



COMPANY ANNOUNCEMENT
2 AUGUST 2021

AUSTAL AUSTRALIA DELIVERS 12TH GUARDIAN CLASS PATROL BOAT

Austal Limited (Austal) (ASX: ASB) is pleased to announce Austal Australia has delivered the 12th *Guardian*-class Patrol Boat (GCPB) to the Australian Department of Defence.

The vessel, the RVS Takuare, was then gifted by the Australian Government to the Government of the Republic of Vanuatu at a certificate signing ceremony held at the Australian Marine Complex, in Henderson, Western Australia.

The ceremony was attended in person and online by His Excellency, Mr Samson Vilvil Farray, Vanuatu High Commissioner to Australia; Chief Inspector Dicky Obed from the Vanuatu Police Maritime Wing; Minister for Defence Industry The Hon Melissa Price MP; RADM Wendy Malcolm, Head of Maritime Systems, Department of Defence Capability Acquisition and Sustainment Group (CASG); RADM Kath Richards, Head of Navy Engineering, Royal Australian Navy, Air Commodore Fiona Dowse, Senior ADF Officer WA and Mr Gerald Thomson, First Assistant Secretary, Pacific Bilateral Division, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

The vessel is the first *Guardian*-class Patrol Boat to be delivered to Vanuatu under the Pacific Patrol Boat Replacement Project (SEA3036-1), part of the Australian Government's Pacific Maritime Security Program; and replaces the RVS Tukoro, a *Pacific*-class Patrol Boat delivered in 1987.

Austal Limited Chief Executive Officer Paddy Gregg said the delivery of the 12th *Guardian*-class Patrol Boat, less than 6 weeks after the delivery of the 11th vessel, highlighted the great efficiency of the Austal Australia teams and shipyards.

"Takuare is the 12th *Guardian*-class Patrol Boat Austal Australia has delivered in just over 30 months, and the fourth *Guardian* we have delivered this year, alone," Mr Gregg said.

"The Pacific Patrol Boat Replacement Project continues to impress our customers, stakeholders and end users, the Pacific Island nations, with the tremendous efficiency with which we are completing these vessels.

“With effective collaboration between the Department of Defence, Austal Australia and our Australian Industry Capability (AIC) partners – our trusted supply chain – we are maintaining a delivery schedule of one vessel, on average, every three months. That is an outstanding track record, of which the Australian defence industry should be proud.

“Our warmest congratulations go to the President of Vanuatu, His Excellency Obed Moses Tallis; Prime Minister the Honourable Bob Loughman Weibur; Commissioner of Vanuatu Police Force Colonel Robson Iavro; Commanding Officer of the RVS Takuare, Chief Inspector Dicky Obed, Vanuatu Police Maritime Wing and his crew, and the people of the Republic of Vanuatu on the handover of this outstanding new patrol boat.”

Faster, with improved seakeeping, better amenities and an enhanced mission capability – including an integrated RHIB stern launch and recovery system – the *Guardian*-class Patrol Boats provide the Vanuatu Police Maritime Wing 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 Australian businesses contracted by Austal.

Austal Australia’s expanded service centre in Cairns, incorporating a 1,200 tonne (80 metre LOA) slipway and a 1,120 tonne mobile boat hoist, continues to provide in-service support to the growing *Guardian*-class Patrol Boat fleet; with more than 100 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.

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



Participating at the handover ceremony for the RVS Takuare were (from left) RADM Wendy Malcolm, Head of Maritime Systems CASG; Chief Inspector Dicky Obed - Commanding Officer RVS Takuare; RADM Kath Richards, Head of Navy Engineering RAN; His Excellency Mr Samson Vilvil Farray; Minister for Defence Industry The Hon Melissa Price MP and Austal Chief Executive Officer Mr Paddy Gregg (Photo: Austal Australia)



Austal Australia has delivered the 12th Guardian-class Patrol Boat to the Australian Department of Defence. The Australian Government has gifted the vessel, the RVS Takuare, to the Vanuatu Police Maritime Wing (Photo: Austal Australia)

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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 340 vessels for over 121 commercial and defence operators in 59 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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