

**Hon Jay Weatherill MP**  
Premier

**Hon Martin Hamilton-Smith MP**  
Minister for Defence Industries

Thursday, 15 December 2016

## **Air Warfare Destroyer *Brisbane* launch another show of SA shipbuilding strength**

South Australia's impressive defence capabilities will again be on show today when the second Air Warfare Destroyer, *Brisbane* is launched.

A large crowd of officials, as well as the families of the ship's builders, will be on hand to witness the 10am launch ceremony at the Techport Australia ship lift, the \$250 million-plus shipbuilding facility developed by the State Government to support the \$9 billion project.

Premier Jay Weatherill and Defence Industries Minister Martin Hamilton-Smith said that the Air Warfare Destroyer program is another demonstration that the state has the capabilities to undertake major Defence programs that will create jobs and attract investment.

Around 250 dignitaries from Federal and State Government, Royal Australian Navy and Defence Industry and importantly around 4000 members of the AWD Alliance workforce and their families will be onsite for the event.

The project is being delivered by the AWD Alliance, made up of the Australian Government through the Department of Defence, lead shipbuilder ASC Pty Ltd, and mission systems integrator Raytheon Australia, with Spanish shipbuilder Navantia bringing an experienced shipbuilding management team to the AWD Alliance.

Today's event is a significant milestone for the AWD Alliance and its dedicated team of shipbuilders, combat system integrators and the South Australian defence sector.

### **Background**

The ships *Hobart*, *Brisbane* and *Sydney* are the three future destroyers being developed under the Air Warfare Destroyer program.

As of October 2016 Ship 1, *Hobart*, was 97 per cent complete having successfully completed the first phase of sea trials on 24 September 2016. *Hobart* is due to undertake acceptance sea trials in the first quarter of 2017. Meanwhile ship 2, *Brisbane* and ship 3, *Sydney* are 85 and 58 per cent complete respectively. Jobs on the Air Warfare Destroyer program peaked at 2100 locally and a further 900 jobs Australia-wide.

During today's launch ceremony, *Brisbane* will be officially named by the Ship's Sponsor Mrs Robyn Shackleton, who will release the commemorative champagne bottle to break on the ship's bow. The ship will be lowered into the water and float unassisted for the first time.

The Common User Facility (CUF) at Techport Australia is owned and operated by the State Government through Defence SA and supports the delivery of the Air Warfare Destroyer program. The CUF is a world-class ship building and repair facility with the largest capacity shiplift in the southern hemisphere.

### **Quotes attributable to Premier Jay Weatherill**

I would like to congratulate all of the workers who have contributed to the Air Warfare Destroyer program. It is important to recognise and celebrate the contribution the workforce has made to the project.

The South Australian Government is serious about supporting and growing the defence industry in South Australia. Today's launch is proof of South Australia's world-class shipbuilding infrastructure and high-end skills base.

The fact that ships 2 and 3 of the Air Warfare Destroyer program have been able to progress with significant efficiency gains from the first ship demonstrates the benefit of a continuous naval shipbuilding program.

**Quotes attributable to Minister for Defence Industries Martin Hamilton-Smith**

The State Government has already invested more than \$250 million in Techport Australia. Our commitment to establishing Techport Australia as a world-class shipbuilding facility was a key factor in South Australia winning the Air Warfare Destroyer program and future naval shipbuilding projects.

The Air Warfare Destroyer construction is comparable in size and capability to the Future Frigates, so the success of this program is a clear representation that South Australia has the workforce with the skills and capability to undertake the upcoming shipbuilding programs.

As another milestone is reached on the Air Warfare Destroyer program, it is a reminder that we must maintain the tempo of shipbuilding programs to retain as much of the skilled workforce as possible for the Offshore Patrol Vessel and Future Frigate programs, due to start in 2018 and 2020 respectively.

Media Contact: Catherine Bauer 0478 855 367