



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

Saturday, 2 May 2009

### **THE DEFENCE WHITE PAPER DELIVERS FOR LOCAL INDUSTRY**

The Rudd Government's investment in new military equipment over the next two decades will create significant opportunities for local industry,

"The local Defence industry sector will be a key beneficiary of the Government's increased investment in military equipment planned over the next five years," Mr Fitzgibbon said.

An estimated 29,000 Australians are currently employed in local Defence industry, providing or maintaining Australia's military equipment.

"The Government's investment program will result in a significant increase in the level of in-country expenditure and, as a result, boost the number of Australians employed in the Defence industry sector," Mr Fitzgibbon said.

"The next five years will be especially busy for local industry. Defence currently spends about \$4.5 billion locally on the acquisition and sustainment of military equipment each year. This is expected to increase to \$5.7 billion per annum over the next five years. This is welcome news for local industry, especially in light of the employment pressures associated with the global economic recession," Mr Fitzgibbon said.

The potential for a significant increase in local expenditure and workforce numbers is not without challenges. Industry will need to invest in the workforce skills required by Defence and ensure that they have the capacity and capability to meet the stringent schedule, cost and technical requirements typically associated with military equipment procurements.

The Government is keen to maximise the local industry benefits of its military equipment investment program but this must be managed in accordance with best value procurement principles.

"To this end, I expect local industry to deliver cost effective, timely and innovative solutions and to possess the necessary capability and capacity to meet Defence's requirements," Mr Fitzgibbon said.

---

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

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

---

Media Releases are available via e-mail if you register at [www.defence.gov.au/media](http://www.defence.gov.au/media)

---

Defence has a number of programs to help local Defence companies to improve their capabilities and capacity. The Skilling Australia's Defence Industry Program seeks to expand Australia's Defence industry workforce and enhance skill levels within the workplace. Defence also has other programs designed to increase Australian industry competitiveness through participation in the global supply chains of international Defence programs.

"The Government's investment in military equipment for our Defence Force is good news for Australian industry and I look forward to working closely with local firms to maximise the benefits of the investment program in terms of increased revenue and workforce growth," 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.

**Media contact:**

Christian Taubenschlag (Joel Fitzgibbon): 02 6277 7800 or 0438 595 567  
Defence Media Liaison: 02 6265 3343 or 0408 498 664

---

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

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

Media Releases are available via e-mail if you register at [www.defence.gov.au/media](http://www.defence.gov.au/media)

---