



**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 ENHANCE LOGISTICS
INFRASTRUCTURE IN DARWIN**

The Minister for Defence, the Hon Joel Fitzgibbon MP, and the Parliamentary Secretary for Defence Support, the Hon Dr Mike Kelly AM MP today announced that the Government will invest over \$20m in Darwin over the next four years for logistics infrastructure as part of the broader remediation program of Defence's logistics backbone.

"The Government will fund the enhancement of the current naval bulk fuel facilities and contribute to the construction of new amphibious ship loading facilities in the Port of Darwin," Mr Fitzgibbon said.

"Darwin is an important military area where Defence needs the capacity to load and offload the Navy's ships. This includes the Landing Helicopter Dock ships, the first of which, HMAS Canberra, is due to enter service in 2014."

"The upgrade to the existing bulk fuel off-load facilities at Fort Hill Wharf will maintain safety arrangements and improve fuel delivery rates. These improvements will ensure that the Navy's operational fuel requirements can continue to be met in a timely manner."

"Investment in construction of a hardened landing craft boat ramp at East Arm Port will increase Defence's options for loading ships and meet the challenges associated with the extreme tidal range in Darwin. The project will be undertaken in close cooperation with the Northern Territory Government," Dr Kelly said.

"The landing craft boat ramp will increase Defence's flexibility and enable our new Landing Helicopter Dock ships to load and offload utilising its own watercraft," Dr Kelly said.

A Defence Force for the 21st 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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