



## COMPANY ANNOUNCEMENT

6 MARCH 2020

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### AUSTAL AUSTRALIA DELIVERS 6TH GUARDIAN CLASS PATROL BOAT

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Austal Limited (Austal) (ASX: ASB) is pleased to announce the on-time delivery of the sixth *Guardian*-class Patrol Boat (GCPB) to the Australian Department of Defence.

The vessel, the RFNS *Savenaca*, was today gifted by the Government of Australia to the Government of Fiji during a handover ceremony at Austal Australia's Henderson shipyard – attended by the Fijian Prime Minister, Frank Bainimarama, Australian Minister for Defence Senator the Hon. Linda Reynolds CSC, Australian Minister for Defence Industry, the Hon. Melissa Price MP and Chief of Defence Force, General Angus Campbell AO DSC.

Austal Chief Executive David Singleton said the first *Guardian*-class Patrol Boat delivery for 2020 highlighted the Australian shipyard's continuing gains in productivity and efficiency, which is delivering a new naval vessel every 3 months.

"Now in the third year of production, the Pacific Patrol Boat Replacement Project has really hit its stride, with this sixth *Guardian*-class Patrol Boat benefiting from a number of innovative production processes that have reduced production time, while maintaining quality.

"Our warmest congratulations go to Prime Minister Bainimarama, the Commander of the Republic of Fiji Military Forces, Rear Admiral Viliame Naupoto and the Chief of Navy Captain Humphrey Tawake on the handover of this impressive new ship, the RFNS *Savenaca*," 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 Fiji Navy 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 Australia's delivery of the Pacific Patrol Boat Replacement Project is achieving 68.5% Australian Industry Content, which is outstanding for a project of this size and complexity. Austal, and our valued suppliers, contractors and business partners are adding real value to Australian industry and contributing to genuine sovereign shipbuilding capability," Mr Singleton added.

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 RFNS *Savenaca* is one of two *Guardian*-class Patrol Boats to be delivered to and operated by the Fiji Navy, replacing the *Pacific*-class RFNS *Kula* that has been in service since 1994.









***The RFNS Savenaca 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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