



MINISTÈRE DE LA DÉFENSE



Australian Government
Attorney-General's Department

MEDIA RELEASE

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**AUSTRALIA AND FRANCE SIGN
CLASSIFIED INFORMATION SHARING TREATY**

Yesterday, the Attorney-General, Senator the Hon George Brandis QC and the French Minister of Defence, Mr Jean Yves Le Drian, signed an agreement that will improve sharing of classified information between the two countries and strengthen existing protections.

The agreement will directly support the delivery of the Future Submarine Program and will further enable greater cooperation on a range of national security matters.

The agreement sets out mechanisms and safeguards to enable the sharing of classified information between Australia and France, including:

- classification equivalencies and information handling requirements
- mutual recognition of personnel and facility security clearances, and
- allocating responsibility between the parties where contractors are engaged in projects that involve classified information.

This intergovernmental agreement constitutes a significant milestone in the development of a strategic partnership between France and Australia.

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