

Local Government Leaders to Visit US Ahead of AUKUS Submarine Deployment

The Mayors and CEOs from the six local governments set to be impacted by the AUKUS agreement will attend meetings in the United States this September, in preparation for the deployment of US submarines in Western Australia in 2027.

As a group of local governments in a region that will play a key role in supporting the AUKUS deal, the Alliance takes a keen interest in what this means for our local communities, the local economy and for our natural environment.

The delegation will focus on understanding how to best support incoming personnel and their families, as well as gaining better understanding of emergency management procedures related to the presence of nuclear-powered submarines.

“Members of the Australian Navy have consistently praised San Diego for their local government and defence collaboration, encouraging us to engage with them,” said Warwick Carter, Director of the Perth South West Metropolitan Alliance.

The Australian Submarine Agency has strongly encouraged the Alliance in undertaking the delegation and is currently considering additional financial support in return for researching and reporting on effective community engagement strategies. Additionally, the Alliance has received significant support from the US Consul’s office in WA with the planning and logistics of the 12-day mission. The remaining costs will be covered by the Alliance's underspends during the COVID-19 pandemic, ensuring no additional funding is required from member Councils.

“AUKUS will undoubtedly alter the social and economic landscape of our region. The extent to which these changes are positive depends largely on our collective efforts to prepare,” Mr. Carter added.

The group will also take the opportunity to meet with business groups involved in the development and maintenance of the Virginia Class submarines, as well as discussing issues such as homelessness and urban development with US counterparts.

The Perth South West Metropolitan Alliance is a longstanding association of the local governments of Fremantle, East Fremantle, Melville, Cockburn, Kwinana, and Rockingham.

Warwick Carter
Director, Perth South West Metropolitan Alliance

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