



**THE HON. JOEL FITZGIBBON MP**  
**Minister for Defence**

Saturday, 2 May 2009

**A NEW INDEPENDENT ADVISORY BOARD TO  
OVERSEE DEFENCE REFORMS**

The Minister for Defence, the Hon Joel Fitzgibbon MP, today announced the establishment of the Defence Strategic Reform Advisory Board. The Board will provide independent advice on the implementation of the Strategic Reform Program.

The Minister for Defence, the Hon Joel Fitzgibbon MP, announced that the Board will be chaired by an experienced person from the private sector who will bring with them the appropriate skills and experience needed to drive the Government's reform agenda.

"The key function of the Board will be to provide advice to the Government on how the strategic reforms within Defence should be implemented, and to assist in ensuring the savings programs are delivering the results that are expected," Mr Fitzgibbon said.

The Board will comprise a balance of internal and external members with public sector members to include, the Secretaries of the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, the Treasury, the Department of Finance and Deregulation; and the Secretary of Defence, the Chief of the Defence Force and the Chief Executive Officer of the Defence Materiel Organisation.

To ensure that strategic reform is pursued on a whole of portfolio basis, the Board will encompass the functions of the former Defence Procurement Advisory Board.

"The Secretary and Chief of the Defence Force are committed to delivering the reform agenda that has been agreed to by the Government," Mr Fitzgibbon said. "They are well supported by the Defence senior leadership group who collectively will work with the Advisory Board to ensure Defence becomes a more effective and efficient organisation through the implementation of the reform program."

Defence will also appoint a Deputy Secretary Strategic Reform to integrate and coordinate the reform program to ensure that deep reform can be implemented successfully and to the standard required by Government.

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**A Defence Force for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century**

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The 2009 Defence White Paper represents the most comprehensive statement on Defence ever produced. It affirms the Government's commitment to the defence of Australia, the protection of our sovereign interests and the security and stability of our region.

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