Australian Government
Defence

Henderson Defence Precinct

Program Update – NSSG Industry Briefing

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Naval Shipbuilding and Sustainment Group

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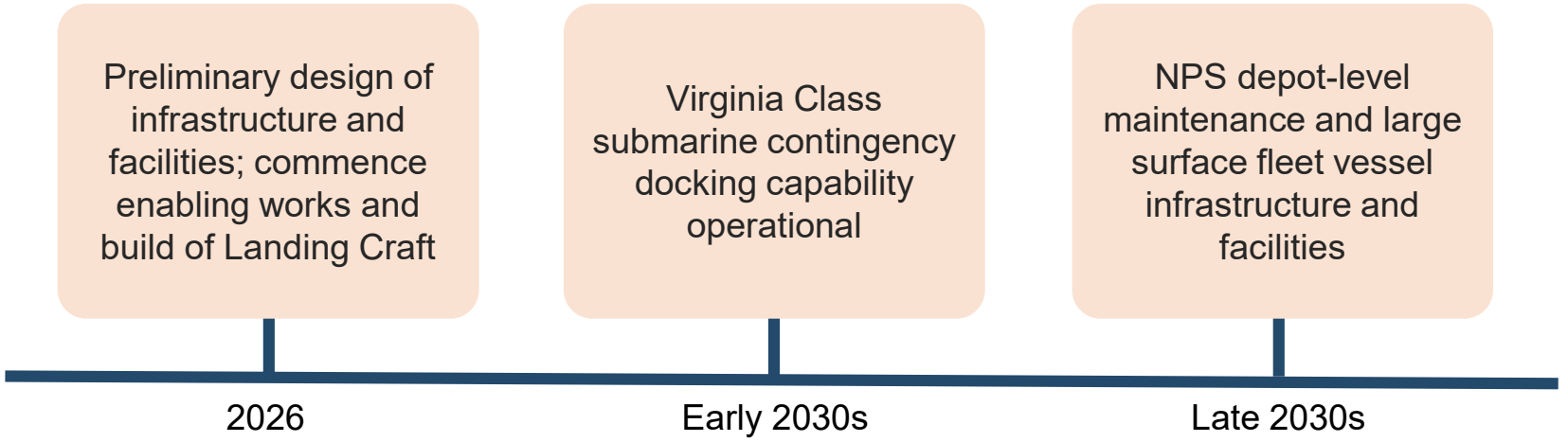
The Program is progressing to meet Government timeframes

Work is being undertaken through a phased approach to meet capability requirements and mitigate impacts on existing industry.



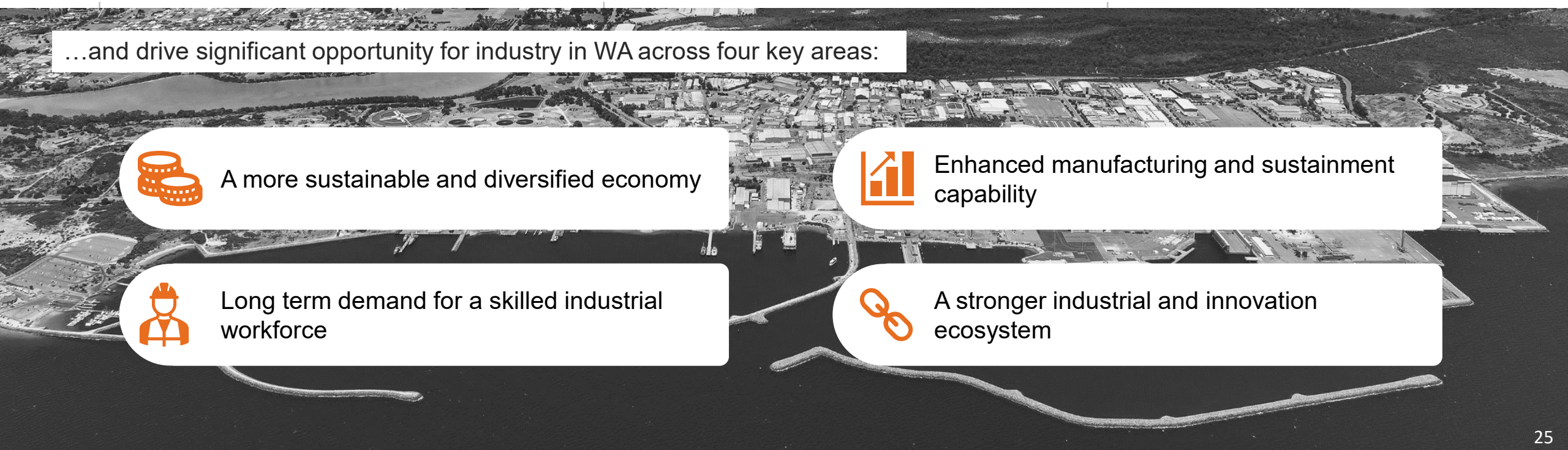
Due to the scale and complexity of the program, multiple parallel activities are progressing to reduce the schedule risk.

- **Requirements / Design**
- **Nuclear Licensing and Environmental Approvals**
- **Workforce and Socio-Economic Study**
- **WA State Government Cooperation**
- **Commercial Arrangements**
- **Stakeholder Engagement**

Henderson Defence Precinct - the Why?

The precinct will be a world-class shipbuilding and sustainment hub in Western Australia to support:

- Delivery of Continuous Naval Shipbuilding in the West
- Construction and sustainment of Defence's surface fleet vessels and sustainment of Collins class submarines
- Depot-level maintenance activities and a contingency docking for Australia's own conventionally armed, nuclear-powered submarines



…and drive significant opportunity for industry in WA across four key areas:

- A more sustainable and diversified economy
- Enhanced manufacturing and sustainment capability
- Long term demand for a skilled industrial workforce
- A stronger industrial and innovation ecosystem

The Australian Government's initial capital investment will support this work

$12 billion initial capital investment in the Henderson Defence Precinct, WA – building on earlier $127 million committed

Supports **continuous naval shipbuilding and sustainment and AUKUS** pathway

Will deliver **critical infrastructure** for the Henderson Defence Precinct

This investment will support planning and delivery of key infrastructure, including:

- Facilities for the construction of surface vessels
- Facilities to support sustainment of Australia's surface combatant vessels
- Contingency docking for future conventionally-armed, nuclear-powered submarines
- Infrastructure for depot-level maintenance, including graving docks

Commercial and funding model options are being explored for the remaining requirements.

Industry will be a key partner in planning and delivering the precinct

Current procurements and key insight gathering.

Design Services Consultancy

- Contract awarded in January 2026
- Completion of the 10% Master Plan and P50 Cost Estimate through the DSC is expected in mid-2026

Site Characterisation Procurement

- Request for Tender issued on 3 October 2025 for an Infrastructure Engineering Organisation
- Role: site investigation, analysis, evaluation, and reporting services at Henderson
- Assess nuclear risks and consequences for NPS site activities
- Tenders closed on 28 October 2025
- Contract scheduled to be awarded shortly

Key considerations, initiatives and mitigations

Addressing challenges and potential impacts on Henderson program execution.

Key considerations

- Meet required capability timelines
- Minimise impact on existing capability projects
- Avoid disruption to current services or industry at Henderson
- Do not impact current shipbuilding and sustainment activities
- Deliver a layered security approach
- Coordination with other major programs

Building the Workforce
Defence Industry Pathways Programs and joint initiatives and the execution of the Strategic Shipbuilding Agreement

Balancing Government and industry needs
Transition planning and regular collaboration

Securing land tenure
Land Acquisition Strategy with ongoing review of BAE site/facilities

Meeting capability timeframes
Phased, programmatic approach with integrated critical-path scheduling and workforce upskilling

Infrastructure and traffic management
Coordination of supporting infrastructure and exploration of public transport options

Henderson Defence Precinct Program key priorities

Siting Decision

- Assessment of Henderson Defence Precinct siting options, supported by a Master Plan and Feasibility Review being undertaken by the Design Services Consultancy.

Continuity of Service

- An initial $30 million for the Western Australian Government to commence early works for interim replacement facilities for non-Defence industries that utilise the Henderson Common User Facility.

Western Australian Government

- Continue to engage closely with the WA Government as program developments occur.

Commercial Model

- Building on the 2025 Market Sounding activity, considering the best model/s to deliver and operate the precinct.

Ongoing and forward industry engagement

Proactive engagement with industry to:

Gain insights
to optimise solutions and approaches

Keep industry informed
so industry can plan and prepare

Collaborate
to support successful delivery of the Henderson Defence Precinct outcomes

Stakeholder Engagement Plan being developed to guide communication and collaboration with stakeholders.

Henderson Defence Precinct website

https://www.defence.gov.au/business-industry/national-naval-shipbuilding-enterprise/henderson-defence-precinct

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