

Hon Jay Weatherill MP

Premier

Hon Martin Hamilton-Smith MP

Minister for Defence Industries

Monday, 18 April 2016

SA now the home of high-tech manufacturing after securing Offshore Patrol Vessels

South Australians can celebrate today's news that a continuous build strategy will secure the future of naval shipbuilding in Adelaide.

Today's decision to build the first of the Offshore Patrol Vessels in South Australia will ensure a workforce is sustained at ASC ahead of the Future Frigates program, avoiding the so-called 'valley of death'.

The announcement has been welcomed by the Premier and the Minister for Defence Industries and follows a sustained campaign from the State Government to secure a continuous shipbuilding program.

Background

Today, the Commonwealth Government announced:

- First pass approval for the Offshore Patrol Vessels, with construction to begin in Adelaide from 2018, following the completion of the Air Warfare Destroyers. Work to be transferred to Western Australia when the Future Frigate construction begins in Adelaide in 2020. This program is estimated to be worth more than \$3 billion and will create over 400 direct jobs.
- First pass approval for the Future Frigates. The frigates will all be built in Adelaide with construction to commence in 2020. This program is estimated to be worth more than \$35 billion, and will directly create over 2000 jobs.

Quotes attributable to Premier Jay Weatherill

This is a fantastic day for South Australian high tech manufacturing jobs.

We have called for a continuous shipbuilding industry in South Australia and today's announcement from the Prime Minister that we will build the first of the Offshore Patrol Vessels will deliver on those calls.

This is a landmark day when South Australians can say; “we are the nation’s pre-eminent shipbuilders”.

Young people who are thinking about their futures will know that they can pursue careers in defence industries, knowing there are decades worth of high tech jobs waiting for them in South Australia.

As a community, South Australians stood together and fought strongly for a continuous shipbuilding industry and we should be very proud of what we have achieved.

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

In late 2014 the futures of thousands of workers was under a cloud as Australia contemplated an overseas build of submarines, no detail on Future Frigates and no commitment of the location of an Offshore Patrol Vessel build.

Since that time the State Government has been working tirelessly; hand in hand with industry, unions and the community to advocate for a shipbuilding strategy that delivers the desired defence outcomes along with a long-term commitment to Australian industry.

We welcome the announcement and are proud to have stood up for South Australian workers, the industry that underpins the thousands of jobs and the many families who can now breathe easier.

We will be seeking a commitment to today’s announcement in writing, so all South Australians can enter the Federal Election with the knowledge that these promises will be delivered.

It is the smart technology, sensors and combat systems that will go on these ships that will activate high tech manufacturing across South Australia.

The South Australian Government stands ready to work with the Commonwealth to ensure the infrastructure and workforce are in place to support the continuous shipbuilding program.

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