

Nuclear-Powered Submarine Construction Yard – Environment Impact Statement

About the proposed project

[Australian Naval Infrastructure](#) (ANI) has submitted a development application for a [Nuclear-Powered Submarine Construction Yard](#), near the existing Osborne Naval Shipyard, about 19 km north-west of the Adelaide CBD.

As part of the [AUKUS agreement](#) with the Australian Government, the proposed construction yard aims to build conventionally armed nuclear-powered submarines by the end of this decade. It will include infrastructure on site for launch and berthing facilities.

The application was declared as an [Impact Assessed Development](#) by the South Australian Minister for Planning. The State Planning Commission released [assessment requirements](#) for the project, which outlined environmental, economic and social impacts that could arise.

In response to this, ANI prepared an [Environment Impact Statement](#). This identified and considered potential impacts due to the development, its operations and any associated changes in land use, both on land and in coastal waters. It also considered any impacts to plants, animals, heritage, community and the economy and how they could be mitigated or minimised.

Between 3 February 2025 and 17 March 2025, the South Australian community and stakeholders were invited to have their say and provide feedback on the Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed Nuclear-Powered Submarine Construction Yard.

What we heard

A total of 184 submissions were received from a range of stakeholders including interested groups and individuals, community members, property and business owners and government.

The key issues raised by the local community, interest groups, non-government organisations, local businesses and landowners related to:

- nuclear waste storage and disposal
- coastal and marine ecosystems (plants and animals)
- local amenity and community wellbeing
- land-based ecosystems (plants and animals)
- water quality and stormwater management

- climate change and sustainability
- transport and traffic
- culture and heritage
- local and state economy (including employment)
- existing business and industry.

Engagement activities

A range of activities were carried out to let the South Australian community and stakeholders know about the project and how they could have their say.

Information was shared through:

- media, social media, Planning Ahead and YourSAy newsletters, and notifications to PlanSA Code Amendments and PLUS Eventbrite subscribers
- letters addressed to key stakeholders and service providers
- letters to specialist groups, local environmental groups, tourism associations, local businesses and landowners on the Lefevre Peninsula, planning industry, state and local government advising of public consultation.

Submissions and feedback were received through:

- YourSAy consultation website and online survey:
 - 88% of submissions received were through the online survey, submitted mostly from interested individuals, property and business owners, community members and interest groups.
 - The consultation website was visited 3,254 times during consultation.
- PlanSA email address:
 - 10% of submissions, mostly from interest groups, businesses and organisations.
- PlanSA development application website and online submission form:
 - 1% of submissions received were through the online form, submitted mostly from community members
 - The development application website was visited 1,021 times during consultation.
- Hard copy – 1% of submissions, all from community members

The following information sessions were held and co-hosted by ANI:

- State Library on 19 February 2025, attended by 33 people
- Port Adelaide Plaza on 20 February 2025, attended by 47 people
- The Lefevre Community Stadium on 21 and 22 of February 2025, attended by 78 people over the two days.

The Australian Submarine Agency (ASA) were also available at these information sessions to discuss the separate [strategic assessment process](#) underway to consider and assess the impacts of the submarine construction yard's development and operations on nationally and internationally listed plants, animals, habitats and places under the [Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999](#). The Department of Premier and Cabinet (DPC) also attended the events as part of their consultation on a wider Lefevre Peninsula MasterPlan.

Next steps

All feedback has been collated by PlanSA and provided to ANI for their consideration and review.

ANI is now preparing a formal response document, which outlines the feedback received, addresses issues raised during consultation (including mitigation and management measures) and any changes to the project.

The State Planning Commission will then consider the whole proposal, including the Environmental Impact Statement and formal response document, council and state agency comments and public feedback, and prepare an assessment report.

The Commission will provide the assessment report with recommendations to the Minister for Planning for consideration in deciding on the proposal.

The response document, public submissions and assessment report will be published on the YourSAy and PlanSA websites.

More information

Contact: PlanSA
Phone: 1800 752 664
Email: PlanSA@sa.gov.au
Visit YourSAy: yoursay.sa.gov.au/submarine-construction-yard-eis
Visit PlanSA: plan.sa.gov.au