AUKUS COMMUNITY TASKFORCE 2026

Key findings and WA Government response

The WA Government is committed to ensuring AUKUS delivers lasting benefits for Western Australians, including the communities of Rockingham and surrounding areas.

Informed by extensive community and stakeholder engagement, the AUKUS Community Taskforce identified local priorities, opportunities and challenges associated with AUKUS-related growth.

The WA Government's response builds on these findings and existing investments to support housing, infrastructure, services and jobs in the region.

Taskforce at a glance

Understand the opportunities and challenges associated with AUKUS and future growth.

- **Feb 2026** Taskforce established
- **6 Months** of engagement activity
- **50+** organisations and stakeholders consulted
- **855** community survey responses
- **2,500+** website visitors
- **90%** responses from Rockingham and Kwinana

Key focus areas of Taskforce

- Housing
- Health and Community Services
- Roads and Public Transport
- Education and Community Assets

What the Taskforce found

- **Local opportunities:** Stronger awareness of training and career pathways would help residents access AUKUS-related jobs.
- **Existing pressures:** Most growth pressures pre-date AUKUS, but Defence-related activity could intensify them.
- **Planning for growth:** Housing, services and infrastructure need coordinated planning and timely investment to keep pace.
- **Greater certainty:** Uncertainty about workforce and family arrivals makes planning harder for Government and community stakeholders, highlighting the need for timely information sharing.
- **Community confidence:** Clear information, ongoing engagement and visible action are central to maintaining community confidence.
- **Community connections:** Local organisations can help Defence families settle, but many face capacity and resource constraints.

Delivery on community and government priorities

The WA Government supports all Taskforce recommendations and has set out a detailed response that builds on existing initiatives, investment and Government priorities across housing, health, transport, education, jobs and community infrastructure.

Building on commitments already made

- **$1 million** to undertake master planning for Rockingham General Hospital
- Progress of studies to support **immediate short-term improvements** to the road network accessing Garden Island
- **Expanded training capacity** through South Metropolitan TAFE's Rockingham campus
- Investment in **defence and advanced manufacturing skills and training opportunities,** including $5 million to undertake upgrades to Rockingham TAFE and $3 million to expand the Career Taster Program for defence industry
- **$10 million** for final planning, design and approvals for delivery of new METRONET Karnup Station

The WA Government will work with communities, local government, industry and the Australian Government to ensure all Western Australians benefit from AUKUS for decades to come.

Read the Taskforce Report and WA Government Response: **wa.gov.au/AUKUS-Taskforce**