



COMPANY ANNOUNCEMENT  
26 APRIL 2024

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## MICHELLE KRUGER APPOINTED PRESIDENT OF AUSTAL USA

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Austal Limited (Austal) (ASX: ASB) is pleased to announce that the Austal USA Board of Directors has appointed Michelle Kruger President of Austal USA. Michelle has been Interim President since July 2023 and assumes the permanent role immediately.

Michelle joined Austal USA in 2022 as Vice President of Global Services and Support, responsible for global post-delivery vessel repair and warranty services. She quickly and successfully implemented a number of business strategies, developed key government and commercial business partnerships and overseen the delivery of projects that have added value to the business, including the opening of Austal USA's new San Diego waterfront facility and the delivery of a 9,000 tonne capacity dry dock.

Austal Limited Chief Executive Officer Paddy Gregg congratulated Michelle Kruger on her appointment as President Austal USA, which has been welcomed by employees, customers, and industry.

"Michelle Kruger has quickly demonstrated her exceptional capability to lead the Austal USA team and deliver on multiple shipbuilding, repair and maintenance projects.

"Michelle has developed outstanding, positive working relationships with Austal USA's customers and stakeholders, supply chain partners and employees and her appointment has been warmly welcomed throughout the industry.

"My warmest congratulations to Michelle, as we move forward with certainty to deliver Austal USA's multiple shipbuilding projects for the United States Navy and United States Coast Guard," Mr Gregg said.

Upon her appointment, Austal USA President Michelle Kruger said "I am thrilled and committed to lead Austal USA's efforts in becoming the premier surface ship shipbuilder and submarine module manufacturer of choice, in the nation. As a team we will continue to deliver worldwide service and support capability while steadily advancing technology in support of our nation's readiness needs."

Michelle Kruger is a qualified marine engineer with more than 25 years of maritime industry experience in new construction, repair and maintenance operations. She has a bachelor's degree in Marine Engineering from the United States Merchant Marine Academy, was commissioned into the US Navy reserves in 1987 and earned a Master's Degree in Marine Engineering from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (1995). She has previously held roles as VP of Operations at General Dynamics Bath Iron Works delivering DDG-51 *Arleigh Burke*-class destroyers for the US Navy; Director of Repair Administration, LCS Program Management and VP New Construction Planning at General Dynamics NASSCO; and Electric Boat working on the *Virginia* class submarine program.

This ASX announcement has been approved and authorised for release by Paddy Gregg, Austal Limited's Chief Executive Officer.



*Michelle Kruger has been appointed President of Austal USA (Image: Austal USA)*

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**Media Contact:**

Cameron Morse  
+61 433 886 871  
[cameron.morse@fticonsulting.com](mailto:cameron.morse@fticonsulting.com)

**About Austal:**

Austal Limited (ASX: ASB) is an Australian-based global shipbuilder with industry-leading capabilities, expertise and experience in steel and aluminium vessel design, manufacturing and sustainment.

Through the development of innovative vessel designs and value-adding technologies such as MOTION CONTROL, MARINELINK and DEEPMORPHER™, advanced modular manufacturing processes and an ongoing commitment to in-service support, Austal has become a shipbuilding partner of choice to defence and commercial operators, throughout the world.

Employing approximately 5,000 people, Austal owns and operates safe, modern and efficient shipyards in Australia, the United States of America, the Philippines and Vietnam; and provides in-service support to customers from service centres located in these locations and Singapore.

Since establishment in Henderson, Western Australia in 1988, Austal has grown to become the world's largest aluminium shipbuilder, delivering the *Independence*-variant Littoral Combat Ship and *Spearhead*-class Expeditionary Fast Transport programs for the United States Navy, and the benchmark *Cape* and *Evolved Cape*-class Patrol Boats for the Australian Border Force, Trinidad and Tobago Coast Guard and Royal Australian Navy.

With the addition of steel shipbuilding facilities and capability in both the Australian and United States shipyards, Austal is currently delivering several naval vessels programs for the Commonwealth of Australia, the United States Navy and United States Coast Guard; including;

- 10 x *Evolved Cape*-class Patrol Boats
- 22 x *Guardian*-class Patrol Boats
- 5 x *Navajo*-class Towing, Salvage and Rescue (T-ATS) ships,
- Up to 7 x Ocean Surveillance (T-AGOS) ships,
- Up to 12 x Landing Craft Utility (LCU-1700) vessels
- an Auxiliary Floating Dock (Medium)
- Up to 11 x Heritage-class Offshore Patrol Cutters
- 3 x Expeditionary Medical Ships (EMS)

Further supporting the United States defence industrial base, and aligned with the AUKUS partnership, Austal USA is constructing command modules for *Virginia* and *Columbia*-class nuclear powered submarines; and aircraft elevators for two nuclear-powered *Gerald R. Ford*-class aircraft carriers for the United States Navy.

Austal Australia has signed a Heads of Agreement with the Commonwealth of Australia to establish a Strategic Shipbuilding Agreement, that will see the company become the Commonwealth's strategic shipbuilder in Western Australia; partnering with defence industry to further develop sovereign shipbuilding capability and naval assets for the Australian Defence Force, including new landing craft (medium and heavy) for the Australian Army.

Austal Limited ACN 009 250 266  
100 Clarence Beach Road  
Henderson, Western Australia 6166