



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

**THE HON. DR MIKE KELLY AM MP  
Parliamentary Secretary for Defence Support**

Saturday, 2 May 2009

**GOVERNMENT TO INVEST IN AGING DEFENCE  
INFRASTRUCTURE AND UPGRADING OLD  
ACCOMMODATION**

The Minister for Defence, the Hon Joel Fitzgibbon MP announced today that the Government will invest \$340m over the next four years in Defence facilities and logistics infrastructure.

“For years the Defence estate has suffered from underinvestment and neglect. This Government recognises the importance of Defence facilities in supporting both our people and our key military capabilities,” Mr Fitzgibbon said.

\$190m will be primarily focussed on making improvements to key operating bases, improving the working and living accommodation for our men and women in uniform and upgrading key base services such as power, water and sewerage.

“The Defence estate is fundamental to the operation of the Australian Defence Force. This significant investment is a clear demonstration of this Government’s commitment to deliver improved living and working accommodation for both our civilian and uniformed workforce,” said Parliamentary Secretary for Defence Support, the Hon Dr Mike Kelly AM MP.

As a first priority, the Government will invest in infrastructure projects to support the Navy. This additional investment in Defence infrastructure at Fleet Base East in Sydney, and HMAS Albatross at Nowra in New South Wales, and HMAS Stirling in Western Australia will have long term benefits to both the Australian Defence Force, and the local communities.

“A further \$150m over the next four years will be provided to remediate the national logistics infrastructure, including the upgrading of wharf and fuel facilities in Townsville and Darwin and construction of a new Guided Weapons maintenance facility in Western Australia,” Mr Fitzgibbon said.

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

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In addition to the \$340m, specific remediation activities associated with Defence ranges will include a program of upgrades to Defence's Instrumented Ranges, including the creation of a new Electronic Warfare range and deployable underwater tracking range for maritime forces.

"Additional funding will also be used to rationalise and upgrade many of the ageing facilities used to conduct maintenance of our military land vehicles, remediate explosive ordnance facilities in Mulwala, and to upgrade DSTO laboratories including the Missile Simulation Centre," Mr Fitzgibbon said.

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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