Air

- The Air domain is critical to situational awareness during peace time operations and rapid response in times of disaster or conflict.
- Throughout our region, countries are acquiring advanced aerial capabilities, including networked fifth-generation combat aircraft and high-speed, long-range weapons.
- The 2020 Force Structure Plan sets out enhancements to existing capabilities and investment in new systems to ensure Australia continues to have a potent, networked force.

CAPABILITY INVESTMENT – APPROXIMATELY $65 BILLION TO 2030

**Air Combat**
Continue with the procurement of 72 F-35A Joint Strike Fighters and improved air launched munitions. New investment in high speed missiles and long-range strike weapons, remotely-piloted and/or autonomous combat aircraft including air-teaming vehicles, enhanced self-protection for aircraft and research and development in high speed missile defence including hypersonic weapons.

**Intelligence, Surveillance, Reconnaissance (ISR) and Electronic Warfare**

**Air Mobility**
Continued through-life upgrades of the air mobility fleet. New investment will include larger replacement fleets for the C-130J Hercules transport and the KC-30A air-to-air refuelling aircraft.

**Combat Air Support**
Continued investment in air base operations, air traffic management, training and experimentation, including the Woomera Range facility. New investment in deployable aircraft hangars, decontamination and damage repair; and infrastructure enhancements to Australian air bases.

**Integrated Air and Missile Defence**
The eventual replacement of the E-7A Wedgetail airborne early warning and control aircraft with a larger fleet and new investment in missile defence capabilities for deployed forces.

**Maritime Patrol and Response**
Continued procurement of the MQ-4C Triton remotely-piloted aircraft and upgrades for the P-8A Poseidon maritime patrol aircraft.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR AUSTRALIAN DEFENCE INDUSTRY

Involvement in global programs such as the F-35 provides opportunities for Australian companies - over 50 are already benefitting. New opportunities include the acquisition of teaming air vehicles, and the strengthening of air mobility.