

Media Release – 17 November 2020

## FOCUS ON WORKFORCE, SOVEREIGN CAPABILITY, EDUCATION ON FINAL DAY OF CONFERENCE

Workforce issues, sovereign submarine capability and the educational work the Submarine Institute of Australia (SIA) is conducting will be in focus on the final day of the 10<sup>th</sup> Biennial Submarine Institute of Australia (SIA) Conference 2020.

The final day of the conference is taking place tomorrow (Wednesday, 18 November) in Canberra (at the Hotel Realm) and via online subscription.

“Workforce development and sovereign capability are currently two of the more significant challenges associated with construction and sustainment of submarines, therefore, the presentations on these issues are timely,” said SIA Executive Director, David Nicholls.

“In addition, SIA Executive Committee Member – and former Naval Officer – Ms Erika Meades will lead a session on the public education campaign the SIA is undertaking which strives to showcase the history and role of Australian submarines.”

The theme of this year’s conference is “Submarine build and sustainment programs: the strategic nature of reliable sovereign supply chains”.

### Wednesday, 18 November

- 9am-9.30am – “Defining sovereign submarine capability – a global review”, Mr Eric Fusil, Director, Shipbuilding Hub, University of Adelaide.
- 9.30am-10am – “The SIA Undersea Outreach program”, Ms Erika Meades, Executive Committee member, Submarine Institute of Australia.
- 10am-10.30am – “Developing the naval shipbuilding and sustainment workforce”, Mr Ian Irving, Chief Executive, Naval Shipbuilding College.
- 11am-11.30am – “Defence sector workforce insights – risk and opportunity for the submarine”, Mr Robert Kremer, Director and Defence Sector Leader, Kinexus.

The full list of speakers for the conference be found [here](#), while the complete program for the conference can be found [here](#).

### **Further information:**

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The Submarine Institute of Australia ([www.submarineinstitute.com](http://www.submarineinstitute.com)) is the premier organisation for promotion of informed discussion and research in the fields of submarine operations, engineering, history and commercial sub-sea engineering, otherwise known as submarine matters.