

**Speech by Mayor Logan K Howlett JP and Chair, Perth South West
Metropolitan Alliance
US Congressional Members and Staff 'Meet & Greet'
Submarine Discovery Centre, Rockingham
Monday, 27 July 2026**

Good afternoon, and welcome on behalf of the Perth South West Metropolitan Alliance; an Alliance created in 1983 and one that has matured over that time as we collectively face the challenges of a rapidly growing community with the accompanying pressures on infrastructure and service delivery.

It is wonderful to have you here in the south-west corridor of Perth and to have the opportunity to speak with you about what is happening across our region. The Alliance continues to work collaboratively with our State and Federal Governments, Industry, Small to Medium Enterprises, key other stakeholders and in particular the Defence Industry.

One of the biggest challenges for us has simply been demonstrating to our communities that AUKUS is happening, and that it is happening quickly. SRF-West will commence in a little over 400 days. Our community is now starting to better understand the immediacy and scale of what is coming.

Our experience with US submarine visits to date has been incredibly positive. They have been good for our local economy, and our businesses are beginning to understand the opportunities that come from welcoming US personnel into our communities.

But the community connection is just as important. We have always been impressed by the personnel who have visited. They have a genuine sense of purpose, a desire to be part of something bigger, and have actively engaged in community events. Our role is to make sure we create more opportunities for our communities to get to know them. I genuinely believe those connections will be enormously positive for both of our countries.

There is an awful lot happening here. Over the coming decades, the region will be transformed by AUKUS, from hosting SRF-West here in Rockingham, to submarine maintenance at Henderson and the broader economic and industry opportunities across the region.

It is an exciting time, and a real opportunity to shape that growth in a positive way, particularly by creating new opportunities for young people who live here.

Thank you again for coming and for taking the time to engage with us directly. I hope, by the time you leave, we can put your minds at ease that this region will be ready and, importantly, that the US personnel who come here will be genuinely welcomed as part of our communities.

We look forward to their presence adding another layer to the already rich diversity of our region.