

QUEENSLAND DEFENCE FUTURES FORUM SUMMARY



QUEENSLAND
FUTURES
INSTITUTE
A BETTER QUEENSLAND



Queensland Defence Futures Forum Summary

Friday 17th September

7:30am – 9:00am

Hilton Brisbane, 190 Elizabeth St

PANELISTS:

Steve Greenwood,
Chief Executive,
Queensland
Futures Institute



Mike Kalms,
Lead Partner Defence
Industry and Space,
KPMG Australia



Dr. Malcolm Davis,
Senior Analyst –
Defence Strategy and
Capability, ASPI



**Air Vice-Marshal
Steven Robertson
DSC, AM**, Head Force
Design, Department
of Defence



**Rear Admiral
Simon Cullen
AM CSC (Ret'd)**,
Strategic Defence
Advisor, Maritime



**Brigadier Alison
Creagh AM CSC
(Ret'd)**, Strategic
Defence Advisor, Land



**Moderator:
Michael Hiller**
Queensland Chairman
KPMG Australia



**Cr Bob Manning
OAM**, Mayor, Cairns
Regional Council



Cr Jenny Hill
Mayor, City of
Townsville



Cr Tony Williams
Mayor, Rockhampton
Regional Council



**Air Vice-Marshal Neil
Hart AM (Ret'd)**,
Strategic Defence
Advisor, Aerospace



Cr Andy Ireland
Mayor, Livingstone
Shire Council



Cr Nicole Jonic
Deputy Mayor
Ipswich City Council



**Hon Dr Steven Miles
MP**, Deputy Premier
and Minister for
State Development,
Infrastructure, Local
Government and Planning



PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY



**Queensland
Government**

Forum Summary



Air Vice-Marshal Neil Hart AM (Ret'd), Strategic Defence Advisor, Aerospace

- Given the opportunities, there are complex technologies, capabilities and systems, collaboration and partnership is critical.
- Defence is a national endeavour and there are risks and threats starting to grow in the defence environment that are too large not to collaborate on.
- As has happened under AUKUS, the US does not share tech very often, so it's clear this represents a shifting environment in which emerging risks exist.
- There are also many opportunities around force design, and defence capabilities across the five domains.
- The 2016 White Paper and force structure was the first commitment to a 10 year funding envelope to get to 2% of GDP.
- There are significant growth opportunities across five domains - traditional air, land and sea, and new opportunities in space, information and cyber. Developments across these new domains see capabilities being shared across other industries in addition to defence.
- These developments should leverage commercial research, using international partners and utilise opportunities to collaborate with across industry in parallel sectors.
- Queensland has great regional centres and capabilities grown through a range of resources and sectors outside of defence. A lot of autonomous and other technologies are being shared between these sectors.
- Post pandemic there is an opportunity for Defence and some of these sectors to come together and work in the national interest.
- Working towards the future and developing systems supporting future growth falls into four categories:
 1. There is a strong need to understand strategy and policy and the broader strategic environment. To do this, we need greater access and force projection capabilities. In the past, defence and defence industry has been focused on winning equipment projects. There is now a greater focus not just on equipment projects, but on the broader ecosystem of operating, of training, of sustaining, of maintaining the equipment and of innovating as Australian Defence seeks to regain the regional edge and capability edge. Some great opportunities will come from this space.
 2. Technology and systems, and the use and introduction of systems. Queensland has implemented some great initiatives with testing ranges, and the Queensland Defence Science Alliance. Working closely with the universities establishes a vital opportunity to collaborate and connect research projects to industry, creating outcomes that defence, national security, and other parts of our economy need.
 3. Infrastructure requirements. How do we enhance and build capacity across our airports and ports? How do we better support high tech industries, with the specialised equipment and tooling required? This is where Queensland State Development plays an important role in the defence roadmaps, the aerospace roadmaps, advanced manufacturing, information technologies, and cyber and data sciences, coming together for the common good.
 4. The workforce element, which will remain one of the key challenges for Defence in Australia. Advancing capability and innovation requires a skilled workforce. STEM on its own will not solve the problem. We need to connect STEM to industry and create career pathways.

- If we come together, we can work regionally, we can work as a state, and we can work within a national context.
- With our regional and international partners, we can create opportunities for skills growth and development, providing aspirational career pathways.
- This may reduce brain drain in new emerging areas like space and info and cyber – retaining talent in Queensland and Australia.
- We can also better leverage our high veteran population, who have a detailed understanding of defence.
- For both existing and potential new industry players, understanding defence and the strategy is critical. Find additional resources on websites including The Strategist (ASPI); Centre for Defence Industry Capability (CDIC); Department of State Development and Defence Jobs Queensland.





Overview of Queensland's Future Role - Mike Kalms, Lead Partner Defence Industry and Space, KPMG Australia

- The AUKUS Defence Pact flags an important change of momentum in defence for the Australian Government.
- The submarine deal is a substantial change in direction for Australia and its relationship with the UK and US.
- It will have considerable ramifications for all States and Territories – including Queensland.
- Despite its size and significance, there was no pre-warning of the agreement.
- AUKUS is a defence technology pact; an exchange between the UK, US and Australian governments starting with (but not restricted to) submarine technology.
- This deal will develop and likely flow-on to other technologies or services well beyond submarines.
- It will see the conclusion of the contract with Naval Group Australia and seek an alternative design for Australia's next generation nuclear powered submarines.
- Perhaps eight or more nuclear submarines will be built in Adelaide, and based in WA
- One ramification of the deal is a different delivery schedule from the previous Attack Class of diesel submarines. The revised schedule, and consideration of early lease-style options, will be dependent on design discussions over next 18 months.
- Australian businesses supplying to the current Attack Class design will need to pivot.
- Aside from propulsion technology, many components required under the previous program will remain extant, and different technology investments flowing from AUKUS will result in job opportunities. This will be an attractive and substantial project for states other than SA and WA.
- There remains lots of uncertainty as the builder nor design is known, and the timeline is uncertain.
- The first conversation flowing from the deal in the next 18 months will likely centre on nuclear stewardship.
- Australia will build understanding of the technology and leverage experience, such as from the Lucas Heights reactor. We should not expect that Australia's step up to nuclear stewardship will be simple.
- The announcement of AUKUS is just the beginning, and will lead to new discussions around missiles, AI, force posture and collective training in Australia. It is clear that AUKUS will not just be focused on submarines.
- The deal is therefore seminal for the Australian defence sector and will usher in new opportunities well beyond just SA and WA, indeed all east coast economies should be excited.
- Force posture is a starting point for QLD – with substantial ADF assets based in QLD and a push from the US to posture additional forces in this part of the world. This is an opportunity for the State.
- In particular, the QLD collective and combined training space will continue to grow from this.
- Beyond AUKUS, an important development is the \$1.3bn investment by the Australian Government in sovereign missiles, complex and guided weapons. This investment envelope will only increase further under the deal.
- Hypersonic weapons are also mentioned and is an area that would be of particular interest in Queensland given existing expertise.
- Six weeks ago, government received responses to their Sovereign Guided Weapons RFT. This collaborative approach reflects an ambition from the Australian Government to develop their understanding of the emerging sovereign industrial ecosystem.
- Quantum and AI (also mentioned in the AUKUS communications) are opportunities that extend beyond SA and WA.
- It's an exciting time for the entire defence sector to draw on innovation and SME's in Queensland, taking products and services to a broader national and international market.



Regional Geopolitical Impacts and Opportunities - Dr. Malcolm Davis,

Senior Analyst Defence Strategy and Capability, ASPI

- AUKUS is the single most important development in recent times and has major implications for Australian defence policy.
- We face an increasingly dangerous strategic environment and there are a number of risks and opportunities in the sector.
- The current greatest challenge is the rise of China and Beijing's determination to end US presence and influence in the Indo-Pacific region.
- Australia's strategic outlook is characterised by growing risk associated with strategic and geopolitical competition between a rising China and the United States.
- This includes military and security issues, economic competition, and political and diplomatic competition, and suggests comparisons emerging in the ideological dimension.
- Along with intensifying strategic competition, there is a growing risk of major power interstate warfare and increasing 'grey zone' risks, particularly where China is active.
- The greatest and most immediate challenge is a Chinese effort to forcibly annex Taiwan, which may occur within this coming decade. This may see an increase in grey zone actions such as air and naval blockades, seizure of Taiwan's offshore territories, economic and diplomatic coercion, and cyber-attack.
- Such a campaign could be carefully calibrated and conducted below a level that would immediately generate a military response by the United States and its allies including Australia. While these grey zone actions are currently seen in a limited capacity, they are likely to increase from 2022, after China's 20th People's Congress and the Tokyo Olympics.
- It is most unlikely that Taiwan will agree to unification with China under Beijing's terms (i.e., the '1992 Consensus') - and it is more likely that Taiwan will resist any grey zone coercive campaign. This will pose a test for Xi Jinping, as he cannot accept the status quo or see Chinese efforts to take Taiwan fail if he wishes to remain in power. Therefore, it is likely that the end-result of a coercive 'grey zone' campaign that fails to see Taiwan accept unification with the PRC on China's terms will be a cross-straits invasion, to take Taiwan by force some time this decade.
- The key issue will be how the US responds to any move from China against Taiwan.
- AUKUS builds on Australia's strategic position in the region and provides greater capabilities in military forces. This represents a shift of the focus of the US away from the Middle East and towards the Indo-Pacific.
- Australia's most immediate strategic risk in the next decade is the prospect of a major power war between China and the US and its allies in the Indo-Pacific over Taiwan, that would be fought over a wide region, and most likely see direct Chinese attacks on key Australia military bases, especially those hosting US forces.
- Political warfare and grey zone actions against Australia from China add complexity to the challenges faced now. This is seen in China's use of economic and trade embargoes on Australia as well as diplomatic pressure, for example, in the list of 14 demands made by the Chinese Government to Australia in late 2020.
- China is also continuing to grow its presence across the Southeast Asia and Southwest Pacific regions. This has major implications considering the ability to deploy and operate military assets closer to Australia.
- In response to the challenge posed by China, the US and its allies are aligning their defence and national security policies to ensure a free and open Indo-Pacific.
- AUKUS represents a closer defence relationship between the US, UK and Australia and will go beyond new submarines; it will include other technologies in the areas of AI, space, quantum and hypersonics.
- Although AUKUS has seen Australia end the attack class submarine program with France, they still retain an interest in the Indo-Pacific region.

- Australia is responding to the challenge raised by China through its strategy outlined in the 2020 Defence Strategic Update – with the broad concept of shape, deter and respond.
- In shaping the region, Australia must build multilateral security cooperation with key states to deter a rising China acting in a manner inimical to the interests of the region.
- There is opportunity to build our relationships through AUKUS, Australia and US Defence Alliance, the Quad and AUSMIN (Australia-US Ministerial talks).
- We must advance current settings and spend considerably more on Defence to expand infrastructure in the north of Australia to strengthen the ADF and enable hosting capacity of US forces.
- To do this, AUSMIN 2021 has developed 4 steps: enhance air cooperation through deployment of US aircraft, enhance maritime cooperation and homeport US Navy SSNs (SS-denotes a submarine N-denotes nuclear power), enhance land cooperation and establish combined logistics, sustainment, and maintenance enterprise in the region.
- East coast assets are very important – Brisbane should be included in these considerations.
- Taking steps in forced posture is important in thinking about next steps.
- Specific suggestions for Queensland include:
 - Lift US marine core presence from 2,500 to 7,500 personnel, expanding Darwin port facilities and ending China’s control of the Port of Darwin.
 - Expand RAAF, USAF and US Navy presence in northern Australia. This would include considering how the Port of Brisbane could support a US Navy presence to counter any expanded Chinese operations into the Southwest Pacific
 - Become self-sufficient in the local manufacturing of missiles. This will demand multiple facilities – not just one location. For Queensland, there’s opportunity to further promote the growth of its emerging defence and space sectors, through bidding to host sovereign missile manufacturing – and development.
 - Consider the opportunities in the space sector. Queensland is already a leading state, with companies like Gilmour Space Technology leading the nation in launch vehicle development; Black Sky Aerospace also undertaking work in the same area; and with the Bowen space launch site under development. It’s important for Queensland to maintain this lead, especially in terms of supporting Australia’s need to burden share in orbit with allies, through greater space resilience in a contested space domain. There is need for local capacity to respond in the event of an attack by Chinese counterspace systems, requiring local manufacturing and launch capabilities.
- Given Future Submarine and Future Frigate capabilities as suggested under the Force Structure Plan will not materialise under mid-2030s, there is need to fast track long-range strike capabilities and extend our reach well beyond what is planned for in the 2020 Force Structure Plan. Research into Hypersonics is led by Queensland and is focused on the joint US-Australian Project SciFire. Such a capability could emerge to make it much more difficult for an adversary to project power against Australia from long range.
- Given the rapid deterioration of Australia’s strategic circumstances, driven by the rising and assertive China, the ADF needs swifter and longer-ranged capabilities to deal with the risks moving forward.
- Integration with key allied forces is necessary to enhance strategic presence in the region.
- There is also need for new technologies including autonomous systems, hypersonics and space capabilities.
- The 2020 Defence Strategic Update removed the assumption that Australia would have ‘ten years strategic warning time’ for a major conflict given the rapid deterioration. However, our capability acquisition and force posture remains based on an outdated environment and therefore requires change to better align strategic guidance and capability development.



The importance of Queensland and Northern Australia in Defence

- Air Vice-Marshal Steven Robertson DSC, AM

- Head Force Design, Department of Defence

- The 2020 Defence Strategic Update outlines a shift from 3 defence objectives that were geographically based to now being non-geographic strategic defence objectives – shape, deter and respond – which are relevant given the domains of space, information and cyber, as these are not geographically constrained.
- There are a significant number of relevant opportunities in North Queensland – this includes significant investment over the next 20 years, which will be continually addressed every 2 years by government – in addition to a large quadrennial review every four years.
- \$7bn of investment will be directed into the domain of space alone, and this will accelerate through further government commitment. The domain of information and cyber will see similar opportunities and investment.
- Breaking down by services, as outlined by approval of government, there remains a real focus up in the North of Australia and ongoing commitment to large exercise schedules, as we've seen this year. A significant
- investment is required to still deliver programs like Talisman Sabre 2021 in an era of pandemic with quarantine periods.
- 42% of the Australian army is based in Queensland – this presents a major workforce opportunity for the region.
- Airforce base access and overflight provide the ability to have a presence in region and represent a core strategy for defence.
- There is a clear focus of the ADF in engaging with the Pacific region in the coming years, with a near region
- A Force Posture discussion will be a focus of Defence's next capability assessment to Government due for release due in 2024.
- There will be enormous opportunities for growth across the 5 domains – maritime, land, air, space, and information cyberspace.
- The space environment and space services provide a large opportunity in Australia and North Queensland in particular, given Queensland's ability to harness expertise from smart industry players.
- However, workforce remains a key challenge – after government direction for a return by the end of this year, it is necessary to outline workforce requirements to do this; workforce is the limiting factor to deliver on government requirements.
- As such, partnership with industry is required. This will see outsourcing from the Department of Defence in establishing the required workforce and require collaboration to develop this workforce.
- As a part of this, STEM skillsets are important in the domain space for the workforce.
- Overall, there are enormous opportunities in the sector, as highlighted by the \$150-200bn going into a combination of submarine and guided weapon enterprises, ship building and vehicle development programs.



Queensland Capability and Positioning - Rear Admiral Simon Cullen AM CSC (Ret'd), Strategic Defence Advisor, Maritime

- There has never been a better time to exploit the high-growth and high-value opportunities that exist for Queensland in the defence and aerospace industries - massive Federal government investment in defence, the creation of an Australian space industry and rapid advances in technology such as unmanned and autonomous systems present opportunities like never before.
- Queensland is a key part of the national defence ecosystem, as home to more than a quarter of ADF military personnel - more than 24,000 uniformed and civilian positions across 14 significant defence facilities, supporting a further 6,500 jobs. The industry generates over \$6bn for the state annually and includes more than 30 suppliers located in Queensland. Our high number of regional centres support a significant ADF presence, providing port and freight access for the industry.
- This is underpinned by a strong and growing industrial base and world-class capability in areas such as aviation and ship maintenance, repair and overhaul, heavy vehicle manufacture, support and upgrades, command and control systems, reconnaissance and surveillance systems, space systems, robotics, unmanned systems and artificial intelligence, and cyber security.
- This is enabled by defence, aerospace, and advanced manufacturing being priority sectors for the state.
- A focus on emerging technologies over the last decade has helped deliver an ecosystem where industry capability, research and development programs and supporting infrastructure are working together
- In addition to specialised innovation projects, 80% of Queensland companies working in the defence sector invest in R&D. And of these companies, almost 60% spend \$100,000 or more each year on R&D activities. Collaborative relationships between Defence organisations such as the Defence Science and Technology Group, The Defence Materials Technology Centre, industry, and the Queensland R&D sector have supported this.
- In 2017, Queensland hosted the Trusted Autonomous Systems Defence Cooperative Research Centre, resulting in development of a \$50 million centre to develop drone and robotics technology for the Australian Defence Force.
- Also linked to the CRC, the Queensland Flight Test Range at Cloncurry is Australia's first commercial drone flight testing centre and is the largest facility of its kind in the southern hemisphere. This facilitates industry development of new unmanned aerial systems and technologies into which the Queensland Government has invested \$14.5mn.
- The Queensland Government has also committed \$2mn to the Australian Institute of Marine Science for ReefWorks, to test unmanned and autonomous marine vehicles.
- Further, \$1.4mn has been awarded to a Military Test, Evaluation, Certification and Systems Assurance (MILTECS) facility under the Sovereign Industrial Capability Priority Grant. The facility will support Australia's sovereign capability development of enhanced unmanned ground vehicles.
- This is all supported by partnership with private enterprise including The Advanced Robotics for Manufacturing Hub, The Queensland AI Hub, and Queensland XR Hub, which bring industry and research together.
- Queensland is known for its expertise in space and hypersonics and is home to Australia's most advanced space launch vehicle and developer supply chains. Hypersonic flight has significant applications for defence programs such as the Guided Weapons Enterprise and space travel.

- It is clear Queensland offers many advantages to the defence industry. Supporting this, the recently established Queensland Defence Science Alliance fosters collaboration between government, academia, and industry to continue to develop these opportunities and capability.
- It should be noted that there is a strong focus of the capabilities of North Queensland. The Cairns naval base will undergo a major refurbishment over the next 10 - 15 years and potentially see the establishment of Cairns Marine Precinct to improve industry's ability to compete for commercial business as well as sustain Navy and Border Force capabilities. Economic opportunities will follow this expansion of Naval capacity in the state.
- Townsville is also seeing development, with upgrades to the Port of Townsville and the establishment of a new field training area at Greenvale.
- Queensland is committed to supporting Australia's national defence capabilities. The state is helping our nation develop the infrastructure and technological edge needed to enable the ADF to carry out its missions and support our communities in times of crisis.

Regional Capability Mayoral Panel



Regional Capability Mayoral Panel - Introduction - Brigadier Alison Creagh AM CSC (Ret'd), Strategic Defence Advisor

- Every LGA has its own characteristics and it is important to leverage these when adapting to opportunities with Defence. LGAs should seek to collaborate to improve opportunities across Queensland.
- ADF operations are shifting with new strategic objectives so these should be considered when identifying opportunities for collaboration across LGAs.
- Consultation between Defence and LGAs is important to assess how areas are utilised and can provide optimum value for Defence and the ADF.
- Current collaboration between LGAs should continue and further opportunities for collaboration should be actively explored.
- We know skilling of the future workforce to support Defence and the ADF is important across Australia and in Queensland. Regional LGAs must continue to consider skilling and employment opportunities not only for Defence but also for veterans and their families as they transition from full time service in the ADF - veterans present a great opportunity to enhance our workforce needs.



Moderator - Michael Hiller, Queensland Chairman, KPMG Australia

- Queensland's economic diversity is a strength, and there are many opportunities provided by this.
- This is particularly true in the context of defence and for regional development in Queensland.

What needs to happen in the regions to deliver a successful Defence outcome?



Cr Tony Williams, Mayor, Rockhampton Regional Council

- Rockhampton has existing Defence capabilities, particularly through the airport and Shoalwater Bay facilities.
- The region has commitment to building on a relationship with the Singaporean armed forces for over 30 years, and US forces as well.
- The region has been able to provide guidance, safety and support for operations during exercises.
- Rockhampton airport staff collaborate with the military on exercise planning and charter flights per exercise averaging 600 troops.
- Recent expansion plans will bring an additional bay, totalling seven bays and allowing a doubling of capacity for more charters and military aircraft.
- Working collaboratively, there is an increasing presence in Central Queensland to enable building partnerships with State and Federal Government and facilitate cooperation with the community to benefit the region.
- It is important to skill businesses to support the defence industry into the future.
- Rockhampton has significant infrastructure in place to allow it to be the gateway to Northern Australia. This includes port access, energy projects, health and education facilities and a strong agriculture and food industry. The region has strong opportunities for investment in these industries. Central Queensland is the home of diverse industry and the largest number of royalty-producing companies in the State.
- Given these strengths, Rockhampton is well placed to support the Defence sector moving forward.



Cr Andy Ireland, Mayor, Livingstone Shire Council

- A collaborative strategy has been adopted through work with the Central Queensland Regional Organisation of Councils.
- Importantly, defence doesn't recognise LGA boundaries, therefore collaboration is required to support the sector in the region.
- This will be required to take advantage of the opportunities and achieve an increased ADF presence across Queensland.
- While Enoggera is landlocked and therefore has limited growth, Central Queensland has a high opportunity for growth and direct access to a range of premium supporting resources.
- There are therefore many opportunities in Central Queensland, and the region can offer many benefits to the ADF moving forward.



Cr Jenny Hill, Mayor, City of Townsville

- Defence is a big part of the Townsville community - 13% of population are former/ex Defence members/families - so there is a large need for integration in later employment for the community.
- Townsville is home to one third of Australian Army deployable forces and therefore plays a significant role in Australian defence.
- It is also home to deployable mounting bases and has proximity to land, air and maritime training, test and evaluation ranges.

- In the last term of Council, the Townsville / North Queensland Defence Strategy was developed, which also considered the Cairns Port. The strategic view aligns with Defence around interoperable deployment.
- The recently hosted Talisman Sabre brought many countries together allowing us to host a reception for France, Germany, India, South Korea, Japan, Indonesia, UK, US and Australia. There are many future opportunities for these armies to train in Australia.
- The Townsville region and North Queensland strives to achieve mutual benefit based on our natural advantages that support defence capability needs. There are high payoff opportunities delivering benefits to Defence and Townsville, the Commonwealth and their allies.
- These opportunities include simulation training, operational testing and evaluation, amphibious and the logistic support, and international training and engagement activities.
- There is Singaporean commitment to the area for a maintenance facility now to be located in Townsville. Townsville is currently the only port on the east coast allowing B triples access.
- The recent port upgrade and defence strategy were aligned to enable this. It is critical that defence needs to have capability to access maritime.
- This collaboration was important to ensure value and gain Federal support.
- A recent collaboration between industry and defence - NQ SPARK – will allow the region to capitalise on strengths in terms of large-scale defence simulation and training and position Townsville as an internationally recognised hub.
- A large part of issue of procurement for Government is the purchase of vehicles. There is not enough testing undertaken in Northern Australia to support this – it is important for defence to test vehicles in the tropics.
- Federal Government has identified a capability gap in operational test and evaluation of new technologies. This is something Northern Queensland can provide.
- North of the Tropic of Capricorn there is currently no manufacturing – there is a need to maintain a strong supply chain in the context of operational capability. Governments must be accountable to support this.



Cr Bob Manning OAM, Mayor, Cairns Regional Council

- There is much to think about under the AUKUS agreement – there are many potential opportunities it brings.
- HMAS Cairns is one of the five operational bases in Australia.
- It has now grown into a significant base, housing 900 sailors in Cairns.
- This includes patrol boats, border force etc. and is about to provide support to Operational Patrol Vessels.
- There are plans to revisit the planning of the Port of Cairns as the Navy will be advantaged if it takes the opportunities this provides.
- Cairns Regional Council will support a Federal review of the Port Master Plan and its strategic operations.
- Australia's relationship with Papua New Guinea will increase in size and significance, and this will be important for Australia – providing further opportunity for Cairns. Home porting, longer base fleet and vessel sustainment.



Cr Nicole Jonic, Deputy Mayor, Ipswich City Council

- Ipswich is the fastest growing region in SEQ, growing at 4% p.a., with 42% of greenfield space for C&I land, projected to double by 2036 and perfectly situated on a freight corridor between production areas and sea and airports.
- The region also has strengths in manufacturing, and this continues to grow in strength.
- Growing capacity in SMEs working with prime industry and in defence.
- Programs piloted by Council with Operation Scale Up aim to build sovereign capability locally and enable local businesses becoming defence ready.
- There are learnings from Defence prime businesses and opportunities for local businesses to connect with these primes.
- Collaboration and nation building is important in the sector – it is important to encourage regions to specialise and state and federal agencies to encourage collaboration to support the industry.
- In order to build Australia’s sovereign defence capability, regions need to work together, joining forces to compete globally, while focusing on individual LGA strengths and building effective ecosystems to drive capability and jobs.

Businesses here are excited about the opportunities discussed – how should business approach LGA Governments in this area?



Cr Jenny Hill, Mayor, City of Townsville

- Larger businesses should approach the Economics team in Council, and Townsville Enterprise
- SMEs should approach our Smart Precinct in collaboration with State Government which provides a concierge service for support



Cr Bob Manning OAM, Mayor, Cairns Regional Council

- Engage with Council, Advance Cairns, Chamber of Commerce – LGA Government will support the development of industry to support Defence



Cr Nicole Jonic, Deputy Mayor, Ipswich City Council

- We are open to approaches from SME’s, big business and start ups
- Engage directly with Council to support industry and the defence sector



Cr Tony Williams, Mayor, Rockhampton Regional Council
Rockhampton regional council

- Advance Rockhampton, Central Queensland Regional Organisation of Councils
- Looking to partner and develop Defence presence in the region



Cr Andy Ireland, Mayor, Livingstone Shire Council

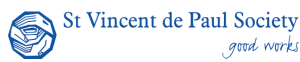
- Economic enterprise organisation – Capricorn Enterprise
- Central Queensland Regional Organisation of Councils



State Government on the future of Queensland Defence - Hon Dr Steven Miles MP, Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning

- The future of the defence industry in the State will play an important part of the economic recovery of Queensland.
- Queensland is well placed to play a critical role in the National defence ecosystem and in the Indo-Asia Pacific region.
- Our State is home to more than 40% of the Australian Army's personnel and their vehicles, and is serious about building and supporting a world class defence industry.
- Queensland has developed the Queensland Defence Industries 10 Year Roadmap and action plan to leverage economic opportunities, create thousands of jobs, and build the sector to \$7bn economic contribution by 2028.
- The Queensland Government will increase the participation of Queensland businesses in the defence supply chain and ensure they have the resources and support they need to enter the market.
- When one company wins a major defence contract, opportunities open for multiple businesses across the defence supply chain.
- Through Defence Jobs Queensland, there are opportunities to connect and support SMEs to upscale and tender for global defence contracts.
- Current and future priorities put Queensland at the forefront of the national defence effort.
- This is evidenced by investment in the Queensland Flight Test Range at Cloncurry, Australia's first commercial unmanned aerial systems testing facility, the largest of its kind anywhere in the Southern hemisphere.
- The Queensland Government is also investing in unmanned maritime systems through a \$2 million commitment to the foundation stage of ReefWorks – a tropical marine testing range at the Australian Institute of Marine Science, outside of Townsville.
- Since 2016, more than \$120 million in grant programs has been invested by Queensland Government for priority industries, including defence and aerospace, to deliver collaborative projects and to create sovereign industrial capability.
- 100 private sector projects are generating investment of over \$470 million and creating over 900 jobs.
- Additionally, the Queensland Government is providing \$350 million through an Industry Partnership Program, which is part of the \$3.34bn Queensland Jobs Fund. This program strengthens local supply chains, grows the footprint of priority industries, and leverages co-funding opportunities.
- Rheinmetall's Military Vehicle Centre of Excellence (MILVEHCOE), developed in collaboration with the Queensland Government, is a success story that has delivered a new advanced manufacturing capability in Australia.
- Land Forces 2021, the preeminent event in Asia Pacific was held in Brisbane in June, with over 12,800 attendees.
- New and expanded military training sites in North and Central Queensland to support the Australia Singapore Military Training Initiative will see up to 14,000 Singaporean armed forces personnel come to Queensland yearly for the next 25 years, once fully operational, totalling \$36m in economic activity.
- We are also investigating a new commercial munitions testing capability.
- We need to connect and collaborate with each other and work to attract more defence contracts here to Queensland. We believe that Queensland has the skills, the infrastructure, the innovation, and capability to compete nationally and internationally.
- The Queensland Government will continue to invest in growing our defence industries to put Queensland on the World map.

QFI Members



MEDIA PARTNER



FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

contact@qldfutures.com.au
www.qldfutures.com.au



QUEENSLAND
FUTURES
INSTITUTE
A BETTER QUEENSLAND

