



THE HON. JOEL FITZGIBBON MP
Minister for Defence

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

Saturday, 2 May 2009

**IMPROVED PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE DEFENCE
ESTATE**

The Minister for Defence, the Hon Joel Fitzgibbon MP and the Parliamentary Secretary for Defence Support, the Hon Mike Kelly AM MP today announced that they have directed Defence to explore options to ensure that the long-term future of the Defence estate is guided by principles of strategic priorities, affordability and sustainability.

The Government has agreed to five key principles that would guide further consolidation of the Defence estate:

- base locations should be aligned with national and Defence strategic requirements;
- Defence should consolidate units into fewer, larger and more sustainable multi-user bases;
- where possible, bases should be clustered near strategic infrastructure and with industry to promote knowledge sharing and innovation;
- where possible, bases should be located in 'family friendly' areas; and
- base locations should enable the continued provision of Reserve capability into the future.

The Minister emphasised that no decisions have been made about specific rationalisation at this time.

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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