



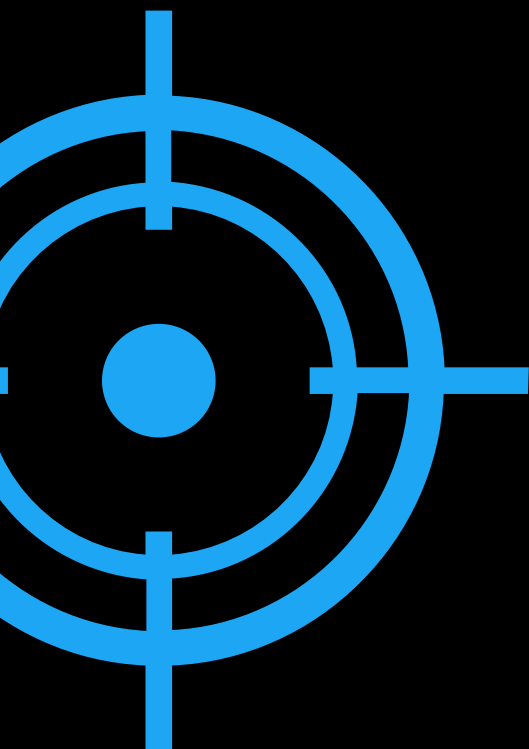
NO PLACE FOR A NUCLEAR BASE



Wollongong Against War and Nukes

August 2026

Contents



- 01 Introduction
- 02 Wollongong, City of Peace
- 04 Decisions & secrecy
 - Nuclear submarine reactors
- 05 Evacuation & fallout
- 06 Waste
- 07 Nuclear weapons
- 09 U.S. Base
- 10 Local industries
- 11 Human & environmental security
- 12 Conclusion
- 13 Questions
- 14 Sources

We acknowledge the traditional custodians of this land, the Dharawal, Wodi Wodi and Yuin people, we seek to learn from the knowledge embedded within the Aboriginal custodianship of Country and pay thanks for the care of Country performed by the Dharawal and Yuin peoples over millennia. We also note that no consultation with indigenous communities or apparent consideration of indigenous relationships with and custodianship of Country has occurred regarding the potential siting of a nuclear submarine base in Port Kembla.

This report was prepared by Wollongong Against War and Nukes (WAWAN) for the AUKUS Public Inquiry of 2026, to outline our local community's concerns and our opposition to plans for an east coast nuclear submarine base.

Introduction

01

In 2022, a group of local people formed Wollongong Against War and Nukes (WAWAN) to oppose the nuclear submarine base plan. Since then, WAWAN has played a leading role in organising community opposition to this incredibly dangerous threat to our region.

On 1 May 2023, thousands of people marched along Wentworth Street, Port Kembla to demonstrate their opposition to a nuclear submarine base in Port Kembla. By that time, Wollongong City Council had already re-affirmed Wollongong's status as a Nuclear Free Zone. More than 40 local organisations, including health and environment bodies, trade unions and church groups, have signed the Port Kembla Declaration, demanding the federal government rule out a submarine base in our region. Port Kembla residents have widely opposed having a base in the area and thousands in our

community have come together to declare that this is "No Place for a Nuclear Base".

We are concerned that the presence of nuclear submarines would make the Illawarra a high priority target for conventional or nuclear attack from an adversary. We are concerned that US submarines carrying nuclear weapons could dock in Port Kembla. We are concerned about the risk of nuclear accidents. We are concerned about becoming a site for the storage of nuclear waste. We are concerned about the social, economic and environmental impact of a nuclear submarine base in Port Kembla. We are concerned that, even in a best-case peaceful and accident-free scenario, a nuclear submarine base would have a highly detrimental impact on our community. We love Port Kembla and the Illawarra Region. We don't want to lose the things we value about this place.



The "Port Kembla Declaration" opposing a nuclear submarine base is launched in September 2025, representing over 40 local organisations.



My family and I have lived in Port Kembla for more than twenty years. This is my community – the beaches, the port, the people. When the Morrison government first floated this suburb as a site for a nuclear submarine base, people here organised to fight it. I've been part of that fight ever since.

- Melanie Barnes, WAWAN co-founder

Wollongong: City of Peace

02



Former and current Wollongong citizens of the year (from left) Malika Rees, Phong and Teresa Tran, Auntie Barb Nicholson and Sally Stevenson have spoken out after secret government documents identified Port Kembla as the best location for a nuclear submarine base. Photo: Jeremy Lasek, Illawarra Flame.

For more than 100 years, the people of Wollongong have opposed war. This opposition included the world famous “Pig Iron Bob” Dalfram Dispute against the 1937 war on China, and in more recent times, against the invasions of Vietnam, Afghanistan and Iraq. We have repeatedly said ‘no to war!’ For many decades, the local community has also said ‘No to nuclear war!’ Wollongong was first declared a nuclear-free city in 1980. In 2019, Wollongong City Council signed up to the International Campaign for the Abolition of Nuclear Weapons Cities Appeal. In 2022 and 2025, Wollongong City Council again reaffirmed the city’s nuclear-free status.

Today, prominent Wollongong citizens and community leaders are speaking out against the prospect of Port Kembla Harbour becoming the home base for nuclear

submarines. Many of Wollongong’s multicultural community members have come here from parts of the world ravaged by war, bringing with them a deep desire for peace. For example, this year’s Wollongong Citizen of the Year, Teresa Tran, came here as a refugee and has spoken out publicly against the nuclear base plan. As they explain - their family came here to seek stability and “a peaceful future for our children.” Teresa’s concerns, and the concerns from many in the region’s Vietnamese community, centre on environmental impact and safety because “We are in paradise here.” She has also called for any discussion about the base to start here in Wollongong “with local people who may be affected. This is where the conversation should begin, not in parliament. If there is nothing to hide, everything should be open and available to the public. We certainly don’t just want this imposed on us.”

Teresa is also insistent that First Nations elders should be consulted immediately about any plans to establish a nuclear submarine base here. Meanwhile, local Indigenous elder and Wollongong Citizen of the Year 2024, Aunty Barb Nicholson, who lives in Port Kembla in an area identified as a potential exclusion zone is also opposed to the base, and is campaigning and speaking out publicly against it.

The 2025 Wollongong's Citizen of the Year, Malika Reese, another Port Kembla resident, is also publicly opposing the base, explaining - "We could be spending that money where it can be better utilised; with our communities, in our health and education sectors, in our families and ageing populations."

Similarly, Wollongong Citizen of the Year in 2023, Sally Stevenson, an emergency coordinator for Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) in war torn Gaza, has explained that "In addition to successive Australian governments

fully subjugating to the United States and its unhinged military interests, obsessions and profit-making, as a community we must also understand the unique health and safety risks associated with naval nuclear reactors and the environmental impact any potential accident would have on the port. A base proposed here threatens both regional peace and our marine ecosystem- and our community's health."

Meanwhile the CEO of Healthy Cities Illawarra, Kelly Andrews, explains that - "Healthy Cities Australia signed the Port Kembla Declaration because it aligns with our commitment to public health, community wellbeing, and sustainable development. Peace is a prerequisite for health, and we can't take peaceful cities for granted. There are direct public health risks associated with potential nuclear incidents and radioactive waste, there are also risks to the marine environment."

There is a very real concern to our people and our region by the proposal to install a nuclear submarine and military base in Port Kembla. The waste from reactors imposes grave threats to local and regional human and non-human land, air and marine populations. The fear of this proposal goes way beyond mere nimbyism; it is unjust and unwanted; it is being delivered without local consultation and is an environmentally disastrous proposal, one we should all be gravely worried about.

- Aunty Barb Nicholson, Aunty of the Year, 2026 Local Government Regional NAIDOC Week and Wollongong's 2024 Citizen of the Year.



Robert Menzies, "Pig Iron Bob", during the Dalfram Dispute in which waterside workers refused to load steel bound for Japan, to be used in weapons, 1939.



"Die in" at a Hiroshima Day March on Crown St, Wollongong, 1978. Credit: People for Nuclear Disarmament (PND).

Decisions & secrecy

We have been told that the decision on the location of a nuclear submarine base has been deferred. This is no comfort. If anything it increases our fears that decisions are being made in secret, without community consultation and overriding local dissent to impose a nuclear submarine base and the associated storage of long-lived and hazardous radioactive waste. The release of secret documents obtained under FOI legislation in May 2026 demonstrates that planning is being hidden from the public and the risks are being hidden from the communities affected.

Secrecy is what got us into this mess. The AUKUS agreement was negotiated in secret, without any

scrutiny from the public, or the parliament, and the site selection process for the east coast nuclear subs base has also been kept secret, and continues to be shrouded in secrecy, despite the incredibly high stakes and massive cost.

WAWAN opposes decisions made in Canberra and Washington being imposed on us. We also oppose any move by the NSW Government to designate the base "Critical State Significant Infrastructure" – a classification that would strip Illawarra residents of their legal right to challenge the decision in court.

Nuclear submarine reactors

Visits or stationing of nuclear submarines in Port Kembla is seriously dangerous. Nuclear reactors pose major risks for people and the environment. Unlike civilian reactors, most information about military naval reactors is kept classified. Nuclear-powered submarines have a long history of accidents, many of which are again shrouded in secrecy. Even if the probability of an accident is 'low', the level of consequence of a nuclear submarine accident is extremely high, given that the submarine's nuclear reactors are fuelled by weapons-grade highly enriched uranium.

British experience with nuclear submarines reveals a litany of public health risks - including the release of

tritium (a radioactive form of hydrogen) into the air and surrounding water, with radioactive air emissions increasing year-on-year at nuclear submarine bases in Scotland. Seven hundred and eighty nine nuclear safety events have been recorded at Scotland's naval bases since 2006 and the UK Ministry of Defence has acknowledged that many incidents had "actual or high potential for radioactive release to the environment" – but have refused to say what actually happened in any of the incidents, or when they occurred – raising concerns about whether local residents would be informed if similar incidents occurred in Port Kembla.

Evacuation & fallout

05

A visit by a nuclear-powered submarine to a port in Australia requires emergency response planning that sets evacuation zones for potential nuclear reactor accidents. Secret NSW Government planning documents have considered what should happen in case of an accident or explosion on one of the subs. Australia's nuclear safety agency assessed that an accident at a submarine base here would require evacuating most residential streets in Port Kembla. Most of the homes in Port Kembla would be in the immediate evacuation zone, as would Port Kembla school and local health facilities. If such an accident occurred, the surrounding area can be contaminated with radioactive iodine and radioactive cesium. These move easily into the environment – land, air or sea - and can be inhaled or ingested and enter the food chain and are especially dangerous to women and children. Our community has never been properly informed of or consulted about this risk. It is unclear how large the real evacuation zone would be if an accident or an attack on the base occurred. Or for how long the port, or the city, its land, water, and air, could be contaminated.

At the Perth hearing of the AUKUS Public Inquiry in June 2026, Dr Colin Hughes, the former head of Public Health in Western Australia, described an AUKUS submarine base as a 'nuclear disaster waiting to happen', where a worst-case failure could trigger explosions, mass evacuation and long-term environmental contamination. He described accident scenarios where hospitals are rapidly overwhelmed, evacuation zones expand across suburbs, and mass disaster spreads as residents attempt to flee. He also explained that governments have failed to adequately prepare for the possibility of accidents involving visiting or serviced submarines. The medical community, including the World Health Organisation, agree that there is no safe threshold for radiation exposure. Following the 2011 Fukushima nuclear reactor disaster, over 100,000 residents were permanently evacuated from their homes, following an accident they were told would never happen. When it comes to radioactive risk, secrecy and denial are a toxic combination.



Red zone indicates a rough evacuation area if a northeasterly wind was blowing in a nuclear accident. Source: ARPANSA. Originally published on the front page of the Illawarra Mercury, 20 May 2026.

Radioactive leaks pose severe long-term threats of land, groundwater and atmospheric contamination. A nuclear submarine's use of highly enriched uranium necessitates tens of thousands of years of security and risk management, far beyond current planning capabilities, posing ongoing multigenerational dangers. High-level radioactive waste will be produced by the base – but neither governments nor the military know what to do with it. Australia does not have a site for long term management of any nuclear waste. We are told that highly radioactive waste from the submarines will be stored on defence land.

So, does this potentially include future defence land at Port Kembla, if it becomes a nuclear base? And could this include decommissioned submarines that must be contained for over 10,000 years, like the US, UK, and Russian subs currently tied to docks and rusting away? Our community knows all about living with a legacy of toxic waste. We are already working hard to heal ourselves, and the lands and waters we live on. We will not let this place become a dumping ground again.

12 decommissioned UK submarines in indefinite storage in Plymouth. The fleet includes early Cold War-era boats, with several still containing highly radioactive, spent nuclear fuel. Photo: Andy Amor, 2023



Nuclear weapons

07

The NSW Government's secret documents suggest a Port Kembla base would also be built to support visits from other US vessels, as well as the AUKUS-linked submarines. While the South Pacific Nuclear Free Zone Treaty, to which Australia is a party, prohibits the "stationing" of nuclear weapons in Australia, there is no clear prohibition on nuclear-armed vessels visiting or transiting. While Australia acquires conventionally-armed, nuclear-powered submarines, Australian defence officials confirmed that visits from US Virginia-class submarines—which are dual-capable platforms—face no legal impediments, and Australia will continue to accept the US "neither confirm nor deny" policy regarding the presence of nuclear weapons onboard visiting subs.

Last year, defence officials told the Australian Senate that US submarines carrying nuclear weapons could dock at Australian submarine bases and the Australian government and people would not know. We believe Australians have a right to know, and to reject any presence of nuclear weapons in Australia.

At the Melbourne hearing for the AUKUS Public Inquiry Professor Richard Tanter raised what he referred to as a matter of the greatest urgency, namely the glaring lack of any legal or policy impediment to nuclear-armed submarines operating from Australian waters or coming into Australian ports. With the Trump administration mandating by law the delivery of a new nuclear-tipped sea-launched cruise missile designed for Virginia-class submarines by 2032.

Visits on a continuous or semi-permanent basis of foreign nuclear-armed submarines add a much greater threat to Port Kembla, the Illawarra region, and beyond. If these submarines require 'deep maintenance' they could be stuck in port for long periods of time, and this could involve long-term stationing of nuclear weapons in Port Kembla. Two Virginia class submarines have recently undertaken such maintenance in Western Australia, keeping them stationed there a month at a time, effectively home-porting American submarines. Proponents of a nuclear submarine base in Port Kembla have tried to reassure us that submarines supplied



Hundreds of people march in the rain to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombings, and protest nuclear submarines at Port Kembla, 9 August 2025. Credit: Melanie Barnes.

under the AUKUS agreement will be nuclear powered, rather than nuclear armed. Of course, nuclear powered submarines make the region a target for attack and put us at risk of nuclear accident, but the presence of 'visiting' nuclear armed submarines in Port Kembla poses an even greater risk. Stationing nuclear-armed submarines in Australia would breach our obligations under international law, and the risk of an accident, explosion or attack on the base.

Importantly, we would not be told whether or not visiting US submarines were nuclear armed or not. This information would be kept secret. So, the local community, local authorities, and health and safety planning bodies would be unaware that weapons of mass destruction were stationed in the Port or were travelling just off our coast.

The International Committee of the Red Cross and the Medical Association for Prevention of War warn that the risks of nuclear weapons include:

- Operational mishaps, aging infrastructure, or miscommunication between military personnel which can trigger **accidental warhead activation** and base emergencies.
- Security breaches, physical incursions or cyber-attacks on base networks which could lead to **unauthorised use/detonation**.
- Routine operations, maintenance, or accidents which can lead to **release of radiation**.
- An explosion involving a nuclear weapon would result in **catastrophic blast destruction, firestorms, and widespread radioactive fallout** that could spread over hundreds of kilometres (e.g. as far away as Sydney).
- Detonation in populated areas instantly **vaporises infrastructure** and causes **immediate death**.
- A nuclear weapon detonation in or near a populated area would – as a result of the blast wave, intense heat, and radiation and radioactive fallout – cause massive death and destruction, trigger large-scale displacement and cause long-term harm to human health and well-being, as well as **long-term damage to the environment, infrastructure, socioeconomic development and social order**.
- **Emergency medical infrastructure** is destroyed.
- Radioactive **fallout spreads uncontrollably**.
- Acute radiation sickness kills survivors in the **weeks, months and years following**. (For example, initial deaths in Hiroshima and Nagasaki doubled over five years due to radiation-induced illnesses.)
- **No state or international body could address, in an appropriate manner, the immediate humanitarian emergency** nor the long-term consequences of a nuclear weapon detonation in a populated area, nor provide appropriate assistance to those affected.

Note: The Maralinga Royal Commission which investigated the damage caused by nuclear testing in Australia during the 1950s found that even after a 'full clean-up', certain areas of the Country will **remain dangerously radioactive for a quarter of a million years**.



Australian fur seals on “Martin Island”, one of the Five Islands off the coast of Port Kembla. Credit: Paul Jones.

Recent changes to the AUKUS submarine deal make clear that the whole agreement is based on the needs, demands and interests of the American military, and will likely result in Australia becoming totally integrated into U.S. Department of War operations. An East Coast base in Port Kembla would effectively be ceded to the US Navy as a staging post for their vessels - a base for U.S.- commanded nuclear-powered and nuclear-armed submarines - part of what Defence Minister Richard Marles describes as a “growing US footprint in Australia”.

If the Government allows a base to be established here, with thousands of US military personnel, they will be giving them the keys to our city. The Government’s accommodation of America’s military plans for our region is likely to include the recruitment of local development, infrastructure, housing, our schools, TAFEs, Wollongong University, the skills of our workforce, the richness of our environment, and the futures of our children, for militarisation, the needs of United States military planners, and the profits of military corporations.

The proposed submarine/navy base would be a high security installation, permanently stationing US military forces and personnel in our city. This would see restrictions placed on access to the port and surrounds, potentially including the sacred Five Islands, Hill 60, Fishermans Beach and popular locations for recreational boating, fishing and surfing. We would experience significantly more military vehicles on our streets, soldiers moving around the community carrying weapons, and we would be surrounded by added military installations to defend the base from attack. The American forces stationed here will also include their own workforce and large numbers of US contractors, taking much of the promised work, money and jobs being used to sell this base as an economic opportunity.

A proposal to host up to 4000 US military personnel year-round in the Illawarra also pose a risk of violence and sexual violence to the local community, as has been experienced in Hawai‘i, Guam, Okinawa, South Korea and Darwin.

Local industries

10

A number of developments around Port Kembla are currently in limbo due to the threat of this base hanging over them, stalling investment, as well as endangering established industries.

The Port's transformation into a military base, the "displacement of residents and businesses" to accommodate a nuclear base footprint – "more than twice the size of the Western Sydney International Airport project" and to house a surface fleet alongside 4,500 visiting naval personnel will put steel jobs at risk and crowd out local renewable energy industries. Secret NSW government documents also show it would also mean the end of plans for Port Kembla to become the state's next container terminal.

A front-page story in the Illawarra Mercury recently explained that the "Port Kembla steelworks could close to make way for (the) US sub base". As "the steel industry is the only industry that's big enough and has enough of that area here really to be a major obstacle to a base" and that "significant plans for potential investment in green steel, in an offshore wind industry, in becoming the industrial powerhouse for the renewable revolution in Australia" are now at risk.

As well, as NSW Ports CEO, Marika Clafas, recently explained – "Port Kembla, as a commercial port carries out a critical role in the trade needs of the state" and there was "insufficient space for the base to be located within the commercial port area of Port Kembla without compromising the ability of the Port to meet the state's growing trade needs." NSW Ports, the operator of Port Kembla since it was leased in 2013, has advanced plans for expanding in the Outer Harbour, which could be scuppered by a submarine base.

Port Kembla is a key port for NSW and global trade, reliant on shipping. The inner harbour is now fully occupied, and the outer harbour is the growth area for the Port and the region. Meanwhile, NSW Ports is currently working through planning approval (nearing conclusion) to develop the outer harbour for offshore wind assembly for Gippsland wind farms.

The current industrial uses of Port Kembla include:

- Bluescope trades going in and out of the steelworks.
- LNG import terminal.
- Bulk grain & Coal exports.
- Cement and car importation – all of the state's import cars come in through the Port.
- Manildra bulk liquid fuel storage facility (ethanol storage).
- Along with an emerging Hydrogen hub.
- The potential for gypsum importation.

These cannot be co-located with a submarine base. And many existing industries and facilities, due to the risk of accidents, explosions or attacks are incompatible with nuclear fission.

A nuclear submarine base would compromise the region and state's ability to grow its trade for its own needs – which will lead to further cost of living issues, around the availability and price of goods.

There has been no engagement from the Federal Government or the Defence Department with NSW Ports about Port Kembla as the proposed nuclear submarine base.



Human & environmental security

11

In March 2026, the Australian National University's National Security College released their report - No worries? Australian attitudes to national security, risk and resilience based on more than 20,000 submissions. Here 'safe and peaceful communities' emerged as the Australian people's foremost priority (35% first preference, 64% first & second preference). Third was 'Increasing Australia's economic prosperity' (26%), and fourth was 'upholding Australia's democratic rights and freedoms' (23%).

While politicians and arms companies might talk big about jobs and promise enormous investment in weapons in the name of protecting Australia from an imagined future threat, the real threat of catastrophic climate change is already here.

On the South Coast, we have experienced severe bushfires, a global pandemic and major flooding. Australian military experts have criticised the Federal Government for ignoring or hiding the most important national security threats, which are posed by climate change, and not taking the risks seriously. Their spokesperson, former chief of Australia's defence force and Lead Commissioner for the AUKUS Public Inquiry, Professor Admiral Chris Barrie, has publicly stated; "It appears the government either doesn't understand what our scientists are telling them, or they are deliberately hiding the facts from the Australian community." AUKUS and nuclear submarine bases will not only fail to protect us from these threats, from the ongoing climate disasters we are already enduring, but will waste the attention, time, energy, money and resources required to face an increasingly dangerous future. For a more peaceful and sustainable future we need to focus on human and environmental security, not military security.

Nuclear submarines and a military base to host them in Port Kembla would cost many billions of dollars. Despite the claims of those promoting this plan, little of this money will go towards local jobs or community development. As the South Coast trade union movement has outlined - "They're not going to get anyone in Australia to work on (the base) . . . the only jobs we might get out of this is they might let us build the perimeter fence, to lock locals out of the port."

The estimated \$368 billion AUKUS price tag - which will almost certainly increase by a large margin - will waste vast amounts of money that could address rising poverty, the homelessness, housing and cost of living crises, the lack of hospital beds, social services, and aged care places. Instead of war industries, war machines and militarisation, we should be investing in - sustainable jobs, clean energy, education, and environmental repair.

We need better staff to patient ratios in hospitals, better mental health and disability services, more teachers and smaller class sizes, the construction of more affordable housing, environmental care and bush regeneration, more resilient networks of community power, more public transport, the construction of more community care facilities, healthcare, aged, disability and education facilities, neighbourhood and social support centres, childcare centres, playgrounds, parks, arts venues, and libraries, funding for climate change mitigation, adaptation, and community disaster preparation. Unlike a nuclear military base, money spent on this would actually protect our community and help us to have a more secure and sustainable future.

Conclusion

12



Protest against the Illawarra-Shoalhaven Defence Industry Conference in February, 2024. Credit: Melanie Barnes

The Federal Government plans to spend hundreds of billions of dollars on nuclear submarines, which could be parked in Port Kembla next to visiting U.S. nuclear-armed submarines. The Government is also doubling spending on war. So, their main plan for our future appears to be making Wollongong into a nuclearised military base, boosting the profits of weapons manufacturers, focusing Australian industry, education and training on preparing for war, militarising and dividing the community, the region, and the peoples of the world, while ensuring there's little money or attention left for the major threat to our security, therefore threatening us with even more disasters.

The most recent American-led Australian involvement in wars – in Vietnam, Afghanistan, Iraq, and most recently Iran (where Australian submariners were embedded in a U.S. nuclear submarine which sank an Iranian ship killing more than a hundred of the crew) - have all been massively costly and bloody failures. Unless, of course, your business model profits from conflict, death and destruction.

The history of US bases, US intervention in other states, US war crimes and that nation's descent into fascism should make it clear that a U.S. base in Port Kembla wouldn't be about our defence or security. It would be an insane waste of billions of dollars, which could be spent on what we really need. We don't want the dangerous, dire and long-term consequences of a U.S. nuclear submarine base in Wollongong, or anywhere. Such a base in Port Kembla would be a danger to those of us who live here and those targeted by US attacks. We don't want nuclear reactors or nuclear weapons here. We don't want the Port or the city to be militarised - with weapons and troops deployed on our streets. It's time to build a better future - rather than more bases for war machines.

Wollongong is a declared City of Peace and it must not become a city of war. We call on the federal government to end AUKUS and rule out a nuclear submarine base at Port Kembla or anywhere.

WAWAN and the local community have a multitude of questions about the plans for a nuclear submarine base at Port Kembla. We need public discussion and answers from relevant authorities now, before any final decisions are made. In light of the recent release of secret documents about the base, our questions for local, state and national politicians and planners include:

- How would the proposed nuclear submarine base **impact the Five Islands**, currently cared for as a Nature Reserve for marine and bird life, and a profoundly sacred and significant place for Wodi Wodi Dharawal people.
- Since the secret documents consider the risk of a nuclear accident at Port Kembla and note that the AUKUS submarine's nuclear reactors are fuelled by highly enriched uranium - What are the **environmental risks** associated with such an accident? What **health and safety responses/facilities** would be needed in the event of such an accident? What would the **expected evacuation area** be if such an accident occurred? What would the **long-term impacts** of such an accident be? What **safety precautions** are being planned/would be required to respond to such an accident? When will the accident scenarios for a nuclear submarine base at Port Kembla be **modelled and made public**?
- Given that the AUKUS submarine's nuclear reactors are fuelled by highly enriched uranium (that is more like the uranium used in nuclear warheads than the uranium used in nuclear reactors) and the secret documents consider the likelihood of a military attack on Port Kembla – what **safety precautions are being planned/would be required to defend the city of Wollongong from such an attack**?
- Last year, defence officials told the Australian Senate that US submarines carrying nuclear weapons could dock at Australian submarine bases and the Australian government and people would not know. Will Wollongong City Council, the NSW or Federal Governments **allow nuclear weapons in Port Kembla**?
- As it now appears likely that a nuclear submarine base at Port Kembla could host nuclear-armed submarines, is anyone aware of any planning, or even discussion of planning, for an **accident or explosion involving a nuclear weapon at the Port**?
- The NSW government concedes that locating a nuclear submarine base at Port Kembla would mean that some residents will have to leave their homes. Is this the case? Why? **Which/how many residents will have to leave their homes**?
- How will communities be **properly informed about the risks of nuclear reactors** and potentially nuclear weapons? How will safety issues be **monitored** and **communicated**? How will the public interest in safety issues be protected?
- We are told that **highly radioactive waste** from the AUKUS submarines will be stored on defence land. So, does this potentially include future defence land at Port Kembla, if it becomes a nuclear base? And could this include **decommissioned submarines** that have to be contained for over 10,000 years, like the US, UK, and Russian submarines currently tied to their docks and rusting away?
- Although the current Minister for Planning and Public Spaces, Paul Scully, has said: "No work is being undertaken by the NSW Government in relation to this matter." Does this mean that the **East Coast Base Working Group** is no longer meeting? And, if it is continuing to meet – is information on its activities publicly available? And if not, why not?
- Is Bluescope's massive Port Kembla **'Land Transformation Project' intended to be part of the nuclear submarine base**? Is Bluescope secretly coordinating with the NSW Government, Federal Government, Australian and US military planners to transform the Port along these lines?

- ABC Radio Illawarra, Interview with NSW Ports CEO, Marika Clafas, - <https://www.abc.net.au/listen/programs/illawarra-breakfast/breakfast/106767028>
- Australian National University, 2026, 'No worries? Australian attitudes to national security, risk and resilience' - <https://nsc.anu.edu.au/research/no-worries-australian-attitudes-national-security-risk-and-resilience>
- AUKUS Public Inquiry, 2026, Melbourne sitting - <https://www.youtube.com/live/b3x5qTfTzMA>
- BBC News, 'MOD records 789 nuclear safety events at Scotland bases', - <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-glasgow-west-46863064>
- Ben Doherty, 2025, 'US submarines carrying nuclear weapons could dock in Australia despite ban, Senate told', The Guardian - <https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2025/dec/05/us-submarines-nuclear-weapons-australia-aukus>
- Mike Cherney, 2026, 'The U.S. Navy's New Insurance Policy for War With China Is an Australian Base', Wall Street Journal - <https://www.wsj.com/world/the-u-s-navys-new-insurance-policy-for-war-with-china-is-an-australian-base-764af616>
- Tim Deere-Jones, 2025, 'The British Experience with Nuclear Powered Submarines: Lessons for Australia', Friends of the Earth - <https://nuclearfoe.org.au/wp-content/uploads/Deere-Jones-nuclear-submarine-report-final-August-2025.pdf>
- Jake Evans, 2024, 'Climate risks ignored in National Defence Strategy, former defence chief says' ABC News, - <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2024-05-02/national-defence-strategy-ignored-climate-risks/103789018>
- Tegan George, 2026, 'Former WA health chief warns AUKUS inquiry of 'nuclear disaster waiting to happen'', The Point, - <https://thepoint.com.au/new/260630-former-wa-health-chief-warns-aukus-inquiry-of-nuclear-disaster-waiting-to-happen?>
- Rob Harris, 2026, "Twisted steel, shattered structures": AUKUS inquiry warned of nuclear disaster risk', Sydney Morning Herald, - <https://www.smh.com.au/politics/federal/twisted-steel-shattered-structures-aukus-inquiry-warned-of-nuclear-disaster-risk-20260628-p60apg.html>
- Glen Humphries, 2026, 'Port Kembla steelworks could close to make way for US sub base', Illawarra Mercury - <https://www.illawarramercury.com.au/story/9292116/port-kembla-steelworks-at-risk-from-aukus-submarine-base-plan/>
- Glen Humphries, 2026, 'Secret files show Port Kembla is top pick for new nuclear submarine base', Illawarra Mercury - <https://www.illawarramercury.com.au/story/9242176/port-kembla-secret-documents-reveal-nuclear-sub-base-plans/>
- ICAN Australia, 2026, Cities Appeal - Wollongong, - <https://icanw.org.au/wollongong-nsw/>
- Ben Langford, 2026, 'Port Kembla can be a submarine base or container port - but not both, documents show', Illawarra Mercury - <https://www.illawarramercury.com.au/story/9249652/nsw-favoured-port-kembla-nuclear-sub-base-unwinding-port-lease/>
- Ben Langford, 2026, 'Most Port Kembla homes in evacuation zone if a nuclear submarine accident occurred', Illawarra Mercury - <https://www.illawarramercury.com.au/story/9249979/port-kembla-nuclear-subs-base-would-put-homes-in-evacuation-zone/>
- Jeremy Lasek, 2026, 'City champions say no to Port Kembla nuclear AUKUS base', Illawarra Flame - <https://www.theillawarraflame.com.au/city-champions-say-no-to-port-kembla-nuclear-aukus-base/>
- Seth Robson, 2026, 'US military opens support activity in Western Australia under Navy Region Japan', Stars and Stripes - <https://www.stripes.com/branches/navy/2026-06-09/navy-support-activity-australia-submarines-21912652.html>
- Arthur Rorris, 2026, 'Secret reports reveal subs base will put a target on our backs', Illawarra Mercury - <https://www.illawarramercury.com.au/story/9255817/port-kembla-aukus-files-expose-nuclear-bases-true-scale/>
- Wollongong Against War and Nukes - <https://stopthesubs.org/>
- Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, 2025, How Militarism and Militarisation Fuel Gender-Based Violence and Exclusion,- <https://www.wilpf.org/how-militarism-and-militarisation-fuel-gender-based-violence-and-exclusion/>
- Henry Schwartz, 2021, 'US marines accused of sexually assaulting women while stationed in the Northern Territory' SBS News,- <https://www.sbs.com.au/news/article/us-marines-accused-of-sexually-assaulting-women-while-stationed-in-the-northern-territory/if62on5oo>



stopthesubs.org
