



Please respond to:

**Dawn Clasper
DSG Minute Secretary
Dounreay.com
Traill House
7 Orlig Street
Thurso, Caithness, KW14 7BJ**

3 May 2023
Ref: DSG(2023)C019

**Tel: 01847 803510
Email: info@dounreaystakeholdergroup.org**

Dear Sirs,

On behalf of the Dounreay Stakeholder Group, the statutory scrutiny body for the Dounreay and Vulcan nuclear sites in Caithness, I have been asked to make representation in respect to the recently announced agreement between The United Kingdom, The United States and The Commonwealth of Australia.

In light of ongoing geopolitical instability and reprehensible incursions on sovereign soil by Russia in Ukraine, the DSG welcomes close cooperation between our allies on defence matters. We, therefore, acknowledge the globally significant tripartite agreement that provides a framework for The Commonwealth of Australia to procure nuclear propulsion.

In Caithness, our community is cognisant of the role NRTE Vulcan has played in keeping our nation safe and ensuring our island nation and overseas territories are defended. The development, deployment and testing of nuclear propulsion at Vulcan fostered a dedicated and experienced workforce both with the Royal Navy's Submarine Delivery Agency and Rolls Royce contractors.

As this agreement develops (and as the NRTE Vulcan site prepares for its continued progress towards decommissioning) the DSG wish to ask what consideration the skills, expertise and knowledge based in Caithness have been given to such an internationally significant programme?

Whilst it is clear and deeply regrettable that The Royal Navy do not foresee a future use for the Vulcan site, we do wish to be reassured that the community that provided it the social license to operate will not be left behind.

As The United Kingdom looks to play a leading role in this agreement, with opportunities in Wales being reported in the press in recent weeks, we are unsurprisingly reminded of the future for Vulcan. Given the clear importance of transitioning our community away from nuclear prototypical and testing activities, we would welcome our area to be viewed as a logical place to support this

programme.

The Dounreay Stakeholder Group would welcome due consideration to our community's skills, experience and willingness to support nationally significant defence programmes. A response on this matter in due course would be greatly appreciated.

Yours sincerely

Sent electronically without signature

**Struan Mackie
DSG Chair**

Copied to :

Commodore Elton Sharkey
The Rt Hon Ben Wallace MP
Rt Hon Alister Jack MP
Jamie Stone MP