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THE HUNTER REGION

A Hub for
Cross-ADF
Sustainment



The Hunter is preparing a workforce to meet Defence's growing requirement for STEM qualified people.

HUNTER NSW AUSTRALIA

The Hunter region is a growing hub for cross-ADF sustainment.

Defence is a critical sector for it's \$41 billion economy, injecting \$1 billion annually and employing thousands of skilled people.

Global Defence prime contractors including Thales, BAE Systems, Boeing Defence, Lockheed Martin, Varley Group, Northrop Grumman, Airbus and Raytheon are based in the region to support Defence's billion dollar presence which is spear-headed by RAAF Base, Williamtown and Lone Pine Barracks, Singleton.

These Defence primes provide through-life sustainment for Defence and market leading niche defence suppliers including Nova Defence, Bohemia Interactive Simulations, Plexsys, Milskil, Hummingbird and Dexata are located in the Hunter's thriving aerospace precincts.

The Hunter offers the complete value chain with expertise in:

- advanced and precision manufacturing
- research and development
- diagnostics and prognostics
- specialist engineering and design
- logistics and asset management
- fleet planning
- through-life supply chain management
- capability management
- weapons systems support
- training, accreditation, certification and design approval
- military simulation training

DEFENCE FUTURE

Hunter Defence, built on a joint initiative of the Hunter Business Chamber and HunterNet, is a strong and well respected brand which supports the Hunter's Defence and defence industry presence.

It works collaboratively with industry, State and Federal government to build and promote regional capacity and capability in Defence manufacturing and sustainment procurement; workforce skills development; and global paths to market within the framework of the national Defence industry ecosystem.

DEFENCE RESEARCH

Defence research is an important focus of the University of Newcastle's Defence and Security Research and Innovation Hub. It aims to encourage greater engagement between university researchers and the Defence sector to nurture innovative ideas from initial concept through prototyping and testing to implementation. The Hub builds on strengths in cybersecurity, control systems, autonomous vehicles, simulation modelling and energy storage.

Research collaborations have resulted in:

- Mobile robotics in marine and aerospace applications
- Guidance and motion control of marine platforms
- Robust autonomous systems
- Security and counter-terrorism risk assessment
- Weaponing and collateral damage estimation
- Vibration analysis

DEFENCE INFRASTRUCTURE

The Port of Newcastle is the world's largest coal export port and is one of Australia's largest ports by throughput tonnage. Strategically positioned at the gateway to the largest regional economy in New South Wales, in close proximity to Sydney, the port is the economic and trading centre for the Hunter and northern New South Wales and is a critical supply chain interface for the movement of cargo.

The Port of Newcastle's total land holdings is 792 hectares which includes 200 hectares of vacant port land available for development.

Thales is reactivating a site at the Port of Newcastle which will position the Hunter as a major marine ship repair and maintenance precinct. The redevelopment involves the repair of the slipway to allow for ship repairs and maintenance on vessels from 20 to 55 metres in length and up to 1,000 tonne displacement.

Thales expects to grow local sub-contractor industries to support its maritime operations in the region. The slipway upgrade will allow the Port to handle bigger ships, attract skilled tradespeople back to the region and ensure naval maintenance work is completed in the Hunter.

Forgacs Marine and Defence is located on 22.7 hectares of riverfront land near the Port of Newcastle. It offers key shipbuilding, service and maintenance capabilities and provides national and regional clients with a range of integrated services.

Sharing the RAAF Base runway, Newcastle Airport is one of Australia's fastest growing airports and offers direct daily connections to the nation's capital cities and regional centres. It processes 1.2 million passengers each year. A \$14.5 million terminal redevelopment in 2016 included equipping the Airport for international flights, upgrading the taxi-ways and constructing a dedicated freight facility allowing dual landside and airside access.

The BAE Systems Williamtown facility is located directly adjacent to the RAAF's primary F-35 base and will be home to the Southern Pacific Regional Airframe MRO&U Depot. The existing purpose-built facility currently utilised for Hawk Mk 127 and Hornet F/A-18 A/B maintenance will be tailored and expanded to support both initial and future F-35 sustainment requirements including component maintenance within Australia and the broader Asia-Pacific region.

DEFENCE SITES

Prime employment lands and industrial parks are located adjacent to RAAF Base Williamtown, Newcastle Airport and the Port of Newcastle.

The Carrington site in the Port of Newcastle has existing infrastructure that was originally constructed in the 1990s to facilitate construction of the Royal Australian Navy Mine Hunters. This and other local sites are capable of redevelopment for both defence and commercial marine purposes and could relieve some of the pressure on existing facilities such as Garden Island.

Defence prime contractors and multi-national defence companies including Raytheon Australia, Lockheed Martin Australia, Nova Defence, Airbus, Bohemia Interactive Simulations, Plexsys, Milskil, Redarc Technologies, Dexata are clustered within a 2km radius of the RAAF Base Williamtown in purpose-built, secure facilities at the Williamtown Aerospace Centre.

DEFENCE NETWORKS

The Hunter has a strong collaborative environment with formal business networks including Hunternet, the Hunter Business Chamber and Australian Industry Group that work to grow their members' expert industry knowledge, networks and engagement to maintain the region's international competitiveness.

Defence industry clustering has also occurred around RAAF Base Williamtown and Newcastle Airport precinct at the Williamtown Aerospace Centre.

DEFENCE WORKFORCE

The Hunter is preparing a workforce to meet Defence's growing requirement for STEM qualified people. Funded by Australia's Department of Defence with support from NSW Department of Industry, RDA Hunter's Defence Industry Skilling project, the ME Program, partners tier one defence contractors like BAE Systems and Boeing Defence and defence industries with Hunter schools to upskill students in readiness for Defence and aerospace industry careers.

RDA Hunter and TAFE NSW are also providing the Hunter's students the opportunity to gain school based training in Aeroskills. RDA Hunter's NSW Educational Standards (NESA) endorsed course provides access to the defence and aerospace industry via a Certificate II Aeroskills Pathway in Year 11/12.

STEMship, which was developed by RDA Hunter in partnership with Training Services NSW and TAFE NSW, is a pre-employment program that provides a clear pathway to STEM careers and the jobs of the future by combining STEM and enterprise skills with niche professional placement.

RDA Hunter is also seeking support for its proposal to establish a College of Defence Industries in the Hunter. The College will centralise defence focused STEM and workforce development initiatives.

Defence is a critical sector for the Hunter region's \$41 billion economy.