



COMPANY ANNOUNCEMENT
1 MAY 2020

**AUSTAL AUSTRALIA AWARDED \$324 MILLION CONTRACT TO BUILD
SIX CAPE-CLASS PATROL BOATS.
BIGGEST CONTRACT FOR AUSTRALIAN VESSELS IN AUSTAL'S
HISTORY**

Austal Limited (ASX:ASB) is pleased to announce that Austal Australia has been awarded a A\$324 million contract to design and construct six evolved *Cape*-class Patrol Boats (CCPBs) for the Royal Australian Navy.

It is the largest contract for an Australian vessel construction program ever awarded to Austal in the Company's 30 year history

The six new vessels, to be constructed at Austal's Henderson shipyard in Western Australia, will add to the Royal Australian Navy's (RAN) existing fleet of two CCPB's delivered in 2017 and further extends Austal's *Cape*-class Patrol Boat program to a total of 18 vessels. This includes eight patrol boats operated by the Australian Border Force and two currently under construction for the Trinidad and Tobago Coast Guard.

Austal Chief Executive Officer David Singleton said the new contract both reaffirmed the *Cape*-class as Australia's pre-eminent patrol boat platform and represented a clear commitment by the Australian Government to strengthen Australia's sovereign shipbuilding industry during a challenging global environment, brought on by the Coronavirus pandemic.

"Since its introduction by the Australian Border Force (ABF) in 2013, the *Cape*-class has proven to be a high-performing, reliable and effective maritime asset, utilised for a wide variety of constabulary and naval missions, playing a critical role in Australia's national security," Mr Singleton said.

"With ten *Capes* currently in operation with the ABF and RAN, it is a smart, logical step to build upon the existing fleet with additional vessels that will enhance the nation's ability to protect and secure our maritime borders.

“These new, evolved *Capes* add even greater national security at this critical time during the COVID-19 pandemic, by ensuring at least 700 jobs are maintained at Austal and supply chain opportunities continue for Australia’s shipbuilding industry.”

The proposal to replace the existing fleet of 13 *Armidale*-class patrol boats (designed and manufactured by Austal) with new, evolved *Capes* was first proposed by Robert Jackson, Head of Business Development – Sustainment at Austal.

“The Defence department is always seeking smart cost saving ideas and I knew that jobs in the industry was a critical issue for everyone, so I proposed replacing older *Armidales* with newer, larger, more efficient *Capes*. That concept was supported at Austal and I’m thrilled to see that as a result of this proposal, jobs are being created at a critical time while also supporting the Royal Australian Navy with enhanced capability and lower operating costs,” Mr Jackson said.

“This new contract will ensure Austal continues to engage the thousands of suppliers that are contributing to the success of the current *Cape*-class program, the SEA3036-1 Pacific Patrol Boat Replacement Project (*Guardian*-class Patrol Boat program) and the multiple commercial ferry projects being delivered by Austal Australia.

“In total, we’re talking about more than a thousand jobs across Australia that will be maintained, and continue to develop; building our nation’s sovereign shipbuilding capability.”

Based on Austal’s proven 58 metre aluminium monohull design, the new RAN evolved *Capes* will include a number of enhancements that further extend the capability of the vessel and the fleet. These evolved *Cape*-class patrol boats include modifications determined through the extensive in-service experience of the RAN and ABF *Capes* currently operating throughout Northern Australia.

Crew capacity has been increased by 10 people, to now total 32 and quality-of-life provisions have been enhanced, ensuring those who operate the new *Capes* have connectivity to the outside world regardless of the operating environment.

Further improvements have been incorporated into the new RAN *Cape* design, developed during the design and construction of two *Cape*-class patrol boats for the Trinidad and Tobago Coast Guard; an export contract awarded on 16th August 2019 and won with the strong support of the Australian Government and Export Finance Australia. The Trinidad and Tobago Coast Guard *Capes* (Hulls 398 and 399) are currently in an advanced state of construction and are scheduled for delivery later in 2020.

Construction of the six *Capes* for the RAN will commence immediately at Austal Australia's Henderson, Western Australia, shipyard with deliveries scheduled from September 2021, then successively through to mid-2023.

Austal has designed, constructed and sustained the Commonwealth of Australia's entire fleet of patrol boats since 1998; including the *Bay*, *Armidale* and *Cape*-class operated by the Royal Australian Navy and Australian Border Force, comprising 32 vessels.

Austal is also delivering 21 *Guardian*-class Patrol Boats for 12 Pacific Island nations and Timor Leste under the SEA3036-1 Pacific Patrol Boat Replacement Project, with six patrol boats delivered since 2018.

Austal provides in-service support to both the *Cape* and *Guardian*-class Patrol Boat fleets through service centres located in Henderson, Western Australia; Cairns, Queensland; and Darwin, Northern Territory.



The six new Cape-class patrol boats will extend the fleet of ten ships currently operated by the Australian Border Force and Royal Australian Navy around Australia (Image: ADV Cape Inscription operating with the RAN)



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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