



COMPANY ANNOUNCEMENT
27 MAY 2022

AUSTAL AUSTRALIA DELIVERS 15TH GUARDIAN CLASS PATROL BOAT

Austal Limited (Austal) (ASX: ASB) is pleased to announce Austal Australia has delivered the 15th *Guardian*-class Patrol Boat (GCPB) to the Australian Department of Defence.

The vessel, *Te Kukupa II*, was then gifted by the Australian Government to the Cook Islands at a certificate signing ceremony held today at Austal's shipyard in Henderson, Western Australia.

The ceremony was attended by Commodore Ivan Ingham AM, Royal Australian Navy, Senior ADF Officer Western Australia, with the Cook Islands being represented by Tepaki Baxter, Commanding Officer of *Te Kukupa II*.

The new *Guardian*-class Patrol Boat replaces the original *Te Kukupa*, a *Pacific*-class Patrol Boat gifted to the Cook Islands in 1989 and recently de-commissioned, under the Pacific Patrol Boat Replacement Project, part of the Australian Government's Pacific Maritime Security Program.

Austal Limited Chief Executive Officer Paddy Gregg said the new vessel was the second of five *Guardian*-class Patrol Boats to be delivered to the Commonwealth of Australia in CY2022.

"We are well on track to deliver five, forty metre Guardians this calendar year – an outstanding achievement and a great demonstration of our collective industry and team's capability and productivity in steel shipbuilding," Mr Gregg said.

"The Pacific Patrol Boat Replacement Project engages more than 300 suppliers from around Australia. Each one is helping to form the National Naval Shipbuilding Enterprise that is delivering sovereign capability for Australia.

"Our warmest congratulations go to the Cook Islands Police Maritime Wing and we wish 'fair winds and following seas' to the Commanding Officer of *Te Kukupa II*, Tepaki Baxter and his crew."

Faster than the previous/current *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 provides the Cook Islands 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 Project was awarded to Austal Australia 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.



Commanding Officer of Te Kukupa II, Tepaki Baxter (left) and CDRE Ivan Ingham AM, RAN, Senior ADF Officer Western Australia at the certificate signing, gifting the Guardian-class Patrol Boat to the Cook Islands (Photo: Austal Australia)



Commanding Officer of Te Kukupa II, Tepaki Baxter (centre left), Austal Chief Executive Officer Paddy Gregg (centre) and CDRE Ivan Ingham AM, RAN, Senior ADF Officer Western Australia (centre right) with some of the crew from the Te Kukupa II and Technical Advisor from the RNZN (Photo: Austal Australia)



Austal Australia has delivered the 15th Guardian-class Patrol Boat to the Australian Department of Defence. The Australian Government has gifted the vessel, Te Kukupa II to the Cook Islands (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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