport).
5) Public transport limitations and demand management opportunities.
6) Parking, safety and amenity pressures (including heavy vehicles and emergency access).



Stakeholder consultations

The Taskforce consulted government agencies, local governments and transport planning stakeholders to better understand the intersection between AUKUS and roads and public transport in the Rockingham region. Stakeholders consistently identified transport access to HMAS *Stirling* and the WTC as longstanding challenges, with existing congestion, constrained road networks, and limited public transport options already placing pressure on key corridors. Common themes included the need for improved network resilience, stronger integration of transport and land use planning, and greater visibility of Defence assumptions to support infrastructure planning and investment decisions.

While AUKUS was not generally viewed as the primary cause of transport challenges, stakeholders considered it likely to intensify existing pressures if infrastructure delivery does not keep pace with population and workforce growth. Discussions focused on the importance of progressing short-term road upgrades while planning for longer-term transport solutions, including improved public transport and multi-modal transport networks. Stakeholders also emphasised the need for coordinated planning across government, Defence and industry to support infrastructure sequencing, manage cumulative demand from major projects, and improve connectivity across the region.

Stakeholders consulted

- City of Rockingham
- Infrastructure WA
- Local Government Roundtable
    - City of Cockburn
    - City of Kwinana
    - City of Rockingham
    - City of Mandurah
    - Perth South West Metropolitan Alliance

- Garden Island Transport Network Working Group (GITNWG)

Survey outcomes: Local needs and opportunities

Roads and public transport emerged as a significant theme across the Community Views Survey, with 817 of the 855 respondents providing comments on roads and public transport-related issues (Figure 6). Respondents consistently highlighted the capacity and performance of the local transport network as critical to supporting population growth and maintaining community amenity. Feedback indicated that congestion, access constraints and public transport gaps are already evident, with AUKUS-related growth widely viewed as likely to intensify these existing pressures rather than create entirely new challenges.

Particular concerns centred on peak-period congestion, constrained access to Garden Island, the frequency and availability of public transport services, and the adequacy of public parking to support everyday travel. Many respondents emphasised the importance of investing in transport infrastructure and services to ensure the region can accommodate future growth while maintaining connectivity, accessibility and quality of life.

> “AUKUS investment should improve mobility without compromising the character and safety of existing neighbourhoods.
>
> Homeowner in Rockingham 6169

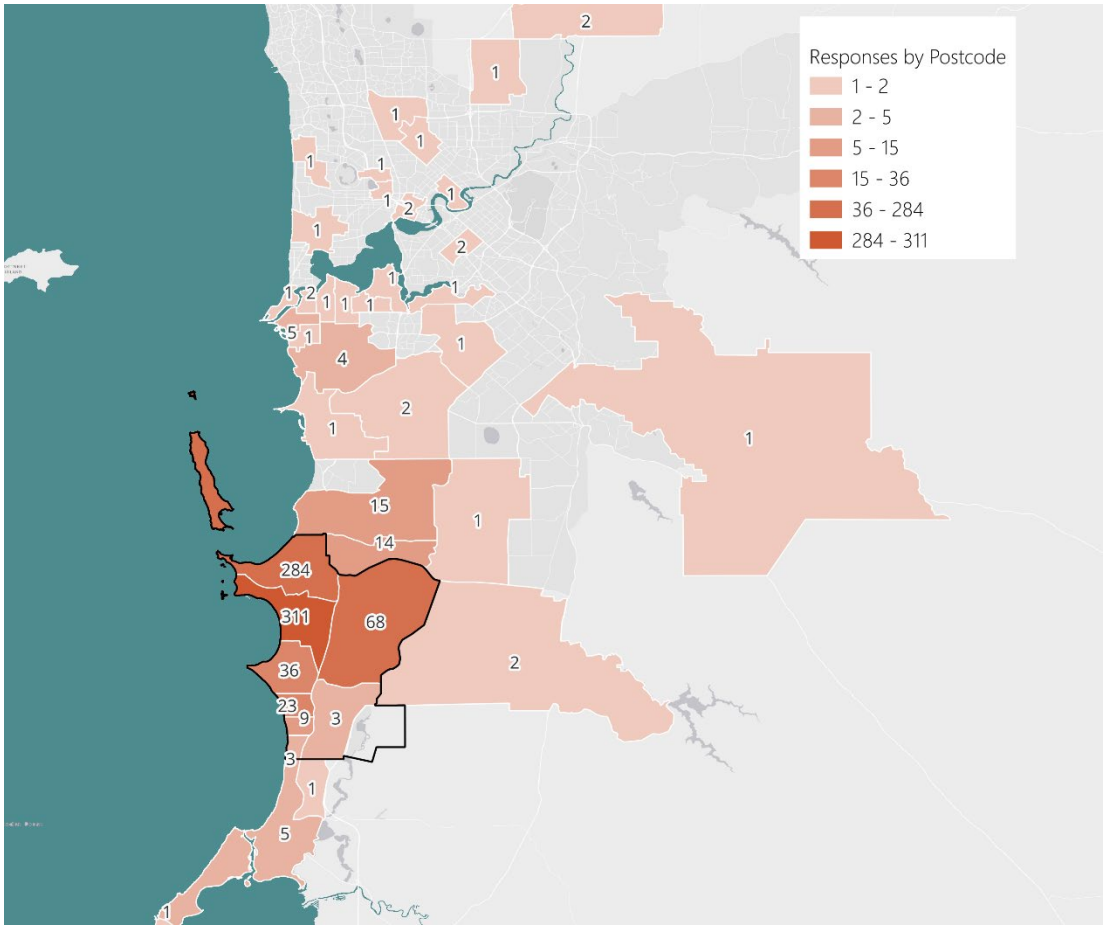


Figure 6 Responses by Postcode - Roads and Public Transport

As with other survey questions, feedback identified opportunities and put forward a range of solutions, noting mixed views on the role of major new infrastructure relative to optimising the existing network. Some of the practical measures suggested to improve outcomes included targeted upgrades to key intersections and access routes, increased frequency and integration of public transport, and structured approaches to parking provision.

> There is a risk of over-the-top infrastructure at the expense of green spaces, public transport links should be prioritised.
>
> Homeowner in Rockingham 6168

A recurring theme was that road upgrades alone would not resolve underlying issues, with respondents emphasising the need for coordinated, multi-modal solutions and better management of when and how people travel. To better utilise the existing road network, respondents also identified practical, lower cost demand management measures, including staggered work shifts, incentives for higher occupancy vehicle use, and shuttle or park-and-ride services.

Consistent with other policy domains, survey responses reflect a combination of sensitivity to existing network pressures, concern for pedestrian and cyclist safety, and a willingness to support growth where it is accompanied by early, visible, and well sequenced improvements.

> “Traffic congestion has already started to build up around the Rockingham & Henderson precincts. Over the last 6-8 months, there has been a major build-up of traffic. This is only going to get far worse.
>
> Homeowner in Secret Harbour 6173

Community confidence is closely linked to the timely delivery of transport and access enhancements, particularly those that improve reliability, reduce peak period pressure, and provide credible alternatives to car travel. In this context, longer-term, integrated approaches linking transport, land use and service access were seen as critical to managing future demand and maintaining amenity.

Key insights from the Community Views Survey

The key insights categorised according to the pre-existing, AUKUS increased, and AUKUS introduced rubric are set out below.

Pre-existing challenges

- Persistent peak-hour congestion on key corridors causing delays and bottlenecks.
- Reliance on a single access route to Garden Island that is not designed for heavy freight vehicles, reducing overall network flexibility and resilience.
- Reliance on a suburban local road (Parkin Street) to access Garden Island, with historic traffic modifications that are not suited to carry heavy freight and increased commuter traffic.
- Parking shortages at train stations and key destinations limiting public transport use and access to amenities.
- Gaps in public transport coverage, frequency and integration reducing its viability as an alternative to private vehicle use.
- Existing safety risks from congestion, heavy vehicle movements and interactions with pedestrians and cyclists.

Pressures increased by AUKUS-related growth

- Increasing traffic volumes and amplifying existing bottlenecks.
- Increasing pressure on already constrained access routes to Garden Island.
- Exacerbating parking and public transport pressures.
- Reducing network reliability, resulting in longer and less predictable travel times, particularly during peak periods.

- Cumulative impacts of multiple growth drivers, including AUKUS and Westport, interacting with broader development to further increase pressure on the transport network.

Pressures introduced or newly perceived in connection with AUKUS

- Additional Defence personnel, contractors, and shift-based operations introducing concentrated peak-period demand and more complex movement patterns.
- Increased heavy vehicle traffic associated with construction and sustainment introducing pressure on road capacity, safety, and overall network performance, particularly on residential and feeder routes.
- Growing demand for reliable and secure access to Garden Island highlighting limited redundancy and increasing exposure to disruption risks.
- Increased traffic volumes associated with AUKUS activity affecting emergency access and overall network resilience, particularly during incidents and peak periods.
- Amenity impacts from increased traffic, including noise, heavy vehicle movements and the use of residential streets as through-routes affecting local safety and liveability.

AUKUS Community Taskforce meeting

The AUKUS Community Taskforce met on 5 June 2026 to consider how AUKUS intersects with roads and public transport. The meeting featured presentations from the Garden Island Transport Network Working Group (GITNWG) and the Public Transport Authority.

Key observations from presentations and discussions included that transport pressures experienced across Rockingham and surrounding areas are largely pre-existing, reflecting broader population growth, network constraints and existing congestion. AUKUS is expected to act not as a primary driver of these pressures, but a contributing factor.

The public transport network retains some off-peak capacity; however, school services are already at or close to capacity. Incoming Defence dependants are expected to add pressure to school services, though this will be mitigated by dispersal of families across the south-west metropolitan area.

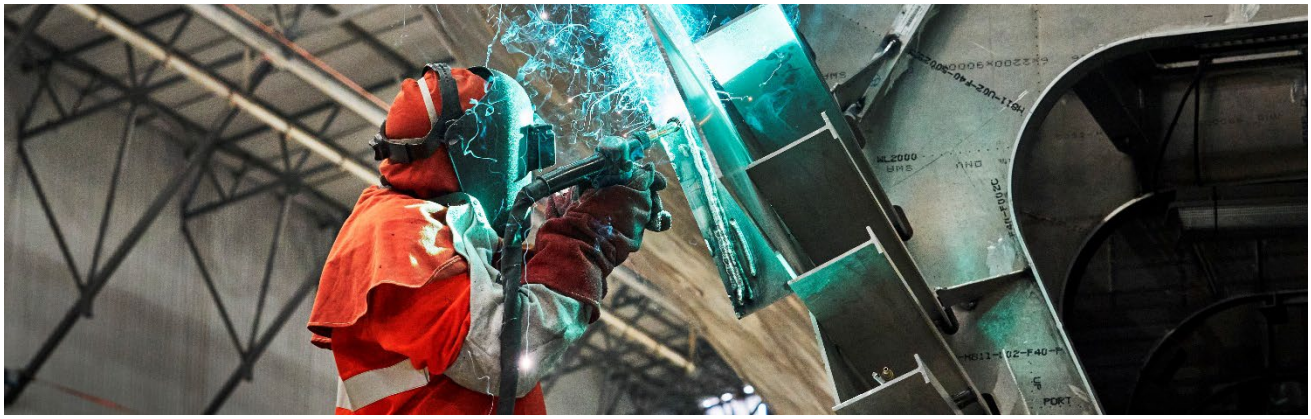
Road network bottlenecks are significant, particularly in relation to Garden Island access. In addition to traffic congestion, members also highlighted parking constraints at key train stations, emphasising the need for practical, near-term improvements.

Early measures to alleviate road network pressures include a Defence funded shuttle service with park-and-ride arrangements, as well as exploring options for the barging of

materials to reduce heavy vehicle impacts. The GITNWG has also developed a coordinated plan for implementing short-term intersection and access upgrades and reported back to the Taskforce.

Stakeholders highlighted the importance of coordinated planning, clear roles across governments, and effective communication, including careful management of messaging on Defence transport arrangements. They noted strong community interest in visible, practical solutions such as improved public transport, demand management measures and parking.

While further work is required to resolve local planning issues and longer-term network capacity, there was broad understanding that a combination of incremental upgrades and integrated planning will be required to respond to both existing pressures and future growth.



Education and Community Assets Deep Dive

In June 2026, the AUKUS Community Taskforce met with key stakeholders in government, industry, and the community to identify and understand intersections between AUKUS and education and community assets in Rockingham and surrounding areas. This chapter summarises the key themes, needs and opportunities identified through engagement and subsequent Taskforce analysis.

Key themes identified

Education

Four key themes have emerged regarding the intersection between AUKUS and education:

1) School capacity, infrastructure, and system planning.
2) Education workforce and support capacity.
3) Vocational and defence aligned pathways.
4) Planning constraints due to limited data on student numbers, arrival timing and settlement locations.

Community Assets

Three key themes related to the intersection between AUKUS and community assets have been identified:

1) Strengthening community connection and information sharing with Defence families.
2) Community infrastructure capacity and funding constraints.
3) Inclusive and accessible community facilities.


Credit: City of Rockingham

Stakeholder consultations

Stakeholder consultations identified strong support for the opportunities presented by AUKUS, alongside a consistent concern that uncertainty around workforce demand, population growth and implementation timeframes is limiting effective planning. While community survey respondents primarily focused on education and community infrastructure pressures, stakeholders emphasised the need for clearer information and demand signals to support investment and decision-making.

Education and training stakeholders highlighted opportunities to strengthen workforce pathways from school through to highly skilled defence and industry careers. Universities, TAFE and government agencies noted the importance of multiple pathways, including vocational education, higher education, and mid-career reskilling. However, stakeholders stressed that clearer workforce demand forecasts are needed to guide course development, infrastructure investment and workforce planning.

Primary and secondary education stakeholders identified opportunities to expand career awareness, science and engineering pathways, and vocational education linked to AUKUS. The key challenge raised was the lack of certainty regarding future student numbers, arrival timeframes, and settlement patterns, making it difficult to plan school infrastructure, teacher workforce requirements, and student support services.

Community and veterans' organisations focused on the need to better support Defence families and ensure community infrastructure keeps pace with growth. Stakeholders identified gaps in communication between Defence, Defence families and local organisations, while also noting that community facilities and support services are already experiencing capacity pressures. Participants saw opportunities to strengthen

community connections and support mechanisms but cautioned that many organisations have limited capacity to respond to increased demand.

Tourism and environment stakeholders identified opportunities to support the integration of Defence personnel and families through volunteering, community events and access to local information. AUKUS presents an opportunity to enhance tourism infrastructure, including hotels, short stay accommodation and recreation facilities outlined in the Cape Peron Recreation Master Plan. Stakeholders also highlighted ongoing funding and volunteer workforce challenges, noting that limited resources may constrain their capacity to support community integration initiatives and respond to increased demand associated with AUKUS.

Sporting association representatives identified sporting clubs as a valuable mechanism to support the integration of US and UK personnel and families. Stakeholder suggestions included club showcases, sporting clinics, family events, match-day experiences, and sporting events held on HMAS *Stirling*. Sporting associations viewed AUKUS as an opportunity to increase participation, attract new members and leverage the sporting interests of incoming personnel and their families. Stakeholders also identified volunteer recruitment, retention and burnout as key challenges, highlighting the need for volunteer support, capacity building and coach upskilling.

The City of Rockingham community services portfolio supports youth, families, people with disabilities and First Nations communities. These services provide opportunities for AUKUS personnel and their families to participate in local theatre, arts and crafts, community events and volunteering programs. However, limited transport options and recent changes to NDIS funding are affecting access to disability services and reducing participation in community programs across Rockingham.

Stakeholders consulted

The following agencies and organisations were consulted on the intersection between AUKUS and education and community assets.

- Traditional Owners and Aboriginal Engagement:
  - Gnaala Karla Booja Aboriginal Corporation (GKB)
- Tertiary education, training, and workforce development:
  - Australian Submarine Agency
  - Australian Submarine Corporation
  - South Metropolitan TAFE
  - Murdoch University
  - Curtin University
  - Australian Institute of Management WA
  - Department of Training and Workforce Development
  - Department of Education

- Primary and secondary education:
  - WA Anglican Schools Association
  - Association of Independent Schools of WA
  - Western Australian Council of State School Organisations (WACSSO)
  - Defence School Mentor Network
  - International School of Western Australia
  - Department of Education
- Community and veterans' organisations:
  - Rockingham RSL
  - NAAWA Rockingham
  - Marilla Community Centre
  - City of Rockingham Community Development Team
  - Port Kennedy RSL
  - Defence Families Australia
- Tourism and environment:
  - Rockingham Tourism Association
  - Naragebup Rockingham Regional Environment Centre
  - Friends of Point Peron
- Sporting associations:
  - Rugby WA
  - Gridiron WA
  - Football West
  - Fremantle Dockers
  - Perth Wildcats
  - Ice Hockey WA
- Community Capacity Building
  - City of Rockingham

Survey outcomes: Local needs and opportunities

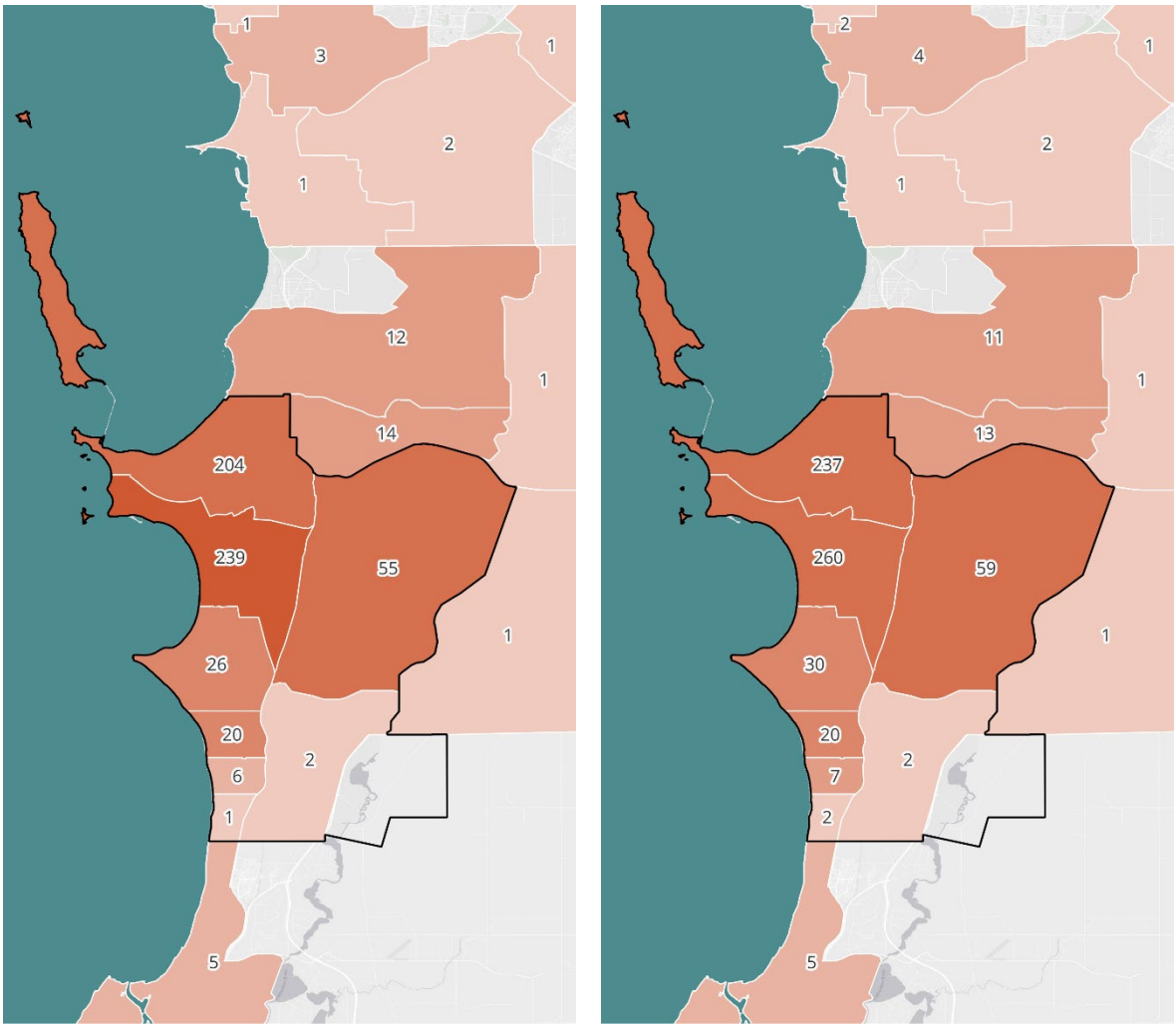


Figure 7 Respondents by postcode - Education (left) Community Assets (right)

Education and community assets emerged as significant themes across the Community Views Survey, with 620 and 684 of the 855 respondents providing comments on education and community assets respectively (Figure 7). Respondents recognised opportunities associated with population growth, workforce development, and community investment, while also expressing concerns about the capacity of local schools, community facilities, and support services to accommodate future demand. As these are distinct policy areas, the findings for education and community assets are presented separately.

Education

Respondents consistently highlighted the capacity and resilience of the local education system as critical factors in supporting population growth and maintaining community

confidence. Feedback points to school capacity and infrastructure as the most prominent issues, followed by workforce and pathway-related considerations.

School capacity constraints, workforce shortages and infrastructure pressures were commonly identified as already present within the system, with future growth widely viewed as intensifying these existing pressures rather than introducing entirely new issues. This is reflected in a strong focus on the availability of school places, adequacy of facilities, and the capacity of the education workforce to meet rising demand.

> “There is an opportunity for pathways to be developed for high school students to develop a career in the industries involved in AUKUS.
>
> Homeowner in Rockingham 6169

As with other survey questions, feedback identified a range of opportunities and constructive suggestions, particularly in relation to strengthening vocational and tertiary pathways aligned to Defence, trades and STEM sectors. Respondents highlighted the role of TAFE, universities, and school-to-work transitions in supporting local workforce development, alongside opportunities to expand partnerships between education providers, industry, and Defence.

> “Connect industry with South Metropolitan TAFE and all WA universities to ensure that tertiary courses are future-ready for both pillars of the AUKUS agreement.
>
> Business Representative in Perth 6000

A recurring theme was that infrastructure expansion alone would not resolve underlying challenges, with respondents emphasising the need for coordinated planning, workforce development, and system-wide alignment across schools, training providers and support services. The importance of forward planning, funding alignment and integrated service delivery was raised as critical to ensuring the education system can respond effectively to growth.

> “Will families that live in the area find it difficult to get their children in schools if other families from other countries take spots up?
>
> Renter in Rockingham 6169

Feedback also highlighted pressures relating to access, equity, and community confidence, with concerns that increasing demand could affect local students’ ability to access education opportunities. Concerns raised included perceptions of competition for places, the need to support diverse and transient student cohorts, and the importance of maintaining equitable access across public and private systems.

Consistent with other policy domains, survey responses reflect a combination of sensitivity to existing system pressures and a constructive, solutions-oriented

approach. Respondents demonstrated a willingness to support growth where it is accompanied by timely investment in school capacity, workforce capability and education pathways that deliver clear benefits for local communities.

Long-term, coordinated approaches linking education, workforce development and industry demand were seen as critical to supporting sustainable growth and local opportunity.

Community Assets

Respondents highlighted the importance of community assets in supporting liveability, access and local amenity as the area continues to grow. Feedback indicates that many facilities and spaces are already experiencing pressure, with population growth expected to further increase demand on existing infrastructure and services.

> “Space at the Rockingham foreshore is at a premium now, can you imagine how overcrowded it will be with additional overseas families and visitors?
>
> Homeowner in Rockingham 6168

Unlike other survey topics, responses relating to community assets were more diffuse and cross-cutting, frequently combining issues of infrastructure, amenity, access, and place-based identity. As a result, analysis has focused on identifying a consolidated set of community priorities, rather than discrete themes.

> “Main leisure centres in Rockingham such as Mike Barnett and Aqua Jetty have needed an upgrade for years to cater for the increased use.
>
> Homeowner in Rockingham 6168

These priorities centre on upgrading and expanding ageing facilities, protecting green space, and local character, and enhancing foreshore, town centre and recreational amenity. Respondents also highlighted the importance of inclusive, accessible spaces that meet the needs of diverse community groups, including families, young people, seniors, and Defence-connected populations.

Consistent with other policy domains, there is an expectation that population growth will be accompanied by visible and timely investment in community infrastructure. Community confidence appears closely linked to maintaining amenity, preserving local character, and ensuring that growth translates into tangible improvements for existing and future residents.

Key insights from the Community Views Survey

The key insights, categorised according to the pre-existing, AUKUS increased, and AUKUS introduced rubric, are set out below.

Education

Pre-existing challenges

- Existing school capacity pressures, with some schools already experiencing enrolment growth, constrained infrastructure, and limited room to expand.
- Ageing facilities and uneven infrastructure quality affecting the ability of some schools to accommodate current demand.
- Existing pressures on workforce attraction and retention, including challenges maintaining specialist staff.
- Demand for education support services already placing pressure on schools, particularly where student needs are becoming more complex.
- Constraints in forward planning and infrastructure delivery creating concerns about whether education provision can keep pace with broader population growth.

Pressures increased by AUKUS-related growth

- Increased enrolment pressure in schools in Rockingham and surrounding areas, adding to existing capacity constraints.
- Greater pressure on education infrastructure and supporting services, including classrooms, specialist facilities and school access arrangements.
- Increased demand for teachers, support staff, and school leadership in an already constrained workforce environment.
- Broader housing and cost-of-living pressures associated with growth affecting the ability to attract and retain education staff.
- Cumulative impacts of AUKUS and other growth drivers increasing pressure on education planning, sequencing and investment.

Pressures introduced or newly perceived in connection with AUKUS

- Demand associated with incoming Defence and allied personnel and Defence-connected families introducing uncertainty about the scale, timing and location of future enrolment growth.
- Increased need for education systems that can respond to the mobility and specific needs of Defence-connected students and families.
- Perceived risk of uneven impacts across particular schools and localities, especially those closest to Defence-related activity and growth areas.
- Growing expectation that education infrastructure and workforce planning should occur earlier and in closer alignment with Defence-related development.

- Concern that without early planning, AUKUS-related growth could reduce the quality, accessibility and responsiveness of local education provision.

Community assets

Key insights

Across responses, priorities centred on upgrading and expanding ageing facilities, improving recreational and community amenity, protecting green space and local character, and ensuring community spaces remain inclusive, accessible, and able to meet the needs of a growing and more diverse population, including families, young people, seniors and Defence-connected communities.

AUKUS Community Taskforce meeting

The AUKUS Community Taskforce met on 25 June 2026 to consider how AUKUS intersects with education and community assets. The meeting featured presentations from the WA Department of Education, South Metropolitan TAFE, and the City of Rockingham.

Key observations from the presentations and discussions included that Rockingham is experiencing strong growth and development, with education systems and community infrastructure playing a central role in supporting this evolving community. AUKUS presents a significant opportunity to build on this foundation.

Schools and community facilities are already experiencing increased demand associated with population growth, uneven spatial development, and existing capacity constraints. AUKUS is expected to act as a pressure multiplier for services and infrastructure in the region. The WA Department of Education is undertaking proactive planning for enrolment capacity and infrastructure requirements in high growth areas. However, planning to accommodate the school-aged dependants of AUKUS personnel is constrained for a range of reasons including lack of information surrounding the timing of their arrival, housing location, and student profiles.

The South Metropolitan TAFE Defence Industry Skills Centre of Excellence is central to strengthening workforce pathways, with a strong focus on integrated pipelines from school through to vocational training and employment. To keep pace with workforce needs associated with SRF-West, investment in facilities, technology and capability will be required to respond at scale and speed.

Community assets, including recreation centres, aquatic centres, and sporting complexes within the City of Rockingham are currently facing challenges, with

upgrades and new infrastructure constrained by limited land, rising demand from the growing population and cost pressures.

Appendix A - Key Facts and Additional Community Questions

This appendix provides plain-English answers to questions raised through the Taskforce's consultation and reflects information provided by the Australian Government and relevant WA Government agencies.

Key facts about AUKUS in WA

How fast is the Rockingham region expected to grow?

Population growth in the Rockingham region is expected to remain steady over the coming decade, irrespective of any additional growth associated with AUKUS. According to the WA Government's WA Tomorrow 12 population forecasts,[1] the City of Rockingham's population is projected to grow from an estimated 159,620 residents in 2026 to 193,400 in 2036. This represents growth of approximately 33,500 people over 11 years, equivalent to an average annual growth rate of 1.7 per cent. As shown in Figure 8, while annual population growth rates are forecast to moderate from recent highs and trend towards longer-term averages, the City's population is expected to continue increasing steadily throughout the forecast period. By 2036, Rockingham's population is projected to be around 20 per cent larger than in 2025. This level of growth is significant for a local government area of less than 260km^2.

Population growth across the broader Metro South-West sub-region is also expected to remain strong, with the combined population of Rockingham, Kwinana, and Cockburn forecast to increase by more than 80,000 people by 2036. Over the same period, Kwinana and Cockburn are projected to record average annual growth rates of 1.9 per cent and 2.1 per cent respectively, exceeding the Centre for Population's forecast average annual growth rate of 1.5 per cent for WA between 2026 and 2035. These projections highlight that the region is already experiencing sustained growth and provide important context for planning any additional population pressures associated with AUKUS.

[1] WA Tomorrow 12 population forecasts, developed and maintained by the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (DPLH), is the WA Government's official population forecast series and is used to inform planning, service delivery and infrastructure investment to 2036.

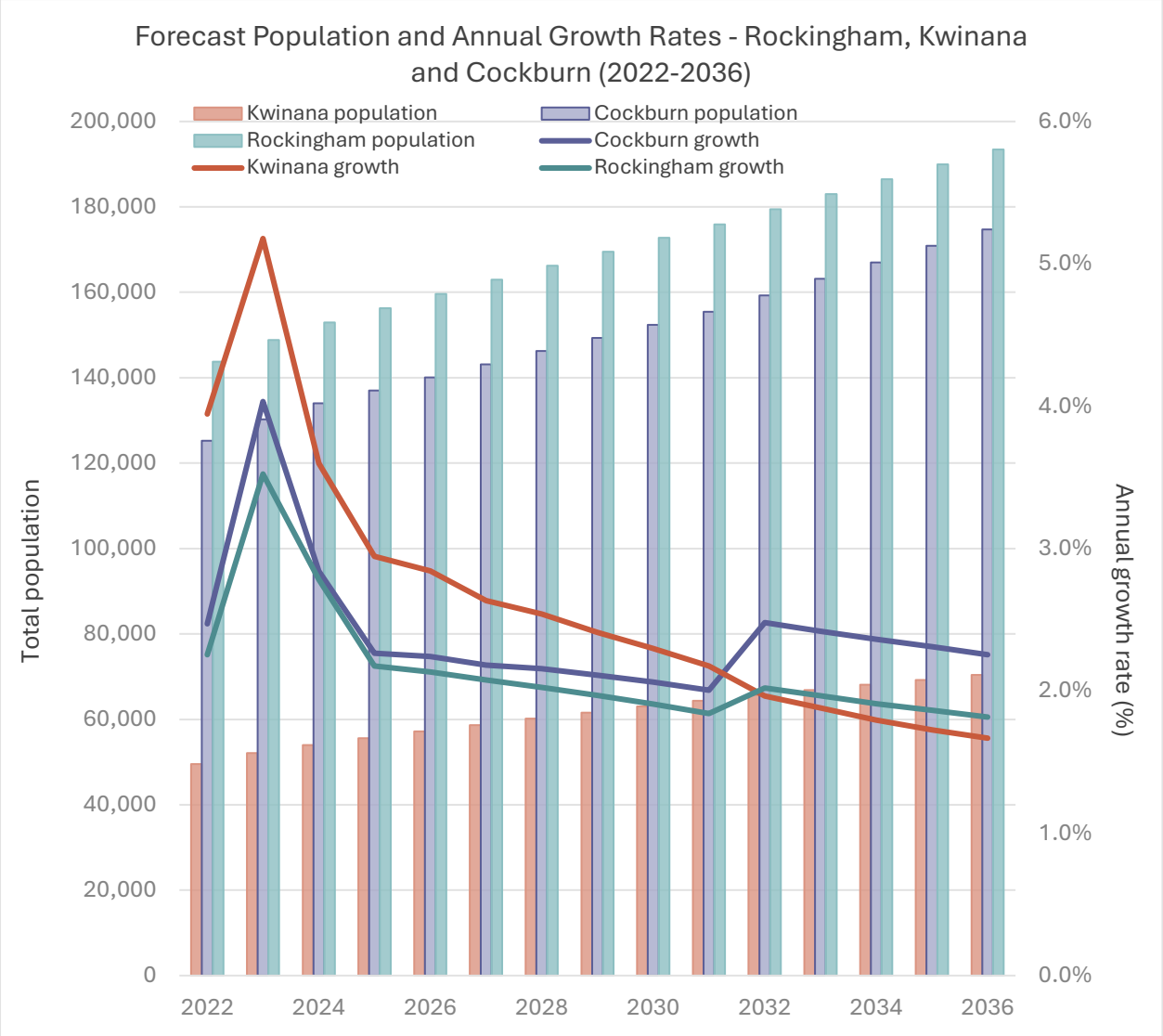


Figure 8 Forecast population growth and growth rates – Rockingham, Kwinana and Cockburn (2022-2036) (Source: WA Tomorrow 12)

However, Defence-related population growth is expected to represent only a small component of overall regional growth. Defence modelling suggests that AUKUS and associated Defence activities will account for approximately four to five per cent of total forecast population growth across the broader Cockburn Sound region over the long term. Most population growth is projected to occur regardless of AUKUS-related activity, driven by existing demographic trends and ongoing growth across Rockingham, Kwinana and Cockburn. This distinction is important when considering future demand for housing, infrastructure and services.

How many overseas personnel and families are expected to arrive in WA under AUKUS?

Within this broader population growth context, approximately 1,000 US and 200 UK service personnel and 1,100 dependants (spouses and children), will arrive in WA over the course of SRF-West. It is estimated approximately half will be accompanied by their families and approximately half will arrive unaccompanied or are single.

Where will personnel and their families live?

Although some concentration of AUKUS-related personnel and dependents is anticipated within communities closest to HMAS *Stirling*, settlement can be dispersed across the broader 30 km catchment (Figure 9). Consequently, AUKUS-related population growth is expected to be accommodated across a broader metropolitan catchment encompassing multiple local government areas. In addition, approximately half of the 1,200 personnel who are a part of SRF-West will be unaccompanied. These personnel will utilise HMAS *Stirling* Living in Accommodation.

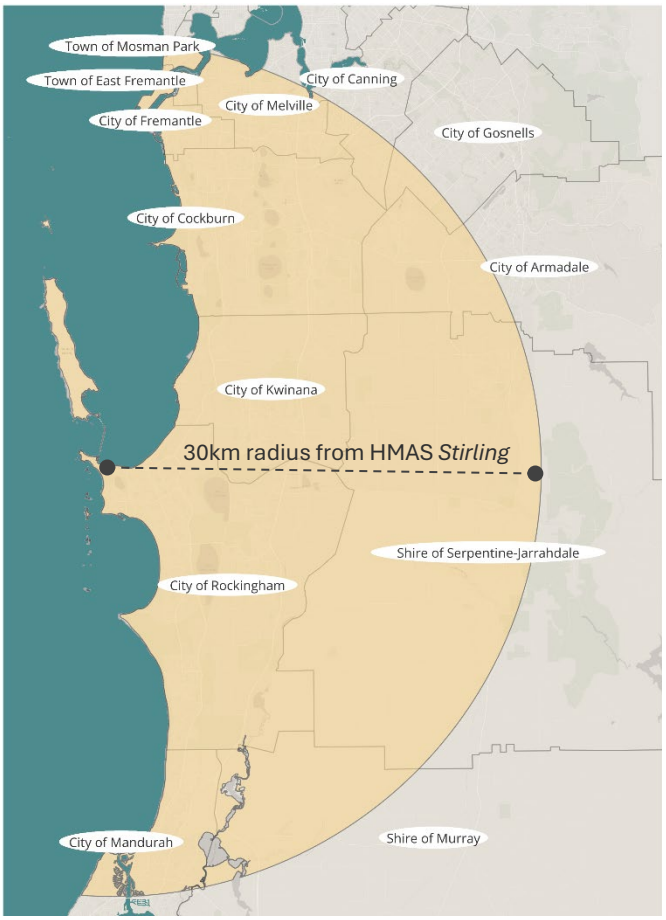


Figure 9 Local government areas within the 30 km HMAS Stirling Catchment

Consistent with the expected distribution of AUKUS personnel and their families across the 30 km catchment, Defence Housing Australia (DHA) is expanding housing supply throughout the area. In 2026, DHA is currently managing around 790 properties within the catchment and expects to add a further 200 properties over the next 12 months. According to DHA, this investment represents approximately three and a half, to four per cent of all new homes being constructed within the catchment, indicating that AUKUS-related housing demand is being accommodated within a much larger pipeline of residential development.

To promote integration with local communities, DHA typically limits acquisition to 15 per cent of freestanding dwellings within a master planned community, with the majority of dwellings remaining available to the broader market. Defence may acquire a greater proportion of dwellings within higher-density complexes to ensure commercial

viability. This approach provides dedicated housing for incoming Defence families, while supporting the delivery of new housing stock for the wider community.

How many local jobs will the SRF-West initiative create in WA?

The growth of the Defence industry in the southern corridor is expected to drive economic activity across the region. Defence expenditure in WA was estimated to support around 4,000 jobs in 2024-25, with future investment expected to further strengthen employment opportunities. Over the next decade, the Australian Government will invest up to $8 billion to expand HMAS *Stirling*, supporting an estimated 3,000 construction industry jobs, while a further 500 direct jobs are expected to be generated through the sustainment of the SRF-West initiative between 2027 and 2032.

In the longer term, the AUKUS program is expected to generate substantial economic and workforce opportunities in WA. The Henderson Defence Precinct and activities at HMAS *Stirling* are projected to support up to 10,000 high-skilled local jobs over the next two decades, with activities at Henderson underpinned by an initial $12 billion Australian Government investment, including infrastructure to sustain Virginia-class submarines. While SRF-West will be the focal point for the initial implementation of AUKUS in WA, these investments highlight the broader scale of opportunities expected across the State.

What is the impact on healthcare services?

AUKUS activity is expected to contribute to a relatively small increase in healthcare demand compared with broader population growth already forecast for the region.

The existing primary healthcare system has capacity to support population growth. Rockingham has 29 GP practices, including seven operating as fully bulk-billing practices, and one Urgent Care Clinic. The Perth South Public Health Network has 107 GP full-time equivalents (FTE) per 100,000 population, slightly above WA's average (102 GP FTE). While AUKUS is expected to contribute to a relatively small increase in demand for healthcare services, Defence healthcare arrangements and planned service enhancements are expected to assist in managing demand, including commissioning a limited health clinic at Henderson for ADF personnel, extending clinic operating hours at HMAS Stirling, and consideration of SRF-West personnel accessing on-base, routine services.

How will healthcare be provided for US and UK personnel?

Personnel from the US and UK in Western Australia will primarily receive healthcare through Defence arrangements, health insurance and a network of privately contracted healthcare providers. Eligible UK personnel and dependants may also access medically necessary health care through Medicare under the Reciprocal Health Care Agreement (RHCA) between Australia and the UK, including treatment as public patients in public hospitals. Other use of the public health system may be funded through insurance or self-funded, subject to the applicable arrangements.

US personnel and dependants are covered by the US' TRICARE healthcare program arrangements delivered primarily through a network of private healthcare providers. For acute and emergency needs, US personnel and dependents will be authorised to access public hospital emergency departments (for example Rockingham General Hospital Emergency Department).

In addition, US personnel and their families will be supported by their own mental health counsellors that are deployed to the region by the US Navy. All personnel and dependents also undergo a healthcare assessment prior to departure.

UK personnel and dependents who satisfy the eligibility may enrol in Medicare. RHCA does not cover people who travel to Australia for the purpose of receiving medical treatment. The agreement covers medically necessary care out of hospital, medically necessary care as a public patient in a public hospital including inpatient and outpatient services, and some PBS prescription medicines at a general rate. Under these bilateral arrangements, UK military personnel are also authorised to use Australian Defence Force (ADF) medical services. Other medical services will be self-funded or covered by insurance.

Combined, these arrangements seek to minimise impacts on Australia's public health system. Nevertheless, some demand on local public health services is expected.

Public health services are expected to be accessed primarily through Rockingham General Hospital Emergency Department for acute needs. Given the Emergency Department is already experiencing increased pressure meeting the needs of the local community, any additional demand associated with US personnel and their dependants will need to be carefully managed to ensure it does not further impact timely access to emergency care for local residents.

What transport planning is underway?

Key transport corridors and local roads accessing HMAS Stirling in Rockingham are already approaching or exceeding capacity at peak periods. The WA Government is progressing a range of transport initiatives to mitigate these pressures and support further growth associated with AUKUS and the broader region, with some examples outlined below.

Main Roads WA is implementing short and medium-term upgrades identified through the Garden Island Transport Network Working Group to improve access to HMAS *Stirling*, reduce congestion and improve network performance.

Subject to environmental approvals and initial surveys which are currently underway, proposed immediate improvements include:

- The realignment of Point Peron Road with Parkin Street, and the installation of a roundabout.
- Realignment and widening of Memorial Drive with traffic lights at a new four-way intersection at the entry to the Garden Island Causeway.
- Safety and amenity upgrades to Point Peron Road, Memorial Drive, Safety Bay Road, Parkin Street, and Lease Road.

Longer-term planning is also underway to strengthen connectivity, freight movement and transport links between Rockingham, Henderson and the broader southern corridor.

The Department of Defence is trialling a shuttle bus service between Rockingham Station and Garden Island to help reduce traffic congestion and parking demand associated with increased workforce movements.

The Public Transport Authority is supporting the trial by providing dedicated parking for users of the service.

What are the schooling arrangements for AUKUS dependants?

Dependents are expected to begin arriving in WA from late 2027 onwards. Dependents are arriving progressively, with the majority of families settling across communities in the southern corridor surrounding HMAS *Stirling*.

Children of AUKUS families will access Western Australia's education system through the same enrolment processes as other students. Eligible dependants will be able to

enrol in local intake schools and apply for specialist programs in accordance with existing Department of Education policies and relevant visa arrangements.

The WA Government is working with Defence agencies to better understand likely demographics and relocation patterns to support planning for future education demand. The dispersal of families across the broader south metropolitan area is expected to spread enrolment demand across a number of schools in the region, rather than concentrate it in a single location.

Enrolment processes will ensure AUKUS dependants are assessed according to the same enrolment requirements as all WA students.

Additional Community Questions Raised During Consultation

How safe are US and UK nuclear-powered submarines (NPS)?

For more than 70 years, the US and UK have operated more than 500 naval reactors that have collectively travelled hundreds of millions of nautical miles without adverse effect on human health or the environment – and have accumulated thousands of reactor years of safe operation.

US and UK nuclear-powered vessels are designed to the most exacting and rigorous military standards. Unlike civil reactors, they must endure the harsh demands of seagoing operation and intense warfighting. US and UK naval reactors are designed to be robust, with redundant safety systems and multiple containment barriers. In the highly unlikely event of an incident, naval reactors can be quickly contained and shutdown.

Whilst in port, naval reactors are typically shutdown, with the exception of short periods of time related to arrival and departure.

Ensuring the safety of people and the environment is the highest priority in the delivery of the nuclear-powered submarine (NPS) program in Australia. The rotational presence of UK and US NPS (SRF-West), from 2027, will enable the Australian workforce to learn how to safely and securely maintain nuclear propulsion system components and manage operational radioactive waste from routine maintenance activities. This experience will be critical for building Australia's capability to safely own, operate, maintain and regulate nuclear-powered submarines from the early 2030s.

Radiological control capabilities will be required aboard HMAS *Stirling* to safely support routine in-water maintenance of rotational UK and US nuclear-powered submarines from as early as 2027. Radiation protection will be achieved by setting radiological controls. These control limits are underpinned by principles that ensure doses are controlled and monitored, kept as low as reasonably achievable, contamination is prevented, radioactive material is controlled from cradle to grave, and personnel have the right training, supervision and resources to achieve the mission.

Strict radiological controls will be in place with appropriate licences and regulatory approvals, to safely manage low-level radioactive waste, conduct limited radiological repair activities such as the repair of submarine components that could have radiological contamination (e.g. gauges, valves), and manage contaminated tools and test equipment. All around Australia in healthcare, veterinary, industrial and mining sectors, workers use dosimeters to measure radiation doses. Similar practices, together with standards and practices from the UK and US programs, will be used to ensure workers in the NPS program are monitored and their doses are maintained as low as reasonably achievable and well within occupational limits.

Any potential radiation exposure to workers, the public and environment from the NPS program is extremely low.

How is radioactive waste managed?

At HMAS *Stirling*, radiological controls will be in place to safely manage low-level radioactive waste. Qualified personnel will work to the highest standards of safety and security, under appropriate licences and regulatory oversight from the outset, including under the Australian Naval Nuclear Power Safety Act 2024 and the Australian Radiological Protection and Nuclear Safety Act 1998. Safety will be assured by qualified personnel conducting radiological monitoring, contamination control waste documentation, health physics support and environmental monitoring.

Each NPS generates about two cubic metres of low-level radioactive waste per year, typically comprising of cooling water, PPE, rags and wipes. The quantity of radioactivity in the solid waste projected to be received at HMAS *Stirling* annually is similar to the natural radioactivity contained in 200 ten-kilogram bags of fertilizer available at any garden centre. Defence has appropriately managed similar types of low-level radioactive waste for decades.

How are potential environmental impacts being managed?

The Department of Defence has an approval under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* for SRF-West Priority Infrastructure Works. Under this approval, Defence is required to implement management actions and monitoring to ensure that there are no significant impacts on the environment. As required, further environmental approvals will be secured from the National Environmental Protection Authority for additional works at HMAS *Stirling*. The project was also referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works on 6 June 2024 and received parliamentary scrutiny.

At the State level, the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions manages the Shoalwater Islands Marine Park under the WA Shoalwater Islands Marine Park Management plan no.58. The Marine Park encompasses Cape Peron, Penguin Island and surrounding islands and waters. The State has also committed to reviewing the *State Environmental (Cockburn Sound) Policy* which will contemporise the policy to align to the ecological and cultural values of Cockburn Sound. The State will continue to monitor against the values outlined in *the State Environmental (Cockburn Sound) Policy*.

How is environmental radiation monitoring conducted?

As part of the commitment to the management of the environment, the Australian Submarine Agency (ASA) has established a Radiological Environmental Monitoring Program at HMAS *Stirling*. Through the Radiological Environmental Monitoring Program, the ASA will demonstrate the NPS program has no adverse impact on Defence personnel, the public, or the environment.

The ASA has conducted a radiological environmental baseline assessment at HMAS *Stirling*, to establish the current levels of radioactivity at this site. The primary objective of the radiological environmental baseline is to gain an understanding of the radionuclides already present in the different media at HMAS *Stirling*.

Radiation measurements occurred over December 2023 to November 2024, in the area surrounding HMAS *Stirling* and Cockburn Sound, with analysis of the results occurring over 2025. The results of these assessments identified no artificial radionuclides in the environment attributable to NPS as of March 2025. Radiation levels were consistent with, or below, naturally occurring levels across Australia. This baseline assessment will be used as a comparative tool to support continual radiological environmental monitoring program at HMAS *Stirling*, which will occur throughout the life of Australia's NPS Program.

Results of these monitoring reports will be published providing the community with visibility of environmental conditions and the program's impact over time. The baseline assessment has been published on the ASA's website. The ASA is committed to ensuring the NPS program meets the highest standards of environmental protection. Transparency remains a key priority for building and maintaining community confidence.

Since 1960, Australia has hosted over 285 visits by US and UK nuclear-powered vessels with over 1,800 days in port. Records show in this time that there has been no change to background levels of radiation and no adverse impact to the public or the environment.

What emergency response arrangements are in place, in the highly unlikely event of a radiological incident?

The Australian and WA Governments work closely to maintain integrated and interoperable emergency management arrangements that support preparedness for, and response to, the unlikely event of a radiological incident involving an NPS.

The Australian Government's commitment to set the strongest non-proliferation precedent, and the highest standard of nuclear stewardship continue to be reflected in its approach to Emergency Preparedness and Response arrangements at HMAS *Stirling*. As an operational navy base that has hosted multiple nuclear powered warship visits over the decades, HMAS *Stirling* already has a mature emergency coordination organisation to manage and respond to emergencies on Garden Island. Additional on-site staff and capabilities have also been uplifted at HMAS *Stirling* to support a response.

Following the decision for Australia to be a sovereign owner and operator of NPS, the Australian Government is uplifting the mature emergency coordination organisation to include an emergency response team dedicated to supporting NPS and radiological facilities at HMAS *Stirling*. These emergency preparedness and response arrangements will continue to mature with local, state, and federal partners, leveraging US and UK expertise.

Emergency preparedness and response planning is designed to mitigate the impact of any potential problems to Defence personnel, the public, and the environment. Preparing for and responding to any potential emergency involving NPS or their support facilities, in the **highly unlikely** event they were to occur, is a core mission of the ASA. Similar planning occurs in many Australian industries such as offshore oil and gas, mining, chemical and transport industries.

At the State level, the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) maintains arrangements to respond to any release of radioactive material from a nuclear-powered warship in Western Australia. These arrangements include State-level hazard and

operational plans, which were most recently tested through a multi-agency exercise in June 2026.

How would the community be informed in the highly unlikely event of a radiological incident?

In the highly unlikely event of an incident requiring community awareness or action, DFES, as the responsible Hazard Management Agency, would provide relevant public information as appropriate.

Alerts and warnings would be issued through Emergency WA and other established channels, including the Emergency WA app, DFES social media, the 13 DFES information line, ABC Radio and, where required, telephone warnings.

Depending on the nature and scale of the incident, advice could include directions to shelter in place or evacuate, with evacuation centres established where required in consultation with the Department of Communities and relevant local governments. This approach is consistent with established emergency management arrangements in Western Australia.

What capability, training, equipment and resources are being provided to emergency services and first responders to prepare for AUKUS-related hazards and population growth?

DFES has a longstanding hazardous materials and chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear response capability.

In preparation for increased activity associated with AUKUS, DFES is further strengthening its capability and capacity through additional planning, training, exercises and equipment.

This work is being undertaken with relevant agencies, including the WA Department of Health, the Australian Nuclear Science and Technical Organisation (ANSTO), Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency (ARPANSA) and Australian Submarine Agency (ASA).

Appendix B – AUKUS Community Taskforce Terms of Reference

Purpose

The AUKUS Community Taskforce ('Taskforce') is established to engage with communities in the Rockingham Local Government Area on key matters critical to the delivery of the AUKUS program in that area. The Taskforce will support these local communities to build their awareness of AUKUS developments and help increase their confidence in the broader program. It will work to develop recommendations for key local issues, such as road infrastructure, housing, and service capacity, to ensure these systems can accommodate incoming defence personnel, their families, and associated workforces, while meeting the needs of the existing communities.

Scope

The Taskforce will engage with local stakeholders and community members to identify needs and opportunities arising from AUKUS activities and propose targeted initiatives and actions to support community readiness.

The Taskforce's scope includes, but is not limited to:

- Identifying local needs and opportunities for transport infrastructure, housing, health services, and community assets in the context of AUKUS.
- Developing strategies, initiatives, and actions that may alleviate concerns and harness opportunities to maximise positive benefits for the community.
- Recommending strategies, initiatives, and actions to Government for consideration and approval.

Out of scope

In the interest of effective use of the Taskforce's time and resources, the following AUKUS-related activities and issues are out of scope:

- Australian Government AUKUS responsibilities including:
  - Radioactive waste management; general Defence and national security related matters; environmental considerations e.g. infrastructure works within Cockburn Sound, protection of recreational fishing and boating.
- Emergency management arrangements relating to the Henderson Defence Precinct and HMAS *Stirling*.

- Workforce development and skilling, visa programs.
- Westport or broader Western Trade Coast initiatives.
- Henderson Defence Precinct

Membership

The membership of the Taskforce consists of representatives from the following:

1) Member for Rockingham - **Chair**
2) Department of the Premier and Cabinet - **Deputy Chair**
3) Department of the Premier and Cabinet - **Secretariat**

Community Organisations

4) Rockingham Kwinana Chamber of Commerce
5) Gnaala Karla Booja Aboriginal Corporation

Local Government

6) City of Rockingham, Mayor
7) City of Rockingham, CEO

WA Government

8) Defence West
9) Department of Education
10) Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage
11) Main Roads WA
12) Public Transport Authority
13) South Metropolitan Health Service

Australian Government

14) Member for Brand
15) Australian Submarine Agency
16) Department of Defence

Observers

17) Premier's Office

Other Taskforce members will be determined in consultation with the Premier, the Chair and the Department of the Premier and Cabinet. Representatives are expected to have delegated decision-making power and organisational influence, typically at Tier 2

or equivalent senior leadership level. Representatives are also expected to possess relevant knowledge and expertise to contribute meaningfully to strategic discussions.

The Chair may consult with other community members, key bodies, and government stakeholders in relation to Taskforce matters. Other attendees may be invited to individual meetings at the Chair's discretion.

Frequency

The Taskforce meets monthly, with the option for additional meetings to be held at the discretion of the Chair as required.

The Chair, with assistance from the Secretariat, will oversee the ongoing activities of the Taskforce between meetings.

Roles and Responsibilities

Secretariat support for the Taskforce is provided by the Department of the Premier and Cabinet.

The Chair will be responsible for:

- Authorisation and executive approval of Taskforce correspondence.
- Authorisation of reporting to the Premier.
- Approval of meeting agendas, papers, minutes and Taskforce documentation.
- Act as the main point of contact for external stakeholders and consultation partners.

The Secretariat will be responsible for:

- Communications to Taskforce membership and external stakeholders.
- Meeting preparation, development and circulation of agenda, papers, minutes and Taskforce documentation.
- General Secretariat and administrative functions.

The Taskforce Members will be responsible for:

- Supporting the Taskforce through provision of advice in line with relevant subject matter expertise.
- Contributing presentations and/or papers for Taskforce meetings, as relevant to Taskforce purpose and by mutual agreement between Chair and members.
- Engaging constructively in discussions and consultation in line with the Taskforce's purpose and scope.

Australian Government representatives on the Taskforce are invited as subject matter experts to provide AUKUS-related policy advice and to ensure there is a consistent approach to social licence and community engagement activities across government. They are not reporting to the Western Australian Government through their membership of this Taskforce.

Governance/Reporting

The Taskforce will provide regular updates to the Premier through the Secretariat.

The Taskforce will deliver a Consultation Report at the conclusion of its six-month term, outlining strategies, initiatives, and actions for Government consideration and approval. These recommendations will focus on targeted measures to strengthen community readiness and support the successful implementation of AUKUS-related activities.

Review of Time-Limited Mandate / Terms of Reference

The Taskforce will operate for a defined period.

- Establishment is scheduled for February 2026, expected to conclude by August 2026.
- The Taskforce will review the Terms of Reference and the time-limited mandate as required.
- The Premier's approval shall be sought for any amendments to the Terms of Reference or the time-limited mandate.

Appendix C – List of Contributors

March 2026 – Housing

The Taskforce consulted with:

- DevelopmentWA
- Defence Housing Australia
- Department of Defence
- Defence Families Australia

April 2026 – Health and Community Services

The Taskforce consulted with:

- Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP)
- US Navy AUKUS Liaison
- Rockingham Peel Group (Emergency Department and Consumer Advisory Council)
- Anglicare WA
- Open Arms – Veterans & Families Counselling
- WA Primary Health Alliance
- Defence Member and Family Support (Rockingham)
- Djinda Health
- Australian Defence Force Joint Health Command / Joint Health Unit

May–June 2026 – Roads and Public Transport

The Taskforce consulted with:

- City of Rockingham
- Infrastructure WA
- Local Government Roundtable:
  - City of Cockburn
  - City of Kwinana
  - City of Mandurah
  - City of Rockingham
  - Perth South West Metropolitan Alliance
- Garden Island Transport Network Working Group

June 2026 – Education and Community Assets

Tertiary Education, Training and Capability Development

- Australian Submarine Agency (ASA)
- ASC
- South Metropolitan TAFE
- Murdoch University
- Curtin University
- Department of Training and Workforce Development
- Department of Education
- Australian Institute of Management WA

Primary and Secondary Education

- WA Anglican Schools Association
- Association of Independent Schools of WA
- WACSSO
- Defence Member and Family Support
- International School of Western Australia

Community and Veterans' Organisations

- Rockingham RSL
- Naval Association of Australia WA (Rockingham)
- Marilla Community Centre
- City of Rockingham Community Development Team
- Port Kennedy RSL
- Defence Families Australia

July 2026 – Additional Community Consultation

The Taskforce also undertook targeted consultation with:

- Tourism and environment:
  - Rockingham Tourism Association
  - Naragebup Rockingham Regional Environment Centre
  - Friends of Point Peron
- Sporting associations:

    - Rugby WA
    - Gridiron WA
    - Football West
    - Fremantle Dockers
    - Perth Wildcats
    - Ice Hockey WA
- Community Capacity Building, City of Rockingham
- Chamber of Commerce and Industry
- British Consul General Perth

Appendix D – Stakeholder Correspondence

The AUKUS Community Taskforce received written submissions from three organisations outside of the Community Views Survey process. This section summarises the key points raised in these submissions, as well as in two individual stakeholder consultation meetings conducted by the Taskforce.

Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Western Australia

The Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Western Australia (CCIWA) views AUKUS as a significant strategic and economic opportunity for the economy and community.

CCIWA recognises that population growth will place additional pressure on transport infrastructure, health and community services. CCIWA notes the need to upgrade and develop road and critical community infrastructure to reduce bottlenecks. Public-private partnerships for road and hospital infrastructure, and childcare will reduce taxpayer costs and enable timely construction.

CCIWA members have raised concerns regarding accommodation planning, noting that growth will not be limited to defence jobs but will also include visitation from AUKUS allies, families and broader migration driven by increased opportunities. To prepare WA for defence industry employment, strong links should be established between industry, universities and TAFE, alongside the provision of targeted upskilling programs.

In response to the submission, the Taskforce invited CCIWA representatives to a consultation. Representatives emphasised that AUKUS represents a significant long-term opportunity for WA's economy and communities. CCIWA identified uncertainty regarding AUKUS personnel numbers and arrival timelines as a constraint to planning and investment in accommodation, transport, health, community services and other enabling infrastructure. Representatives noted that CCIWA is well placed to support government engagement with industry and assist businesses to prepare for emerging AUKUS-related opportunities.

The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners Western Australia

The RACGP highlights that access to GP services in Rockingham is above the WA average, however AUKUS presents an opportunity to improve health services within the area. Improving access to after-hours GP services will reduce pressure on emergency departments while maintaining relationship-based care. To support relocating families, RACGP advocates for

Voluntary Patient Enrolment to provide “continuity of care” and more integrated health records.

RACGP raised concerns about the access to low-cost housing for health workers to support retention in local communities. However, RACGP notes that AUKUS presents an opportunity to support spouses of defence and contract personnel to secure local employment in health and early childhood education.

Perth South West Metropolitan Alliance

The Perth South West Metropolitan Alliance (the Alliance) notes that AUKUS-related population growth will drive rapid expansion within a single sector over a relatively short period. This may result in a two-speed economy, driven by stronger employment growth and higher wages in defence and supply chain roles compared to the service industry. As population growth will be concentrated within coastal communities south of the base, transport planning is needed to support demand.

Clear and consistent communication from the Defence industry on the scale of opportunities will support investment translating into long-term city building outcomes. AUKUS presents an opportunity to facilitate higher-density residential developments in the Rockingham city centre and foreshore. Realising this opportunity will require clear and positive messaging to provide certainty for investors.

The Alliance highlights examples from the US Defence Community, where building Defence social licence and providing support to defence families aids integration. In contrast, Australian local governments do not directly benefit from defence expansion. As a result, Commonwealth funding may be required to support local infrastructure and community programs.

British Consul-General Consultation

The Taskforce held a consultation with the British Consul-General for Western Australia, Maria Rennie. The long-term UK presence in WA under AUKUS is expected to include approximately 40 posted personnel, some accompanied by their families, on two- to three-year postings. This will be supported by periodic submarine crew rotations of around 160 personnel. AUKUS partners will have a rotational presence at HMAS *Stirling* comprising one UK and up to four US NPS. Planning for UK personnel is being developed alongside arrangements for United States personnel, with the aim of providing broadly equivalent entitlements and support arrangements. While Australia and the United Kingdom share many cultural similarities, the Consul-General noted the value of providing incoming personnel with local orientation and cultural awareness information.