

WHAT WE HEARD

NUCLEAR-POWERED SUBMARINE
CONSTRUCTION YARD SITE LICENCE
COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

Community Consultation for Site Licence Application

The Osborne Naval Shipyard (ONS), in Adelaide, South Australia, is Australia's most advanced and modern shipbuilding hub and contains an area that has been identified as the site for the Nuclear-Powered Submarine Construction Yard (NPSCY).

This is where Australia will build, test and commission its fleet of conventionally armed, nuclear-powered submarines.

There will be significant investment in workforce development to support the NPSCY, including the establishment of a dedicated Skills and Training Academy Campus at Osborne. At its peak, up to 4,000 Australian workers will be involved in the design and build of the infrastructure for the NPSCY, in addition to the 4,000 to 5,000 jobs required to build the nuclear-powered submarines.

Australian Naval Infrastructure (ANI) is the owner, developer and manager of the ONS, including the NPSCY.

We recognise that meaningful consultation is an ongoing process and we will continue to provide opportunities for dialogue, collaboration and feedback. Community consultation for the site licence application is one important component of our broader whole-of-life-cycle engagement approach.

We also acknowledge the value of community engagement. It brings unique perspectives and community insights, informs our decision-making, and strengthens the quality of our work. Community input also plays an important role in helping to ensure regulatory decisions are informed, transparent and robust.

ANI would like to thank all stakeholders, agencies, community groups and individuals who took the time to engage with us on the site licence application and provide feedback.

Purpose of document

This document provides a high-level summary of what we heard during community consultation on the site licence for a Naval Nuclear Propulsion (NNP) facility at the NPSCY.

The consultation formed part of the assessment process for the licence application and was designed to provide community members and stakeholders with information about the proposal and an opportunity to share their views, questions and concerns.

This document outlines the key themes and issues raised during consultation, without identifying individual respondents.

All submissions and feedback received by ANI as part of the consultation were provided, in their entirety, to the regulator with the site licence application. Community feedback informs the regulator's assessment but does not determine the final licensing decision.

Background

The NPSCY is required to support Australia's future defence needs in the acquisition of conventionally armed nuclear-powered submarines, which will be built in South Australia.

ANI is a Commonwealth Government Business Enterprise supporting the Commonwealth's continuous naval shipbuilding and sustainment program. ANI has partnered with the Australian Submarine Agency (ASA) to design and construct the NPSCY.

There are multiple legislative and regulatory approval requirements needed to build and operate the NPSCY. The Australian Naval Nuclear Power Safety Regulator (ANNPSR) manages a staged approach for licensing, which aligns with international best practice and guidelines and allows for continuous improvement. There will be separate but linked licence applications required for each stage of the facility's lifecycle.

In December 2025, ANI applied to ANNPSR for a licence to prepare a site for a NNP facility, also known colloquially as the site licence application. The site licence application addresses the requirements of the Australian Naval Nuclear Power Safety Act 2024 (Cth) (ANNPS Act) and includes information to demonstrate that the site is appropriate for the intended regulated activity, considering environmental, safety, and security considerations.

As part of preparing for this application, ANI undertook community consultation on the site licence application to provide stakeholders with information about the suitability of the preferred site, the extensive analysis that has been undertaken, and ANI's capacity as an organisation to meet the regulatory requirements now and throughout the site's lifecycle.

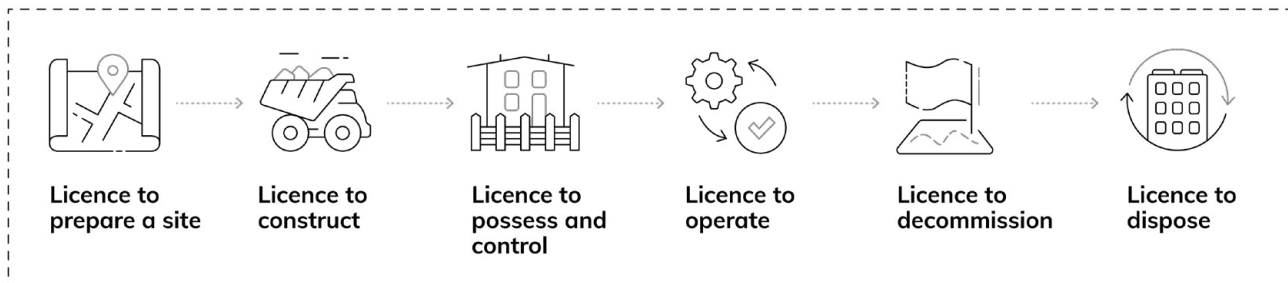
ANNPSR has approved ANI's application for a licence to prepare the site for an NNP facility, allowing site preparation works to commence.

Why we consulted

Community consultation for the site licence application was undertaken to:

- Support understanding and transparency about the site licence application.
- Provide information about the suitability of the site and the extensive analysis that has been undertaken.
- Provide an opportunity for feedback on the released site licence application documentation, prior to lodgement with ANNPSR for assessment.
- Provide an opportunity for the community to help shape the design of future consultation activities.

Licensing stages



What we shared

As part of the consultation, we created and shared the following documents:

1. A guide to reading the site licence application overview: *ANI Siting Licence Engagement Guide*
2. Site licence application overview: *Site Licence Application Summary Overview Document*
3. Fact sheet: *ANI Siting Licence Engagement Fact Sheet*
4. Frequently Asked Questions: *ANI Siting Licence Engagement FAQ*

This information was available on our webpage: www.ani.com.au/public-consultation/

A translation and interpreting service was also available.

How and when we consulted

Community consultation on the site licence application was undertaken from Wednesday 5 November 2025 to Wednesday 26 November 2025.

Information was provided through:



2,180
properties letterbox
dropped



A notice in The Advertiser,
with a reach of **229,000**



4 advertisements with
76,000+ impressions



Direct emails and letters
to stakeholders, including
subscribers & businesses
in the Osborne precinct



Multiple social media posts
with over **20,000** views



Six drop-in
sessions



20+ stakeholder
groups offered meetings



Roadside VMS placed in
the local area

Feedback was invited through:

- Community drop-in sessions, held in person around the site and in Adelaide
- Briefings with key stakeholders, including First Nations organisations
- Written submissions
- Email and telephone line
- Website forms and social media

To ensure we reached as many people as possible, we adapted our consultation approach while it was underway to increase the number of activities and opportunities for engagement. This included hosting additional drop-in sessions in high foot-traffic areas and installing a variable messaging sign along Victoria Road at Osborne to encourage feedback. The additional actions resulted in strong engagement and meaningful conversations with local community.

Who we heard from

We heard from a range of stakeholders and local community members via:

- Six community drop-in sessions with over 100 attendees
- 20+ written submissions
- 8 stakeholder briefings.

Feedback was provided by:

Community:

- Local residents near the NPSCY – including North Haven, Outer Harbour, Osborne, Taperoo and along the Lefevre Peninsula
- Local community members from Adelaide
- Members of the broader Australian public.

Key stakeholders:

- Traditional Owners
- Local government representatives
- Environmental and community interest groups.

What we heard

An analysis of all feedback, submissions and comments from across the consultation activities revealed the most common topics raised included:

- Safety
- Environmental protection
- Emergency management
- Strong, independent oversight
- Clear accountability for safety outcomes
- Public release of environmental monitoring results
- Continued respectful engagement with Traditional Owners
- Protection of Aboriginal cultural heritage
- Clear communication and a preference for proactive communications
- Independent regulation and evidence-based decision-making

The following quotes are excerpts from community and stakeholder feedback received. They reflect a range of community views however, as the number of submissions received was not statistically representative, the feedback should not be interpreted as an indication of overall community sentiment.

"Really great to see such a detailed analysis of all the potential issues. There are clear mitigations in place to reduce the risks below even normal industrial sites. There are bigger health/environmental concerns such as waste disposal fires at Wingfield than the infinitesimal risk that a sealed nuclear reactor with layers of mitigations somehow impacts nearby residents."

"The community will be very interested in the monitoring that's underway and planned."

"Noting past uses for the area, a nuclear-powered submarine construction yard will probably create less impact on the environment and be a lower risk than other industrial facilities in the area."

"The community will want to understand the emergency management plans for the sub yard, and also for the Lefevre Peninsula more generally."

"I think this will be great for the city - will bring so many jobs, and I know the site plan would have been designed in a safe way, so I see no issues."

"Where will the radioactive waste being stored at Osborne go, and when will this decision be made? What guarantees are there that the site will be made safe now and for future generations to come?"

"Environmental concerns for our area including the Port River. I see no evidence of agreed protective measures for coastal plant species, birds, reptiles and insects."

"The storing of nuclear waste at Osborne in the Port Adelaide area is a huge risk."

"Making the (Siting and Site Evaluation Report) including the technical reports available to the public will enhance understanding and will provide verification around decision-making, offering some reassurance that the evidence demonstrates how and why the site is considered suitable and fit for purpose."

"The climate crisis, sea-level rises, king tides and storm surges should be taken into account when planning for a nuclear-related site on a low-lying estuary."

Table 1 below summarises the feedback received on each section of the Site Licence Application Overview document.

Site Licence Application section	Feedback summary
Site evaluation and characteristics	Siting and Site Evaluation Report: - Interest in the Siting and Site Evaluation Report and technical studies being released in full. Environmental and Planning Approvals: - Interest in understanding how the site will operate during different stages.
Safety analysis	Interest in understanding how safety risks are identified and controlled.
Safety management	- Interest in understanding safety management, how it will operate, be managed and enforced. - Contribute to transparency and public trust by providing public information about incident reporting.
Environmental protection	- Interest in understanding the protection measures for the Port River and surrounding coastal and marine environment. - The availability of information and data including baseline and ongoing environmental monitoring (baseline surveys, dosimeters) would build community confidence.
Effective control arrangements	Interest in community access being retained to the areas surrounding the site (e.g. river, local reserves)
Emergency management	- Importance of collective readiness across emergency response agencies. - Interest in detailed information about emergency management plans being released, for general and nuclear-related responses. - Interest in environmental monitoring referring to potential ecology impacts and being developed in consultation with local stakeholders.
Radiation protection	Interest in understanding how potential risks associated with nuclear activities to local community will be managed.
Radioactive waste management	- Interest in understanding more about long term planning. - Some respondents expressed a preference that waste not be stored at the site.
Site decommissioning	- Preparation of a decommissioning strategy or plan early would support public confidence in planning. - Transportation of decommissioned materials through public areas was an area of concern raised by some respondents.

There were also several submissions that provided feedback on broader or general matters. This feedback is outlined in Table 2 below.

Table 2: Feedback about the site and ongoing operations

Site and operational matter themes	Feedback summary
Governance matters	- Keeping the community informed through ongoing regular engagement (including outside of formal processes) is important. - Suggestion that licensing processes should not overlap and that one application should be completed before next application commences.
Access to information	- Requests were made for reports and information to be released as part of the site licence process and throughout the site establishment such as environmental monitoring. - Continued need for clarity and the use of plain language to improve community understanding due to the technical complexity of the information being communicated.
Workforce	Strong interest in workforce education and employment pathways, provisions, and planning including potential for dedicated First Nations workforce roles.
Areas around the site	- Interest in how new operations may change the access to areas that are currently public around the site. - Interest in understanding local community impacts during construction, and planned development timeframes, including implications for local traffic and infrastructure.

Feedback about broader government policy directions and decisions

ANI also received feedback about the wider AUKUS program and other aspects beyond ANI's responsibility.

Broader feedback about government policy directions and decisions related to:



Communications and consultation, including:

- Need for continued communications about AUKUS and the nuclear submarine program as it is important to improve nuclear literacy of stakeholders and communities
- Clarification around consultation requirements under ANNPS regulation.



The wider AUKUS enterprise, including:

- Sentiments around the AUKUS program as a whole
- Questions about government decision making processes
- Requesting information about the number of organisations involved in the enterprise.



Safety, including:

- Questions around appropriateness of proximity of nuclear facilities to residential areas
- Questions around the likelihood that a facility at Osborne could be considered a target by other foreign actors – noting that the site is already a significant and advanced naval location
- Commissioning processes and timeline
- Final waste disposal pathways planning.

What we did about the feedback

Feedback received during consultation was provided to ANNPSR as part of its assessment of the site licence application. ANI also considered the feedback themes in Tables 1 and 2 in the context of the staged licensing approach and the types of matters commonly addressed in major infrastructure and nuclear-related projects.

The feedback raised topics such as safety, environmental protection, emergency management, radiation protection, waste management, access to information and ongoing engagement. These are areas that are expected to remain important as planning, future licensing and engagement activities progress. Future information releases including technical reports or environmental monitoring will be considered in accordance with regulatory requirements, security considerations and other relevant obligation.

The feedback will help inform future communications and engagement activities as the project progresses, where relevant and appropriate.

What happens next

With the site licence application now approved, ANI will continue planning for site preparation activities in line with licence conditions and regulatory requirements. Further information will be provided as planning progresses, including through the upcoming community drop-in sessions outlined below.

Upcoming engagement opportunities

ANI will hold two informal, two-hour drop-in sessions for community members to learn more about the site licence application approval, next steps and the broader works underway at the ONS.

Attendees can drop in at any time during the session, speak with members of the project team, ask questions and find out more about future planning and engagement activities.

Session 1: Friday 14 August 2026, 2.00pm – 4.00pm,
Lefevre Community Sports Centre, 541 Victoria Road, Osborne

Session 2: Saturday 15 August 2026, 10.00am – 12.00pm,
Port Adelaide Plaza, 200-220 Commercial Road, Port Adelaide

Contact information

For further information, please contact ANI via:

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