



AUSTRALIAN NUCLEAR ASSOCIATION INC.

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Submission to

Joint Standing Committee on Treaties

on

Agreement among the Government of Australia, the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the Government of the United States of America for Cooperation Related to Naval Nuclear Propulsion.

The proposed Treaty Action is to bring into force the Agreement among the Government of Australia, the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the Government of the United States of America for Cooperation Related to Naval Nuclear Propulsion ("Agreement").

The Australian Nuclear Association Inc (ANA) supports the AUKUS partnership to allow the acquisition and use of nuclear power for the Australia's submarine fleet. The use of nuclear propulsion for submarines is based on the merits of nuclear power for submarine propulsion.

The AUKUS partnership will greatly expand Australia's nuclear expertise and capabilities. The establishment of the nuclear-powered submarine fleet and associated nuclear qualified support services will increase Australia's expertise and capability dealing with nuclear materials and nuclear facilities.

This new Agreement supersedes an earlier agreement that was limited to the exchange of naval nuclear propulsion information. The new Agreement contributes to Australia's national interest by facilitating the transfer of material and equipment related to naval nuclear propulsion, as well as the continued exchange of naval nuclear propulsion information

The ANA supports the obligations in the Agreement to ensure the highest non-proliferation standards are met. In particular, the Agreement prohibits the use of naval nuclear propulsion information, nuclear material and equipment communicated, exchanged or transferred pursuant to the Agreement for any nuclear explosive device, or for research on or development of any nuclear explosive device.

The Agreement obligates Australia to only use nuclear material transferred under the Agreement for naval nuclear propulsion, to not enrich or reprocess any nuclear material received, and to be responsible for the management, disposition, storage and disposal of any spent nuclear fuel and radioactive waste resulting from naval nuclear propulsion plants that are transferred.

The approval of this Agreement is essential to support the further growth of nuclear expertise in Australia and to facilitate the AUKUS nuclear-powered submarine partnership.

The Australian Nuclear Association strongly recommends approval of the proposed Treaty Action.

Australian Nuclear Association

The Australian Nuclear Association is an independent incorporated scientific institution with members from the professions, business, government and universities with an interest in nuclear science and technology. Many of our members are professional scientists and engineers with considerable experience and expertise in nuclear issues.

Dr John Harries

Secretary, Australian Nuclear Association

31 August 2024