

Port Kembla Declaration

2025

We, the undersigned organisations,

Are deeply concerned by the potential siting of a nuclear submarine base in Port Kembla, on the traditional lands and waters of the Dharawal people.

We recognise the unique health and safety risks that come with nuclear-fuelled submarines, and the potential impact of a major or minor incident on the broader community and the environment we all enjoy.

The port is an important part of the Illawarra and we oppose its transformation into a military base, to the exclusion of the general community. It would put steel jobs at risk and crowd out local renewable energy industries.

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. Building a new base, whether for Australian, US or UK nuclear submarines in Port Kembla would further escalate regional tensions.

Nuclear submarines and a new military base to host them in Port Kembla would cost billions, which should be invested in pressing community needs such as health, housing, clean energy and education.

We are concerned by the lack of community consultation and fear the federal government will override local dissent to impose a nuclear submarine base, as well as a nearby site to store associated long-lived and hazardous radioactive waste from Australian, US or UK submarines. We will not let this happen.

We call on the federal government to rule out a nuclear submarine base at Port Kembla.

BACKGROUND This declaration is in response to the shortlisting of Port Kembla for a nuclear submarine base in 2022. All options remain under consideration and Port Kembla has not been ruled out, despite a sustained community campaign involving thousands of people. As plans for the hosting and acquisition of nuclear submarines are progressed, the Port Kembla Declaration demonstrates the wide-ranging and diverse stakeholders that support a nuclear-free Port Kembla.

WHO CAN SIGN? Any Illawarra-based civil society organisation or community group.

HOW TO SIGN Please complete the form via the QR code or confirm the name of the organisation/group by emailing wollongongagainstawarandnukes@gmail.com by 15 September 2025. The Declaration and list of endorsers will be publicly launched on 22 September 2025. This initiative is coordinated by Wollongong Against War and Nukes.

