



COMPANY ANNOUNCEMENT
8 MARCH 2024

AUSTAL AUSTRALIA DELIVERS 19TH GUARDIAN CLASS PATROL BOAT

Austal Limited (Austal) (ASX: ASB) is pleased to announce Austal Australia has delivered the 19th *Guardian*-class Patrol Boat (GCPB) to the Australian Department of Defence.

The vessel, RFNS *Puamau*, was then gifted by the Australian Government to the Republic of Fiji Navy at a handover ceremony held at HMAS Stirling in Western Australia, attended by the Prime Minister of Fiji, the Hon Sitiveni Rabuka and Australia's Minister for Defence Industry and Minister for International Development and the Pacific, the Hon Pat Conroy MP.

Austal Limited Chief Executive Officer Paddy Gregg said RFNS *Puamau* was the second *Guardian*-class patrol boat to be delivered to the Republic of Fiji under the Pacific Patrol Boat Replacement Project (SEA3036-1).

"The Pacific Patrol Boat Replacement Project is a successful program that continues to highlight Western Australia's naval shipbuilding capability, effective defence industry collaboration and the vital, ongoing support delivered by the Royal Australian Navy's Sea Training Group with every *Guardian*-class Patrol Boat," Mr Gregg said.

"*Puamau*, and her sister ship *Savenaca*, are great examples of Australian naval shipbuilding capability, that draws upon the skills and expertise of not only the Austal team, but hundreds of supply chain partners, and the training support of the Royal Australian Navy in Western Australia.

"*Savenaca* has already proven to be an invaluable addition to the Republic of Fiji Navy, undertaking successful missions throughout Fiji's territorial waters since 2020, including combined maritime patrol and interoperability training with the Royal Australian Navy, in 2022.

"I have no doubt that RFNS *Puamau* will further strengthen Fiji's naval capabilities and our regional security, through effective naval operations with Australia and partnerships other Pacific Island neighbours, as part of the Australian Government's Pacific Maritime Security Program.

"My warmest congratulations go to Prime Minister Rabuka and the Republic of Fiji Navy on the delivery of this latest *Guardian*-class Patrol Boat, and all of the Austal team wish the crew fair winds and following seas on their journey home and future missions.

RFNS *Puamau* is the first of four Guardian-class Patrol Boats scheduled for delivery by Austal's Western Australian shipyards in CY2024.

The Pacific Patrol Boat Replacement Project was awarded to Austal Australia in May 2016, with subsequent, contract options awarded in April 2018 and November 2022 taking the project to 22 vessels, valued at more than A\$350 million, in total. Papua New Guinea, Fiji, the Federated States of Micronesia, Tonga, Solomon Islands, Cook Islands, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Palau, Samoa, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, and Timor-Leste are receiving vessels.

The Pacific Patrol Boat Replacement Project continues to support 200 direct jobs at Austal Australia and more than 200 indirect jobs nationally, through Australian businesses contracted by Austal. Through close collaboration with supply chain partners and the Department of Defence, Austal is achieving over 60% Australian Industry Content on the Guardian-class Patrol Boats and helping to build the National Naval Shipbuilding Enterprise and Australia's sovereign capability.

The 39.5 metre steel monohull patrol boat – designed, constructed and sustained by Austal Australia – is based on a proven design platform that has included the 38 metre *Bay*-class, 56 metre *Armidale*-class and 58 metre *Cape*-class patrol boats that are in service with the Australian Border Force and Royal Australian Navy. Faster than the previous *Pacific*-class patrol boats, with improved seakeeping, better amenities, and an enhanced mission capability – including an integrated RHIB stern launch and recovery system – the *Guardian*-class Patrol Boat provides Fiji with another effective naval asset to carry out border patrols, regional policing, search and rescue, and many other operations domestically and internationally.

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



RFNS Puamau is the 19th Guardian-class Patrol Boat to be delivered by Austal to the Australian Department of Defence under the Pacific Patrol Boat Replacement Project SEA3036-1. (Images: Republic of Fiji Navy)

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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 steel naval vessels programs for the Commonwealth of Australia, the United States Navy and United States Coast Guard; including:

- 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

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.

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