



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

STANDING COMMITTEE ON STATE DEVELOPMENT

MEDIA RELEASE

DEFENCE INDUSTRY REPORT TABLED

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

7 JUNE 2018

An Upper House committee has today tabled its report into the defence industry in New South Wales.

The Chair of the State Development Committee, the Hon Taylor Martin MLC, said: "Defence and the industry which supports it makes a substantial contribution to the New South Wales economy. An unprecedented commitment by the Australian Government to invest \$195 billion in Defence capability over the next decade presents considerable opportunity for New South Wales based industry".

The Chair said, "In preparing its report, the committee met with many industry leaders who are developing world class defence capabilities here in New South Wales. The message from industry is clear – New South Wales must continue to position itself to take advantage of the economic opportunities provided by Defence".

"The NSW Government has taken important steps to support the defence sector through the release of *New South Wales: Strong, smart and connected* and the establishment of Defence NSW. The committee's report makes 15 recommendations which seek to build on these initiatives. Recommendations include: securing the future operations of the Defence Innovation Network; enhancing the accessibility of defence markets for the state's small and medium enterprises: and ensuring that the industry has access to a skilled and sustainable future workforce."

Mr Martin continued, "the defence industry in New South Wales is diverse in nature and made up of both large prime contractors as well as small and medium sized enterprises. The Western Sydney Aerospace and Defence Industry Precinct promises to be a hub for future growth of the defence industry in New South Wales. This will build on the large presence of defence enterprises in regions such as the Hunter and Shoalhaven. In the Hunter, for example, more than 4,000 people are directly employed in the defence industry which contributes to around 10 per cent of the gross regional product. It is important that the success of the Western Sydney Aerospace and Defence Industry Precinct does not come at the expense of those regions, but rather, allows for growth".

"Importantly, the committee has also recommended that the NSW Government continue to take the lead in advocating for the placement of Defence assets in New South Wales. One such area where it is hoped that this advocacy will reap dividends is in the space industry. The announcement by the Commonwealth Government of an Australian Space Agency is an exciting opportunity. The appointment of Dr Paul Scully-Power AM to lead the New South Wales bid to have the agency based in the state is an important signal by the NSW Government of its commitment to growing this important future industry", Mr Martin said.

The Chair of the committee will hold a press conference on Friday 8 June at 1.45pm on the Parliament forecourt.

For a full copy of the committee's report and other inquiry documents please visit the committee's webpage: www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/statedevelopment

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For further information please contact Committee Chair, the Hon Taylor Martin MLC, on 9230 2985.