The 2020 Force Structure Plan sets out adjustments to Defence capability plans. The FSP will provide flexible options to deliver the new strategic objectives set out in the 2020 Defence Strategic Update to shape Australia’s strategic environment, deter actions against Australia’s interests, and if required, respond with credible military force. The 2020 Force Structure Plan builds on investments made in the 2016 Defence White Paper in response to rapid changes in the global strategic environment. This plan is a product of more regular review of Defence policy settings and force structure.

Defence needs to ensure it is alert and adaptable to opportunities presented by new technology. Examples of planned investments in emerging technology in this Plan, include:
- adoption of remotely piloted or autonomous systems for a range of missions, such as air combat, strike, air-to-air refuelling, surveillance, undersea warfare, and land operations;
- capabilities to counter emerging space threats and ensure space access;
- high speed missile systems to provide Government with more deterrence options; and
- directed energy weapons for the close-range defence of naval vessels, and for the land forces to defeat armoured vehicles.

Over the next ten years the Government will provide Defence with total funding of around $575 billion. This includes approximately $270 billion investment in Defence capability to 2029-30.

While all capabilities in this Plan contribute to delivering Defence priorities, the following are key examples.
- Enhanced posture and partnerships in the region
  - Arafura and Guardian class patrol vessels, a new vessel to support the Pacific Step-Up, an expanded replacement for the C-130J fleet and new amphibious landing craft.
- More potent capabilities to hold adversary forces and infrastructure at risk further from Australia
  - Attack class submarines, advanced strike systems, remotely piloted combat aircraft, sea-mining and offensive cyber capabilities.
- More durable supply chain and strengthened sovereign industrial capabilities to enhance the ADF’s self-reliance
  - Increased weapons inventories, options for expanded domestic munitions manufacturing, additional fuel storage and increased domestic industry participation.
- Improved capacity to respond to grey-zone activities, including cyber and information operation
  - Enhanced Special Forces capabilities, strengthened operational cyber capabilities, integrated intelligence surveillance and reconnaissance, and increased space tracking and sovereign satellite systems.
- Enhanced ADF support to civil authorities in response to national crises and natural disasters
  - Expanded deployable health care and combat engineering capabilities and future multi-role sealift and replenishment vessels.