

News Release

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Premier Mike Rann

Minister for Economic Development
Minister for Social Inclusion
Minister for the Arts
Minister for Sustainability and Climate Change

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NEW 213 M WHARF AT TECHPORT AUSTRALIA OPENS

The Royal Australian Navy's ANZAC frigate, the *HMAS Parramatta* had the honour of being the first naval vessel to dock at the South Australian Government's new wharf at Techport Australia.

The HMAS Parramatta, which returned from its deployment to the Middle East earlier this year, is in Adelaide for Navy Week and to play an official role in the opening of the new 213 metre-long wharf at Techport Australia by Premier Mike Rann today.

Mr Rann says the new 213 metre-long wharf is a key part of the brand new state of the art facilities being built at Outer Harbor by the State Government to help build a whole new defence shipbuilding and maintenance industry.

“The State Government made the decision to invest more than \$300 million in Techport Australia to assist the construction of the \$8 billion Air Warfare Destroyer contract – the largest contract ever let by the Australian Government.

“But the investment has proved so much more strategic.

“It has also helped South Australia to secure the future assembly of the 12 next generation submarines, estimated at around \$30 billion.

“And it gives us the capability of bidding for the lucrative through-life support of those new submarines, which is estimated at around \$100 billion.

“Our new elite shipbuilding capabilities are also helping South Australia target not only a fourth Air Warfare Destroyer, but the next generation of RAN frigates, to replace the current ANZAC frigates like the HMAS Parramatta at the end of next decade.

“The Techport Australia wharf commissioning follows the completion of the dredging of the harbour which now allows large naval vessels access to and from Outer Harbor.

“The wharf is a critical component of the Techport Australia Common User Facility, which is close to completion (95 per cent) and proceeding on budget and on schedule.

“Other key elements have already been delivered, including the runway, dry berth and transfer system. The final major piece – Australia's largest shiplift capable of supporting a vessel up to 9300 tonnes – is scheduled for completion by February 2010,” Mr Rann said.

The Air Warfare Destroyer project is transformational for South Australia's economy.

It will help create 3000 jobs and contribute an estimated \$1.4 billion into South Australia's economy over the next 10 years.

The activity will centre heavily at Techport Australia and anchor tenant ASC's new shipbuilding facilities.

DEFENCE CONTRACTS AND PROJECTS

- **\$8 billion** Air Warfare Destroyer build contract and AWD Systems Centre (AWD Alliance – Defence Materiel Organisation, Raytheon Australia and ASC Shipbuilding)
- **\$700 million** AP-3C Orion aircraft maintenance and upgrade contract (BAE Systems and Australian Aerospace)
- **Multi-billion dollar** 25-year through-life support contract for Collins class submarines (ASC)
- **\$1 billion** Customs Project Sentinel contract – the world's largest fixed wing civil maritime surveillance program (Cobham), and
- **\$100 million per year**, 1200 personnel 7RAR Mechanised Battalion, to be relocated to Edinburgh in 2011.

Supporting infrastructure investment:

To attract and support projects of this scale, significant infrastructure investment has been made by the Commonwealth and State Governments and defence industry.

Currently, capital investment of around **\$1.5 billion** is either underway or planned to support defence projects including:

- **\$500 million** at Techport Australia - including the Common User Facility, Commercial Campus, Maritime Skills Centre, Supplier Precinct, ASC's new headquarters and shipyard and other supporting works
- **\$750 million** at Edinburgh Defence Precinct – set to become one of Australia's few 'super bases' and home of the 7RAR Battalion
- **\$120 million** modernisation of the Woomera Test Range – the world's largest land based test site, and
- a five-fold expansion of the Cultana Training Area (to 2500km²) – used extensively by Army for manoeuvre and weapons training (*no estimated costings*).