

## Media Release

### Media Release - For Immediate Release

14 March 2023

### Submarine Institute Welcomes AUKUS Submarines Announcement

"The Submarine Institute of Australia (SIA) welcomes the announcement of the optimum pathway for the acquisition of Nuclear-Powered Submarines by Australia. The phased pathway balances the urgency of introducing this new capability to protect Australia's sovereignty and prosperity with maintaining our submarine capability through Collins and introduction of the Virginia class, while allowing the time to develop the skills, infrastructure and fifth generation Australian workforce required to design and build the SSN-AUKUS," said Michael Fitzgerald, President of the Institute.

"The plan is achievable with continued trust between all three nations, bipartisan support and new levels of partnership, collaboration, innovation, and co-ordination across Government, industry, and academia."

"This announcement is just the beginning of a long and complex journey which will see the SSN-AUKUS designed with the US and UK and built in Australia to meet Australia's needs. The SIA firmly believes that Australia has the capability and can develop the capacity to contribute to the industrial base of all three nations. Australia can safely build and operate nuclear powered submarines".

"The SIA has been leading the debate on the importance of Australia's submarine capability to its sovereignty and prosperity since its establishment in 1999. The SIA focussed on the benefits of nuclear-powered submarines at its inaugural nuclear seminar in October 2019. The SIA will continue to lead and promote informed discussion. The journey from Collins to SSNs will feature at our next Submarine Science, Technology and Engineering Conference ([SubSTEC 7](#)) to be held 18-20 September 2023 in Adelaide".

"Through our Undersea Outreach program, the SIA is committed to encouraging young people to serve in the Australian Submarine Force and to develop the skills for the industries required to build and sustain the future submarine fleet. Through the Australian National Submarine Museum, the SIA will continue to share the history and importance of submarines to our future national sovereignty and prosperity" Michael Fitzgerald said.

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For more information on the above release, or to speak with Michael Fitzgerald on behalf of the SIA, please contact the media contact below, or the Secretariat directly, [secretariat@submarineinstitute.com](mailto:secretariat@submarineinstitute.com).

More information on the upcoming conference, *From Collins to SSN*, the 7<sup>th</sup> Submarine Science, Technology and Engineering Conference, to be held at the Adelaide Convention Centre 18-20 September 2023, please express interest via return email, contact the Secretariat, or head to <https://www.submarineinstitute.com/sia-conferences>.

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