



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

STANDING COMMITTEE ON STATE DEVELOPMENT

MEDIA RELEASE

STATE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE DISCUSSION PAPERS RELEASED

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

14 November 2017

The Standing Committee on State Development has today released two discussion papers relating to its inquiries into the Defence Industry in New South Wales, and Regional Development and a Global Sydney.

The Chair of the Committee, the Hon Greg Pearce MLC stated, 'Defence and defence industry makes a substantial contribution to the New South Wales economy. The unprecedented commitment by the Australian Government to invest \$195 billion in Defence capability presents considerable opportunities for industry in New South Wales'.

Mr Pearce continued, 'The establishment of Defence NSW to lead defence activity in the state is commendable. We must now build on this foundation to ensure that New South Wales enhances its position as a world-class provider of complex systems integration and sustainment. A priority for Defence NSW is to target major Defence projects that align with these capabilities, such as the future basing and sustainment of naval assets on the east coast of New South Wales'.

Defence was also one of the industries identified by the committee as a growth sector for business in regional New South Wales. 'Sydney is a global city with a world-class and burgeoning economy estimated at \$378 billion per annum', said Mr Pearce. 'While the regions are expected to provide almost one third of new jobs to 2056, the resilience of some communities has been tested in recent years.'

'Our discussion paper on regional development and a global Sydney presents an opportunity to identify avenues through which the NSW Government can facilitate growth in key industries by connecting the regions to Sydney', Mr Pearce explained. 'Suggestions from stakeholders have included better freight corridors, communications connectivity, a reliable energy supply and incentivising relocation. The committee would like to open up these ideas for further discussion, and identify other new opportunities.'

The discussion papers ask a number of questions to identify specific actions that can be taken to respond to the key themes raised across both inquiries. The committee strongly encourages all interested parties to provide a submission in response to those questions of interest. The closing date for submissions for each of the discussion papers is **12 February 2018**. Submissions should be lodged online at www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/statedevelopment.

-ENDS-

*For further information please contact Committee Chair,
the Hon Greg Pearce MLC, on 9230 2328*