

Alison Petchell has over 15 years of experience delivering technology to the Australian Defence Force across all stages of the capability life cycle. In her current role in the Capability Acquisition and Sustainment Group, she oversees delivery cooperation with a wide range of international partners and is responsible for ensuring international procurement practice supports speed to capability. From 2019 until 2021, Alison was the Minister Counsellor Defence Materiel at the Embassy of Australia in Washington DC where she worked with local Security Cooperation Agencies to establish business cases, manage delivery risks, facilitate export licenses, and ensure timely transport of equipment. She also played a key role in facilitating Australian Defence Industry participation in international supply chains, working with sourcing officials and international firms to identify supply chain gaps and showcase Australian Industrial capability. Upon return from posting, Alison spent 18 months leading Industrial Base Analysis and Uplift planning for Australia's Nuclear Powered Submarine Program.

Along with her MBA, Alison has master's degrees in project management and sustainment. Prior to her appointment to Washington DC, she managed a multi-billion-dollar portfolio of complex Command and Control projects and products through all stages of the capability lifecycle for all four Defence Capability Managers, from government approval to delivery and disposal. Between delivery roles that also included leading reform to generate benchmark availability for the Collins Submarine fleet, she managed the Skilling Australia's Defence Industry program and facilitated industrial participation for Australia's Joint Strike Fighter Program Office. Prior to joining the Department of Defence, Alison was a registered health professional who also held leadership roles in shaping Australian health policy.