



COMPANY ANNOUNCEMENT
18 SEPTEMBER 2020

AUSTAL AUSTRALIA DELIVERS 7TH GUARDIAN CLASS PATROL BOAT

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

The vessel, *PSS President H.I. Remeliik II*, was today gifted by the Government of Australia to the Government of Palau during a handover ceremony at Austal Australia's Henderson shipyard, attended by the Australian Minister for Defence Industry, the Hon. Melissa Price MP and RADM Wendy Malcolm, RAN, Head of Maritime Systems, Capability Acquisition and Sustainment Group.

Austal Chief Executive David Singleton said this *Guardian*-class Patrol Boat delivery was unique as it is the first to take place under COVID-19 restrictions, limiting the attendees at the ceremony.

"While we are indeed celebrating the delivery of this latest *Guardian*-class Patrol Boat, we are obviously missing the presence of a number of special guests we would normally have here, from both Palau and Canberra.

"We are fortunate, however, to be able to hand over this impressive new ship to the very proud and capable Palau crew, who have diligently observed all necessary COVID-19 safe protocols and procedures while completing a comprehensive training program that Austal provides, here in Western Australia.

"We send our warmest regards and congratulations to President Thomas Remengesau Jr, and the people of the Republic of Palau, on the handover of this impressive new ship," Mr Singleton said.

Faster, with improved seakeeping, better amenities and an enhanced mission capability – including an integrated stern launch and recovery system – the *Guardian*-class Patrol Boat(s) provide the Palau Bureau of Maritime Security with a much improved naval asset to carry out border patrols, regional policing, search and rescue and many other operations domestically and internationally.

The Pacific Patrol Boat Replacement (PPB-R) Project was awarded to Austal in May 2016, with an additional contract option awarded in April 2018, taking the program to 21 vessels valued at more than A\$335 million.

Twelve Pacific Island nations including Papua New Guinea, Fiji, the Federated States of Micronesia, Tonga, Solomon Islands, Cook Islands, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Palau, Samoa, Tuvalu, Vanuatu and Timor Leste will receive the vessels through to 2023.

The Pacific Patrol Boat Replacement Project supports more than 200 direct jobs at Austal Australia and more than 200 indirect jobs nationally, through approximately 450 Australian businesses contracted.

Austal's service centre in Cairns is providing in-service support to the growing *Guardian*-class Patrol Boat fleet, with more than 40 people now employed in a variety of engineering and sustainment roles in the Far North Queensland city.

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.

The *PSS President H.I Remeliik II* is replacing its namesake predecessor, a *Pacific*-class Patrol Boat that has been in service in Palau since 1996.



LCDR Emerson Nobuo, Commanding Officer PSS President H.I. Remeliik II and The Hon Melissa Price MP, Minister for Defence Industry (Image: Austal)



LCDR Emerson Nobuo, RADM Wendy Malcolm RAN, Head of Maritime Systems CASG and The Hon Melissa Price MP, Minister for Defence Industry (Image: Austal)



LCDR Emerson Nobuo and The Hon Melissa Price MP, Minister for Defence Industry cutting the ribbon at the handover ceremony for the PSS President H.I Remeliik II at Austal Australia (Image: Austal)



The PSS President Hi.I Remeliik II is a 39.5 metre Guardian Class Patrol Boat, designed and constructed by Austal Australia. (Image: Austal)

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

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About Austal:

Austal is Australia's global shipbuilder and defence prime contractor designing, constructing and sustaining some of the world's most advanced commercial and defence vessels.

For more than 30 years Austal has contracted more than 300 vessels for over 100 commercial and defence operators in 54 countries, worldwide.

Austal is Australia's largest defence exporter and first ASX-listed shipbuilder. Austal has industry-leading shipyards in Australia, the United States of America, Philippines and Vietnam with service centres worldwide, including the Middle East.

Austal delivers iconic monohull, catamaran and trimaran commercial vessel platforms – including the world’s largest trimaran ferry and multiple defence programs such as the Littoral Combat Ship (LCS) and Expeditionary Fast Transport (EPF) for the United States Navy.

Austal is the only foreign-owned prime contractor designing, constructing and sustaining ships for the US Navy.

Austal has grown to become the world’s largest aluminium shipbuilder and is Australia’s largest defence exporter.

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