



**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 TOWNSVILLE**

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 \$30m in Townsville over the next four years to improve logistics infrastructure to better support Defence Force operations.

“The Government will contribute to the upgrading of an existing wharf in Townsville to support the new amphibious ships, and new fuel facilities at the port,” Mr Fitzgibbon said.

“Townsville is a vitally important location for Defence operations and requires the capability to load and offload the Navy’s ships, including the new Landing Helicopter Dock ships,” Mr Fitzgibbon said.

The current infrastructure does not meet the needs of new capabilities to be introduced therefore the Government will invest in the modifications required in Townsville to enable full utilisation of the load and offload capability of Navy’s new class of ships.

“In conjunction with the Townsville Port Authority, the Government will fund the extension of Berth 10 to ensure it meets the Navy’s requirements. An extended wharf will also enhance the capacity of the port to support major exercises and visiting warships,” Dr Kelly said.

The Government will also provide funding to improve aviation fuel facilities in Townsville to support current and future capabilities.

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.

A Defence Force for the 21st Century

Issued by Ministerial Support and Public Affairs, Department of Defence, Canberra, ACT
Phone: 02 6265 3343, Fax: 02 62656946

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