



26 May, 2023

Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Committee Department of the Senate
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

To whom it may concern,

**Inquiry into the Defence Legislation Amendment (Naval Nuclear Propulsion)
Bill 2023 [Provisions]**

The Australian Manufacturing Workers' Union (AMWU) welcomes the opportunity to make a submission to the Inquiry into the Defence Legislation Amendment (Naval Nuclear Propulsion) Bill 2023. The AMWU represents more than 60,000 members, including thousands in the defence industry. Our highly skilled members build and maintain ships and submarines, helicopters and other aircraft, munitions, and vehicles. Australian innovations like the Bushmaster Protected Mobility Vehicle not only serve our own military but are exported to other armed forces around the world. Together, our members have countless years of experience in defence manufacturing and are deeply committed to maintaining and expanding Australia's sovereign defence capabilities.

The AMWU advocates for government investment in the domestic manufacture of all defence equipment, and their supply chains to build and sustain our sovereign capabilities in defence manufacture. In particular, our vessels, submarines, weaponry, ordinance and military vehicles, and aircraft, which are at the heart of a modern self-sufficient ADF in Australia, must be built and maintained here, using Australian design and engineering capability and the skills of Australian workers.

The AMWU supports investment in modern, modular construction facilities which lend themselves to Australia's current and future defence needs. Such facilities, as exemplified by the facility at Osborne, SA, must be created on a sustainable basis, utilising the latest technologies, and enhancing Australia's sovereign capabilities and creating sustained, skilled employment. This includes creating a pipeline of defence procurement that will build a strong, and future-proofed, defence industry.

The AMWU has long supported the current moratorium on civil nuclear power and has consistently advocated against the development of a nuclear industry in this country. We strongly oppose any changes to the *Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Act 1998* (ARPANS Act) and the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) that would lead to the development of a nuclear industry in this country or lead to a breach of the moratorium.

Australian Manufacturing
Workers' Union
Registered as AFMEPKIU
National Office
Level 4
133 Parramatta Road
Granville NSW 2142
Telephone: 02 8868 1500
Facsimile: 02 9897 9274
amwu@amwu.asn.au

The AMWU has also long supported the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, and Australia's commitment not to receive, manufacture or otherwise acquire nuclear weapons. We also supported the establishment of nuclear weapon-free zones in our region. In view of this, we do not support any changes to legislation that would facilitate a breach of our international commitments to international, nuclear non-proliferation – or to the dumping of nuclear waste on Australian facilities or on Australian land.

Australia must remain a strong, independent nation in our region and across the world. This must be achieved through a commitment to peace, diplomacy, regional development programs, maintaining positive relationships and political stability across our region. Any investment in defence capability must be accompanied by greater commitment to and investment in strong diplomatic efforts in our region.

Once again, thank you for the opportunity to make a submission. We welcome the opportunity to provide further feedback on these issues.

Yours sincerely,

STEVE MURPHY
NATIONAL SECRETARY