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## HMAS Sydney Wows Gold Coast on Return from Indo-Pacific

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HMAS Sydney, a Royal Australian Navy destroyer, delighted Gold Coast locals on July 27, 2025, with a circular maneuver during its homeward journey from a regional deployment.

On July 27, 2025, HMAS Sydney, a Hobart-class air warfare destroyer of the Royal Australian Navy (RAN), sailed past the Gold Coast, captivating onlookers as it returned to its home base at Fleet Base East in Sydney. The warship, fresh from a four-month Regional Presence Deployment 25-2 in the Indo-Pacific, performed a striking circular maneuver off the coast, thrilling families and friends of its crew, as reported by the Department of

Defence. With approximately 30 of its 240 crew members hailing from the Gold Coast, the event was a heartfelt homecoming, with locals waving signs and cheering along the shoreline, according to posts on X. The vessel is scheduled to dock at Fleet Base East in Sydney on August 1, where a crowd of family and friends will gather at the wharf to warmly welcome the crew home.

The deployment, which began in late March, saw HMAS Sydney engage in high-tempo exercises like Talisman Sabre 2025, alongside allies including the United States, United Kingdom, and Japan, per Defence Australia. Commanding Officer Commander Ben Weller noted the ship's role in strengthening regional security, stating that the crew demonstrated "the Navy's commitment to a stable Indo-Pacific" during engagements like Operation Argos, enforcing United Nations Security Council (UNSC) sanctions against North Korea. The ship's journey included port visits to Singapore, Busan, and Yokosuka, fostering diplomatic ties, as detailed in Mirage News.

The Gold Coast flyby was a highlight for the crew, many of whom marked the ship's fifth anniversary at sea during the deployment. "The community's support was overwhelming," Weller told Defence Australia, reflecting on the warm reception. The ship's crew also received Aussie Hero Quilts, a gesture of appreciation from volunteers, with Leading Seaman Adrian Heuston praising the effort as "bolstering" morale, per Defence Australia.

As one of three Hobart-class destroyers, HMAS Sydney's advanced Aegis Combat System and MH-60R helicopter enhance Australia's maritime capabilities, per the Royal Australian Navy's website. The opposition has praised such deployments for bolstering national defense, contrasting them with perceived government delays in naval modernization, as noted by Senator Jonno Duniam in The Australian. The ship's return underscores Australia's resolve to maintain a strong presence in the Indo-Pacific.