

HMAS Leeuwin



HMAS *Leeuwin* and her sister ship HMAS *Melville* replaced the now decommissioned vessels HMA Ships *Moresby* (I) and *Flinders* in 2000. Both ships take their names from prominent points on the Australian coast. *Leeuwin* is named after Cape Leeuwin, on the SW tip of Western Australia. *Leeuwin* (I) was launched midway through 1997. The ships were built by NQEA in Cairns, North Queensland.

Leeuwin and *Melville* enable the Australian Hydrographic Service to gather high quality hydrographic information at a much greater rate than the ships they replace. The ships are 71 metres in length, with

a beam of 15 metres, and a draught of 4.3 metres. Each ship displaces 2,550 tonnes and is manned by a crew of 46 officers and sailors. A state of the art Hydrographic Survey System (HSS) developed by STN Atlas will integrate accurate position information with data from a multi-beam echo sounder, towed side-scan sonar, single beam echo sounder and a forward-looking sonar. The ships will also carry three fully equipped 9 metre Survey Motor Boats for surveys in waters not suitable for the ships themselves. Both ships are capable of carrying a helicopter to assist in survey operations.

HMAS *Leeuwin* is currently crewed by HS BLUE.



Commanding Officer	Commander Neil Cheverton
Class	Leeuwin Class
Type	Surveying Ship (AGS)
Role	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hydrographic survey Support
Pennant	A 245
International Callsign	VLSE
Motto	I Shall Maintain
Home Port	HMAS Cairns
Builder	North Queensland Engineers & Agents
Launched	1 June 1997
Commissioned	27 May 2000
Resources	
Datasheet	HMAS Leeuwin
News Articles	Navy Daily
Image Gallery	HMAS Leeuwin
Dimensions & Displacement	
Displacement	2,205 tonnes
Length	71.2 metres
Beam	15.2 metres
Draught	4.3 metres
Performance	
Speed	14 knots
Range	18,000 nautical miles
Complement	
Crew	46
Propulsion	
Machinery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4 x GEC Alsthom 6RK 215 diesel

	<p>generators</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 x Alsthom electric propulsion motors
Armament	
Radars	STN Atlas 9600 ARPA navigation radar
Sonars	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • C-Tech CMAS 36/39 • Atlas Fansweep multibeam echo sounder • Atlas Hydrographic Deso single beam echo sounder
Helicopters	1 x AS 350B Squirrel (not permanently embarked)

