

Submarine Institute of Australia Conference 2025:

Nuclear Submarines in Australia

Synergy Group conference presentation proposal

Speaker : Michael Mahy DSC, psc

Defence Sector Lead Partner (and SIA member)

Abstract addressing the theme - *A national endeavour: The most complex and consequential industrial transformation in Australian history*

AUKUS Pillar 1 must transform Australia's industrial, scientific, financial, workforce and defence and security sectors to achieve eight nuclear powered and conventionally armed SSN AUKUS boats in the water from the 2030s. Achieving the 'sovereign ready' milestone – being able to safely own, operate, maintain, and regulate a nuclear-powered submarine fleet is a significant step in what will be an unprecedented multi-decade effort, presenting challenge and opportunity to Australia across all these critical national endeavours.

In this insightful presentation, Synergy Group's Michael Mahy, a highly experienced leader and strategic planner with deep expertise in preparedness and mobilisation, will examine the challenges and opportunities for Australia arising from AUKUS Pillar 1, focusing on implications for the transformation of national preparedness and mobilisation, and the opportunity to substantively change Australia's strategic outlook.

The presentation will use historical example and case studies to suggest the catalytic potential of AUKUS for Australia's industrial and related enterprises. It will highlight AUKUS' potential to embed a 'virtuous cycle' of innovation, skilling, professionalisation and development that will transform key sectors and regions across the national support base, within and beyond the 'optimal path'.



Michael Mahy DSC, psc

Biography



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0467 789 404



mmahy@synergygroup.net.au

ABOUT

Michael is an experienced senior executive with a proven capacity for design thinking and complex, long-term planning at the national and enterprise level backed by an established track record for implementing enduring and ethical solutions in adverse circumstances across cultural boundaries. Politically astute, with significant experience at negotiating issues, achieving decision and implementation between nations, across federated national government and for government departments and enterprises.

Routinely engaged to help clarify strategy and policy, and to help senior executive think strategically, Michael is recognised for insightful thinking supported by sharp analytical skills. Michael has proven competence in the management of contentious and contested issues in the national interest, particularly on matters of national security and capability of strategic and sovereign importance. This includes emergent and disruptive capabilities involving space, cyber, ballistic missile defence and advanced undersea warfare, and the creation of strategic advantage.

Michael is a trusted, dynamic and thoughtful leader who has transitioned from developing policy and strategy for Defence to providing strategic advisory services to Commonwealth, State and Territory Governments, Government Departments, Agencies and authorities, and for major corporations. During this time, he has also led the design and implementation of highly successful business strategies that have tripled revenue in his parent company.

POSTGRADUATE EDUCATION

Master of Military Strategy, US Army War College, Carlisle, USA 2011

Master of Public and International Law, University of Melbourne, Melbourne, Australia 2004

Master of Defence Studies, University of Canberra, Canberra, Australia 1999

CAREER SUMMARY

Partner and Defence Sector lead, Synergy Group , Canberra, Australia	2019 – current
Executive Director, Defence Strategy and Industry, Synergy Group	2018-2019
Director General Military Strategy, Strategic Policy and Intelligence Group, Canberra, Australia	2014 – 2017
Australian National Commander Kabul, Afghanistan	2013 – 2014
Director General Joint Plans, Joint Operations Command, Canberra, Australia	2011 – 2013
Director Plans, Forces Command Army, Sydney, Australia	2009 - 2010
Director Workforce Management and Capability Development , Land Command Army , Sydney, Australia	2007 – 2009
Commanding Officer, 2 RAR/Ready Battalion Group, Townsville and Australian Mounted Infantry/Cav Battle Group, Southern Iraq	2005- 2006