



COMPANY ANNOUNCEMENT
2 NOVEMBER 2020

AUSTAL AUSTRALIA DELIVERS 8TH GUARDIAN CLASS PATROL BOAT

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

The vessel, *VOEA Ngahau Siliva*, was gifted by the Australian Government to the Kingdom of Tonga during a handover ceremony at Austal Australia's Henderson shipyard on Friday 30 October; attended by Her Royal Highness, Princess Angelika Latufuipeka Tuku'aho of the Kingdom of Tonga; the Australian Minister for Defence Industry, the Hon. Melissa Price MP, and, RAN Head of Maritime Systems, Capability Acquisition and Sustainment Group RADM Wendy Malcolm.

Austal Chief Operating Officer and CEO Designate Patrick Gregg said *VOEA Ngahau Siliva* was the second *Guardian*-class Patrol Boat delivered to the Kingdom of Tonga under the Pacific Patrol Boat Replacement Project and the eighth delivered in total since December 2018.

"We are very fortunate to welcome Her Royal Highness Princess Angelika, who is Tonga's High Commissioner to Australia, to the Henderson shipyard to celebrate the delivery of the second *Guardian*-class Patrol Boat, following the delivery of the *VOEA Ngahau Koula* in June last year," Mr Gregg said.

"With this second vessel delivery to Tonga, we have now delivered eight of the 21 *Guardian*-class Patrol Boats contracted to the Australian Department of Defence. We're actually completing a vessel every three months and at any given time, we have five vessels under construction or fitout.

"Our warmest congratulations to Her Royal Highness Princess Angelika, Her Majesty's Armed Forces of Tonga and the people of Tonga on the handover of this latest vessel to their naval fleet. Our sincere thanks too, to Minister Price and the Department of Defence on their continued support of this sovereign shipbuilding program."

The Tongan crew, who have diligently observed all necessary COVID-19 safe protocols and procedures while completing a comprehensive training program that Austal provides at its Henderson shipyard in Western Australia, have now taken delivery of the vessel and will depart for Tonga, following further training and familiarisation with the Royal Australian Navy at HMAS Stirling, Garden Island.

Faster, with improved seakeeping, better amenities and an enhanced mission capability – including an integrated stern launch and recovery system – the *Guardian*-class Patrol Boats provide the Tongan 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'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 VOEA *Ngahau Siliva* is replacing VOEA *Neiafu (P201)*, a *Pacific*-class Patrol Boat that has been in service in Tonga since 1989.



The crew of the VOEA Ngahau Siliva on board the vessel at the handover ceremony (image: Austal)



From left: Austal COO and CEO Designate Patrick Gregg; Minister for Defence Industry The Hon Melissa Price MP; HRH Princess Angelika Latufipeka Tuku'aho of the Kingdom of Tonga; Air Commodore Fiona Dowse, Senior Defence Representative WA; RADM Wendy Malcolm Head of Maritime Systems, RAN; LTCOL Tevita Siu Fifita, His Majesty's Armed Forces Tonga and VOEA Ngahau Siliva Navigation Officer, SBLT Peni T. Mau. (image courtesy of RAN)



Her Royal Highness Princess Angelika Latufiipeka Tuku'aho of the Kingdom of Tonga and Australian Defence Industry Minister The Hon Melissa Price MP at the ribbon cutting for the official delivery ceremony of the VOEA Ngahau Siliva (Image courtesy of RAN)



VOEA Ngahau Siliva 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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Media Contact:

Cameron Morse
+61 433 886 871
cameron.morse@fticonsulting.com

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.

Austal Limited ACN 009 250 266
100 Clarence Beach Road
Henderson, Western Australia 6166