



THE HON. JOEL FITZGIBBON MP Minister for Defence

Saturday, 2 May 2009

UPDATING DEFENCE RANGES FOR THE FORCES OF TOMORROW

The Minister for Defence, the Hon Joel Fitzgibbon MP today announced the Government will upgrade and remediate key Defence testing ranges, including the creation of a new electronic warfare range and deployable underwater tracking range.

“Effective ranges are key to preparing our Defence forces for operations in the modern battlespace as well as testing new or upgraded equipment,” Mr Fitzgibbon said.

“Instrumented ranges like Woomera allow us to test, improve, and modify our equipment or procedures to maintain the ADF’s capability edge,” Mr Fitzgibbon said.

The upgrades will occur at Woomera and Navy’s permanent underwater tracking range, off Western Australia, and the magnetic treatment facility.

“The deployable underwater tracking range will allow us to improve our anti-submarine warfare capabilities by recording sonar and weapon performance in a range of environmental situations.”

“One of the deficiencies the Navy faces when preparing its forces is the lack of an electronic warfare range. Creation of this capability will allow a greater understanding of the capabilities and limitations of our electronic warfare equipment and improve the level of training we provide to the operators of this crucial equipment before they are deployed on operations,” 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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