



COMPANY ANNOUNCEMENT
24 JUNE 2024

AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT ORDERS AN ADDITIONAL TWO GUARDIAN-CLASS PATROL BOATS FOR PACIFIC MARITIME SECURITY PROGRAM

Austal Limited (ASX:ASB) is pleased to announce that the Australian Government has ordered two additional *Guardian*-class Patrol Boats from Austal Australia, valued at approximately A\$39 million.

The 39.5-metre, steel-hull patrol boats, to be constructed at Henderson in Western Australia and scheduled for delivery in 2026, are in addition to the 22 *Guardian*-class Patrol Boats previously ordered by the Australian Government under the Pacific Patrol Boat Replacement Project (SEA3036-1) since 2016.

Nineteen of the 22 vessels have been delivered to 12 Pacific Island nations under the Australian Government's Pacific Maritime Security Program since 2018.

Austal Chief Executive Officer Paddy Gregg said the additional *Guardian*-class Patrol Boats will extend the production of the proven vessel platform, designed and constructed by Austal in Henderson and serviced by Austal in Cairns, Queensland.

"Of the 30 vessels Austal Australia has delivered since 2018, 19 have been *Guardian*-class Patrol Boats for the Australian Department of Defence. These vessels were designed and constructed by our team here in Western Australia, with the support of our highly capable supply chain partners," Mr Gregg said.

"We also provide in-service support to the 12 Pacific Island nations operating the *Guardians*, through our growing service centre in Cairns, Queensland.

"We thank the Australian Government for their continued support and look forward to delivering these two additional *Guardians* to our Pacific Island neighbours over the coming years."

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 provide Pacific Island nations with an effective naval

asset with the capability to carry out border patrols, regional policing, search and rescue, and many other operations domestically and internationally.

The Pacific Patrol Boat Replacement Project (SEA3036-1) was awarded to Austal Australia in May 2016, with additional contract options awarded in April 2018 and October 2022. With the addition of a further two vessels, the project now comprises 24 Guardian-class Patrol Boats and a total contract value of approximately A\$400 million.

Austal Australia's service centre in Cairns, which features 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 employed in a variety of engineering and sustainment roles in the Far North Queensland city.

The 39.5 metre Guardian-class steel monohull patrol boat is based on a proven design platform that has included the 38 metre *Bay*-class, 56 metre *Armidale*-class and 58 metre Evolved *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.



Austal Australia has received an order for an additional two Guardian-class Patrol Boats (Image: 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.

In its 35 years of operations, Austal has built more than 350 vessels for 122 commercial and defence operators in 59 countries.

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

Austal delivers iconic monohull, catamaran and trimaran commercial and defence vessel platforms.

Although the Company's roots are in aluminium shipbuilding – it is the world's largest aluminium shipbuilder – Austal builds conventional and autonomous ships in both steel and aluminium, as well as a range of other bespoke maritime build programs such submarine modules.

Austal was the first, and remains one of only two, foreign-owned prime contractors designing, constructing and sustaining ships for the US Navy.

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