

**Submission
No 22**

**INQUIRY INTO THE DEFENCE INDUSTRY IN NEW
SOUTH WALES**

Name: Wollongong City Council

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The Hon Greg Pearce MLC
Chair
Standing Committee on State Development
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Dear Mr Pearce

INQUIRY INTO THE DEFENCE INDUSTRY IN NSW

Wollongong City Council welcomes the opportunity to provide a submission to the NSW Legislative Council's Standing Committee on State Development into the *Defence Industry in NSW*.

Wollongong has a proud history of providing innovative defence technology and services to the Australian and global defence industries. The region has a unique range of capabilities in design, engineering and manufacturing that are applicable across joint Land, Sea and Air domains.

Wollongong has a well-developed and sophisticated innovation ecosystem that ensures it is at the forefront of applied research and industry collaboration. A number of Wollongong companies supply specialised services and products to defence primes and contractors, with several world class research institutes at the University of Wollongong further enhancing the region's defence credentials. Leading defence research and development organisations in Wollongong include the maritime node of the Defence Materials Technology Centre (DMTC), which assisted in the development of improved ballistic and blast protection properties in armour steel used in the Australian developed Bushmaster personnel carriers.

Wollongong has a strong network of organisations involved with defence procurement, and a strong track record in converting technical know-how into defence capability. Wollongong companies provide important contributions in ensuring that the Australian Defence Force (ADF) can perform its warfighting and security functions safely and sustainably. Wollongong based companies such as Bisalloy, Bluescope and Prokote provide world-leading armoured steel plate for a range of RAN ships and submarines, as well as Australian Army protected mobility vehicles. Examples of armoured steel developed and manufactured in Wollongong include the Collins-class submarines; Adelaide-class frigates; Hobart-class Air Warfare Destroyers; and the Australian Army Bushmaster. Other local companies provide important high-end electrical equipment, complex communications systems, engineered plastics, remote education systems, ruggedised computers, data storage solutions and medically approved computing devices to Defence.

Advantage Wollongong, a partnership between the NSW Department of Premier and Cabinet, University of Wollongong and Wollongong City Council represents a long term strategic approach to creating sustainable new jobs and productive investment for Wollongong. This is achieved through facilitating new business investment projects and the expansion of existing business operations. This collaboration aims to promote Wollongong on a national scale and take advantage of its close proximity to Sydney and its global position. Advantage Wollongong promotes Wollongong's key growth sectors, including Knowledge Services, Advanced Manufacturing, Trade and Logistics and Defence.

Advantage Wollongong has done a lot of work in the defence sector to promote the capabilities and expertise of local industry. The Advantage Wollongong Defence Industry Strategy has been designed to maximise local industry participation in the \$195 billion defence spend over the next decade. Key elements of the Strategy include:

- working with 16 Wollongong companies to develop their value proposition in defence using the quad chart methodology required by the Department of Defence and Prime contractors
- working with DMTC to benchmark the welding capabilities of five Wollongong companies to defence industry standards
- promoting Wollongong and Wollongong based companies at major defence events including Land Forces 2016, the Avalon International Airshow 2017, and the Pacific International Maritime Exposition 2017.

Advantage Wollongong has also engaged Robert Terpening, the former CEO of Bisalloy, as the Wollongong Defence Industry Advocate. The Strategy has been developed and is being implemented with a range of local stakeholders including local manufacturing cluster i3net and AusIndustry. A copy of the Wollongong Defence Industry Directory is attached for your information.

Defence is a key economic sector for the region and Wollongong will continue to contribute world-leading materials, technology and expertise to the Australian Defence Force. If you require further information, please contact

Yours faithfully

Andrew Carfield
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Wollongong City Council