

*This document is a summary of the 2016 Defence White Paper released by the Minister for Defence, Marise Payne. It includes excerpts and direct quotes which most directly relate to impact and opportunity for the Townsville North Queensland region. It is intended to inform the local community, to stimulate a comprehensive and enduring strategy to support the future of Defence in the region. The full document is available at [www.defence.gov.au](http://www.defence.gov.au)*

The 2016 Defence White Paper represents the Federal Government’s commitment to the Australian people to keep the nation safe and protect our way of life for future generations. This is a fundamental responsibility of the Australian Government; the safety and security of the Australian people and the defence of our territory and interests is the first and abiding priority.

The Federal Government asserts, and is widely accepted by industry, that the 2016 Defence White Paper is the most rigorous and comprehensive in Australia’s history – an assessment of the security environment spanning the next 20 years. The Paper sets out a substantial force modernisation program.

Central to the development of the Paper has been the direction to align defence strategy, capability and resources.

The Government will fund the White Paper goals by increasing the defence budget to 2% of Australia’s Gross Domestic Product by 2020-21, providing an unprecedented investment in Australia’s defence capability of approximately \$195 billion over ten years.

The Government’s long-term funding commitment provides a new 10 year Defence budget model to 2025-26, over which period an additional \$29.9 billion will be provided to Defence. The funding model is based on a fully costed future force structure, including its equipment, infrastructure and workforce, with external validation of those costs by private sector experts.

### Australia’s Strategic Defence Framework:

Strategic Defence Interests
A secure, resilient Australia, with secure northern approaches and proximate sea lines of communication.
A secure nearer region, encompassing maritime South East Asia and the South Pacific.
A stable Indo-Pacific region and a rules-based global order.
Strategic Defence Objectives
Deter, deny and defeat attacks on or threats to Australia and its national interests and northern approaches.
Make effective military contributions to support the security of maritime South East Asia and support the governments of Papua New Guinea, Timor-Leste and of Pacific Island Countries to build and strengthen their security.
Contribute military capabilities to coalition operations that support Australia’s interests in a rules-based global order.

The Permanent ADF workforce will grow to around 62,400 over the next decade to return it to its largest size since 1993.

The Government is committed to investing in better health care systems for ADF members, including more medical personnel, and we will improve the links between Defence and the Department of Veterans’ Affairs to better support current and former ADF members. Additional resources will provide more specialist mental health care, including for ADF Reservists and their families.

***The Government is committed to investing in better health care systems for ADF members, including more medical personnel. Additional resources will provide more specialist mental health care.***

Australia's armed forces have also relied on technology and innovation to maintain their capability edge. The contribution of Australian defence industry to that technological and innovative edge has been an important part of our national security over many years. Into the future, a highly skilled and internationally competitive Australian defence industry base will continue to be an essential enabler of our defence capability. To have the most effective military force, Defence must improve the way its capability requirements are linked with Australian defence industry's capacity to deliver. This Paper is accompanied by a new Defence Industry Policy Statement. The Statement focuses on a more direct and earlier role for Australian defence industry in capability development and sustainment, a collaborative approach to innovation, and a strategic and closer relationship between Australian defence industry and Defence.

The Government will increase Defence's international engagement, particularly with the countries of the South Pacific and South East Asia, to support our collective capacity to address common threats and security challenges. The Government will increase the pattern of regular ADF deployments into the region, enhance the ADF's program of international exercises and support increased capacity building and the security architecture of the region.

***The Government will increase Defence's international engagement, particularly with the countries of the South Pacific and South East Asia, to support its collective capacity to address common threats and security challenges.***

Our nearer region, which encompasses Australia's borders and offshore territories, Papua New Guinea, Timor-Leste and Pacific Island Countries and maritime South East Asia, is of most immediate importance for Australia's security. The wider Indo-Pacific region, from the Indian Ocean to the Pacific Ocean connected by South East Asia, through and within which most of Australia's trade activity occurs, will be central to our national security and economic prosperity. Beyond our region, Australia's security and prosperity depends on a stable rules-based global order and the flow of goods, services and finance free from threats such as terrorism.

Geography, shares history, business and interpersonal links tie Australia's interests closely to stability and prosperity in our immediate neighbourhood spanning Papua New Guinea, Timor-Leste and Pacific Island Countries in the South Pacific.

Australia places a high priority on our defence relationship with our closest neighbour, Papua New Guinea, with which Australia has an increasingly broad-based relationship. The Government plans to increase our cooperation with the Papua New Guinea Defence Force and Department of Defence in the decade ahead.

To help countries in our immediate neighbourhood respond to the challenges they face, Australia will continue to play an important regional leadership role. Our strategic weight, proximity and resources place high expectations on us to respond to instability or natural disasters, and climate change means we will be called on to do so more often. We will continue to play that role in close collaboration with New Zealand, France, the United States, Japan and other partners.

***The Government plans to increase its cooperation with the Papua New Guinea Defence Force and Department of Defence in the decade ahead.***

Australia has deep strategic security and economic interests in South East Asia. The geography of the archipelago to Australia's immediate north will always have particular significance to our security. Any conventional military threat to Australia is likely to approach through the archipelago as are other threats involving transnational crime including people smuggling and drug trafficking. The strong cooperation we have, and continue to build, with our close northern neighbours is crucial to guard against such threats.

Australia also has deep economic security interests in South East Asia. The region's growth presents significant opportunities for Australia's economy and prosperity. Two-way trade with ASEAN countries was worth over \$100 billion in 2014. The waters of South East Asia carry the great majority of Australia's international trade including to our three largest export markets in China, Japan and the Republic of Korea. Nearly two thirds of Australia's exports pass through the South China Sea, including our major coal, iron ore and liquefied natural gas exports.

Australia has a deep and abiding interest in peace, stability and security in North Asia. More than half of Australia's exports are to North Asia, with China, Japan and the Republic of Korea being three of Australia's four biggest trading partners. Almost all of that trade, by volume, moves by sea. While our interests in peace and security in North Asia are vital, our capacity to influence events acting alone is limited. Our defence engagement

in North Asia will continue to be based on partnerships, including with Japan, the Republic of Korea, and our alliance with the United States. The Government will seek to enhance Australia's growing defence relationship with China.

A secure, resilient Australia, with secure northern approaches and proximate sea lines of communication: Our most basic Strategic Defence Interest is a secure, resilient Australia. This means a nation protected against attack or the threat of attack and coercion and where Australia exercises full sovereignty over its territories and borders. A secure, resilient Australia extends into our northern approaches, our Exclusive Economic Zone, and our offshore territories, including our Southern Ocean and Antarctic territories. A secure, resilient Australia includes protection from non-geographic threats such as cyber attack, anti-satellite weapons and ballistic missile systems.

A secure nearer region, encompassing maritime South East Asia and the South Pacific: Our second Strategic Defence Interest is in a secure nearer region. Australia cannot be secure if our immediate neighbourhood including Papua New Guinea, Timor-Leste and Pacific Island Countries becomes a source of threat to Australia.

Deter, deny and defeat attacks on or threats to Australia and its national interests, and northern approaches: While there is no more than a remote chance of a military attack on Australian territory by another country, Australians rightly expect that our military force be capable of the self-reliant defence of our territory from attack or coercion by another country. The Government is providing Defence with the capability and resources it needs to be able to decisively respond to military threats to Australia, including incursions into our air, sea and northern approaches. Investment in Australia's military bases will be increased so they can support new capabilities that would be used to defeat any attack on our territory. Investment in our national defence infrastructure – including the Army, Navy and Air Force bases in northern Australia, including in Townsville and Darwin, as well as the Air Force bases Tindal, Curtin, Scherger and Learmonth – will be a focus of this Paper.

***Investment in Australia's military bases will be increased so they can support new capabilities that would be used to defeat any attack on our territory. This will include Army, Navy and Air Force bases in Townsville and Darwin as well as Air Force bases in Tindal, Curtin, Scherger and Learmonth.***

Defence will continue to support the states and territories to respond to national disaster relief efforts. ADF personnel work alongside emergency response personnel in providing disaster relief. The Government will ensure the provision of specialist equipment, including air lift and supplies and coordination activities, to enable a close working relationship between Defence and state and territory emergency response services.

***Defence will continue to support the states and territories to respond to national disaster relief efforts and will ensure specialist equipment is available for Defence and state and territory emergency services.***

Defence will make effective military contributions to support the security of maritime South East Asia and support the governments of Papua New Guinea, Timor-Leste and of Pacific Island Countries to build and strengthen their security: Australia will continue to seek to be the principle security partner for Papua New Guinea, Timor-Leste and Pacific Island Countries, by deepening our security partnerships, including through our Defence Cooperation Program. The most significant element of this program, the Pacific Maritime Security Program, will provide replacement patrol boats to 12 Pacific Island Countries from 2018. The Government will work with Pacific Island Countries to strengthen their ability to manage internal, transnational and border security challenges, including natural resource protection, and to build their resilience to natural disasters. This includes working to limit the influence of any actor from outside the region with interests inimical to our own. Defence must also be prepared to cooperate with Pacific Island Countries to conduct humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, security or stabilisation operations in our immediate region as it has done successfully in Solomon Islands and in Bougainville and in response to the devastation of Tropical Cyclone Pam in Vanuatu in March 2015. Australia will make important contributions to the provision of humanitarian assistance and disaster relief at short notice in the Indo-Pacific region or further afield when required.

***Australia will make important contributions to the provision of humanitarian assistance and disaster relief at short notice in the Indo-Pacific region or further afield when required.***

To ensure Australia maintains an ADF with the highest levels of military capability, the Government is making a significant long term investment in Defence's warfighting equipment and supporting systems, research and development, and the skills and training of our Defence people.

***The Government is making a significant long term investment in Defence's warfighting equipment and supporting systems, research and development, and the skills and training of our Defence people.***

Key enablers include ADF bases, logistics systems (including fuel and explosive ordnance facilities), upgraded training and testing facilities, health services and information, communications and technology equipment.

The Government will recognise the fundamental input to defence capability provided by Australian defence industry to ensure it delivers the support Defence needs.

Modernising our maritime capabilities will be a key focus for Defence over the next 20 to 30 years. Our maritime forces will become more potent through the acquisition of more capable submarines, ships and aircraft and better integration of combat and supporting systems across Defence. These forces will help to protect our maritime borders, secure our immediate northern approaches and proximate sea lines of communication and enable us to project force in the maritime environment.

The Government will invest in a program for continuously improving the personal equipment soldiers use, including their weapons and targeting equipment, digital communications systems, body armour and self protection equipment (including for chemical, biological and radiological threats) and night fighting equipment. Soldiers in the future Army will be supported by new vehicles and manned and unmanned aircraft with increased firepower, protection, mobility, situational awareness and logistics support.

A riverine patrol capability will be re-established from around 2022, based on a fleet of lightly armed small patrol boats to allow mobility in a wide range of riverine environments.

Reliable access to essential military bases, wharves, ports, airbases, training ranges and fuel and explosive ordnance infrastructure underpins the ADF's ability to conduct and sustain operations in Australia and in the region. The Government will implement a range of Defence infrastructure initiatives to support future ADF operations.

New and upgraded facilities and infrastructure will be established over the course of this decade at RAAF Bases Williamstown, Tindal, Townsville, Darwin, Curtin, Scherger, Learmonth, Pearce and Edinburgh, and Defence Establishment Myambat, including in support of the operation of the Joint Strike Fighter.

The Government will similarly upgrade RAAF Bases Edinburgh, Darwin, Pearce, and Townsville and the airfield at Cocos (Keeling) Island to support introduction of the new P-8A Poseidon maritime surveillance and response aircraft.

The Government will complete the Defence Logistics Transformation Program in 2016 that provides a once in a generation opportunity to transform Defence's logistics contracts, facilities and systems to drive efficiency. The project is modernising and enhancing Defence's wholesale storage, distribution and land materiel functions and providing enhanced logistics facilities at Moorebank (New South Wales), Bandiana (Victoria), Amberley and Townsville (Queensland), Palmerston (Northern Territory), Edinburgh (South Australia) and Guildford and HMAS Stirling (Western Australia).

Defence fuel installations are critical enablers for the generation of defence capability. The Government will continue to remediate Defence's fuel storage and distribution installations and improve Defence's fuel resilience and capacity to transport bulk fuel to support our bases and operations. This will include upgrades to existing Defence fuel infrastructure as well as improvements to our ability to utilise commercial fuel supplies.

## NORTHERN AUSTRALIA

**As outlined in the White Paper on Developing Northern Australia released on 18 June 2015, the Government is committed to a strengthened Defence presence in northern Australia.**

**Defence's presence and investment in northern Australia over the next decade will gradually increase to support the needs of the more capable, high technology future force that Defence will bring into service and a more active defence posture.**

A number of ADF training areas in northern Australia will receive upgrades by 2020, including Shoalwater Bay (Queensland), Bradshaw Field Training Area (Northern Territory) and Yampi Sound (Western Australia) along with a range of ADF bases such as Lavarack Barracks (Townsville), Robertson and Larrakeyah Barracks (Darwin) and RAAF Darwin.

These investments will support the future force's heightened program of international engagement, including the annual rotation of United States military forces under the United States Force Posture Initiatives. The Government will expand the range of training, exercises and other activities with our international defence partners in northern Australia.

**Upgrades to training areas in northern Australia, including Townsville, will support the future force's heightened program of international engagement, including the annual rotation of United States military forces under the United States Force Posture Initiatives.**

In the longer term, the Government will consider a new Northern Advanced Joint Training Area to support large scale, joint and combined amphibious training and a potential rail link to RAAF Tindal to support the transporting and handling of explosive ordnance and bulk fuel. The Government will carefully consider the positioning of major Defence bases in northern Australia, commensurate with operational requirements in the north and as broader development places greater pressure on Defence facilities.

Underinvestment in information and communications technology over the last decade, coupled with the lack of a coherent enterprise-level strategy for Defence's complex and rapidly evolving information and communications requirements, has led to serious degradation across the information and communications capabilities of Defence. Key capabilities need urgent remediation, in particular to address the shortcomings of out-dated,

and in some cases obsolete, systems that inhibit the conduct of day-to-day business within Defence, with overseas allies and partners, and with industry and the community more broadly.

Through the Pacific Maritime Security Program, the follow-on to the highly successful Pacific Patrol Boat Program, Australia will provide replacement patrol boats to 12 Pacific Island Countries from 2018. The Program will also expand upon the scope of the Pacific Patrol Board Program by including enhanced aerial surveillance and support for the regional security architecture. This will help maximise the best use of the patrol boats by Pacific Island Countries to protect their national sovereignty and resources. Current Pacific Maritime Security Program partners include Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Palau, the Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, Samoa, Vanuatu, Fiji, Tuvalu, Tonga, Cook Islands and the Republic of the Marshall Islands.

**Geographical proximity means the security, stability and cohesion of Papua New Guinea contributes to a secure, resilient Australia with secure northern approaches.**

Geographical proximity means the security, stability and cohesion of Papua New Guinea contributes to a secure, resilient Australia with secure northern approaches. Our relationship is underpinned by the 2013 Joint Declaration for a New Papua New Guinea-Australia Partnership, which recognises that Australia and Papua New Guinea have a proud history of working closely to address common security challenges. Defence will continue to support the development of a more professional and capable Papua New Guinea Defence Force that an act in support of the interests which Papua New Guinea and Australia share. Australia's Defence Cooperation Program with Papua New Guinea is already our largest. The Government will further increase this program, in particular by assisting with the rebuilding of the Papua New Guinea Defence Force's maritime security capability, including through its participation in the Pacific Maritime Security Program, and strengthening our relationship with the Papua New Guinea Department of Defence.

A constructive bilateral defence relationship with Fiji will support Australia's interests in a secure immediate region and a stable Indo-Pacific. Following the lifting of sanctions against Fiji in 2014, Australia will seek to rebuild defence cooperation with Fiji at a pace both countries are comfortable with, including establishing links between the ADF and the Republic of Fiji Military Forces, including through providing training and through Fiji's participation in the Pacific Maritime Security Program.

Australia welcomes Tonga's participation in regional and global security operations, including in Solomon Islands and in Afghanistan. The Government will continue to support the development of Tonga's armed forces, such as the gifting in late 2015 of a landing craft to improve the capacity of Tonga's military forces to conduct supply and humanitarian assistance and disaster relief missions.

Timor-Leste has achieved considerable social and economic progress since the Australian-led International Stabilisation Force concluded operations in 2013. Our proximity, historical links, and shared stake in regional stability means Australia retains an enduring strategic interest in supporting Timor-Leste's growing capacity to meet its own security needs. The key objective of our substantial defence cooperation partnership will be to provide continued support to the development of a capable and responsive Timor-Leste Defence Force and Ministry that are able to contribute to the country's growth and stability.

Singapore is Australia's most advanced defence partner in South East Asia and shares Australia's interest in a secure maritime trading environment. We have a long history of defence engagement, including supporting Singaporean military training in Australia and cooperating as partners in operations in Afghanistan.

***Singapore is Australia's most advanced defence partner in South East Asia and shares Australia's interest in a secure maritime trading environment.***

Defence's total workforce is currently made up of around 58,000 Permanent members of the ADF, around 19,500 paid and active reservists, and around 17,900 full-time equivalent APS employees. This integrated workforce has a diverse range of skills, including in combat and combat support, capability development and sustainment, technical, strategy, policy, intelligence and planning, and engineering, scientific and language skills.

In 2014, the Government established a program where the Department of Veterans' Affairs will pay for treatment for any ADF member with at least three years continuous full-time service who is experiencing diagnosed Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, anxiety, depression or alcohol or substance abuse without the need to establish that their mental health condition is related to their service.

The Government will continue to improve linkages between the Departments of Defence and Veterans' Affairs in support of our veterans and ADF members

as part of our strategy to provide a continuum of support. Defence and the Department of Veterans' Affairs have developed a joint program of work, the Support for Wounded, Injured and Ill Program, which is improving and simplifying the way in which government supports wounded, injured and ill members. Further improvements will include improved electronic systems to better share information, on the service of ADF members, between Defence and the Department of Veterans' Affairs and building closer ties between Defence and the Department of Veterans' Affairs.

The Government has extended access to the Veterans and Veterans Families Counselling Service to include current and ex-serving members who have served on border protection duties, in a disaster zone in Australia or overseas, and for members medically discharged from the ADF.

To inform the way we support members of the ADF and veterans, the Government is conducting the Transition and Wellbeing Research Program. This is the largest and most comprehensive study of its type undertaken in Australia. This research program is examining the impact of military service on the mental, physical and social health of serving and ex-serving personnel, who have deployed to recent conflicts, and their families.

Defence will partner with the Department of Veterans' Affairs, Australian defence industry, and other ex-Service organisations to support those who have been affected by their service to our country to find a new career, ensuring that they are treated with the respect and dignity that their service deserves. Finding a new career will enable our veterans to continue making valuable contributions to their communities once their military service is completed. The Government will make available to all ADF members the current Army initiative that supports wounded or injured soldiers, who can no longer remain in service, transition to a new career.

The Government will enhance the existing Career Transition Assistance Scheme to better support members transitioning out of the ADF, with less than 12 years service, to find new employment.

To deliver the Government's long-term plans, implementation must start now. To set Defence on the path to implementing the plans set out in this White Paper, Defence will develop an integrated two-year White Paper implementation strategy to be finalised within one month of this White Paper. The implementation strategy will ensure Defence maintains tight alignment of strategy, capability and resources.

**Allocated Funding:**

Detail	Decade 2015/16 to 2025/26	Decade 2025/26 to 2035/36
Upgrading accommodation and facilities at Lavarack Barracks to support new and upgraded land combat and amphibious warfare capabilities	\$50 million	\$550 million
Updating facilities at RAAF Base Townsville to support the introduction of the F-35A Joint Strike Fighter aircraft.	\$100 million	\$500 million
Redevelop the Townsville Field Training Area as training facilities are a key enabler of our current and future defence capability	\$20 million	\$110 million

**Committed:**

Detail	Decade 2015/16 to 2025/26	Decade 2025/26 to 2035/36
New facilities at RAAF Base Townsville will support the introduction of an Unmanned Aerial System for land forces	✓	
The new CH-47F Chinook helicopters, and MRH-90 troop lift helicopters will be supported by facilities upgrades at RAAF Base Townsville	✓	
A riverine patrol capability – a fleet of lightly armoured small water craft – will be re-established for our Army and based in Townsville from around 2022	✓	
New and enhanced weapons and explosive ordnance facilities at Townsville will allow new high technology weapon systems to be stored and maintained safely and securely	✓	

*The preceding information is taken directly from the 2016 Defence White Paper. From this information, we interpret the following opportunities for the Townsville North Queensland region.*

## **TOWNSVILLE'S OPPORTUNITIES:**

- More medical personnel will be required, particularly in mental health and will require better facilities and equipment. Great support and collaboration between Defence and the Department of Veterans' Affairs will occur to better support current and former ADF members
- Increased deployments and international exercises with the countries of the South Pacific and South East Asia
- Townsville will benefit from for increasing cooperation and relationship with Papua New Guinea
- Townsville will benefit from increasing relationships with Fiji, Tonga and Timor-Leste
- Townsville will be a hub for international response to natural disasters
- Townsville will be a hub for state response to natural disasters
- Vessel tracking system enhancements to increase security of northern approaches
- Riverine patrol capability will require services across maintenance and operations for example
- Pacific Patrol Boat Program will see heightened services delivered out of Townsville through provision and maintenance as examples
- Upgraded facilities and infrastructure at RAAF Base which will provide work for local contractors, generating local employment
- Defence Logistics Transformation Program will require enhanced logistics facilities
- Defence fuel installations with more fuel storage facilities required
- Increased United States military presence in Townsville through heightened annual rotation of United States military forces under the United States Force Posture Initiatives
- Information and Communications technology upgrade
- Defence Housing to be boosted in Townsville to accommodate future forces
- Defence Recruitment will be boosted through proposed boost to personnel, including medical
- Career Transition Assistance to be implemented which could benefit from involvement in the Townsville North Queensland Emerging Leaders Program



### **TOWNSVILLE ENTERPRISE LIMITED**

**Phone:** +61 7 4726 2728

**Fax:** +61 7 4726 2700

**Email:** [tel@tel.com.au](mailto:tel@tel.com.au)

**Web:** [townsvilleenterprise.com.au](http://townsvilleenterprise.com.au)