

THE AUSTRALIAN

SPECIAL REPORTS

Queensland: Australia's frontline for defence industries

By STEVEN MILES

12:00am October 30, 2021. Updated 1:41pm October 31, 2021

As the world looks out on an increasingly contested Indo-Asia-Pacific security environment, there's a "corridor of capability" in Queensland stretching from Ipswich in the south to Cairns in the north that will be critical to Australia's future defence industry.

Queensland is home to key suppliers including Airbus, Boeing, Elbit Systems, L3Harris, NIOA, Northrop Grumman, Raytheon, Rheinmetall, SAAB and TAE. These companies support some of the world's leading-edge military platforms and we're proud to have them based in Queensland leading our growing industrial base.

Our defence capabilities stretch right across Queensland. Companies including Thales, Cubic, Flying Colours, Austal, Norship, and Tropical Reef Shipyard are supporting a strong and geographically dispersed military presence.

Queensland is home to more than one third of the Australian Army and we're recognised as a world leader in innovation with advanced manufacturing capabilities.

Launched in 2018, our vision is clearly outlined in the Queensland Defence Industries 10-Year Roadmap and Action Plan, and we've been delivering ever since.

The plan established the Defence and Aerospace Industry Development Fund to help local companies compete for national and international contracts.

We continue to form key partnerships with industry to help leverage our advantages, maximise opportunities, and tap into global supply chains.

One of our most successful partnerships is with Rheinmetall Defence Australia – the local arm of the global defence powerhouse headquartered in Germany.

Following Rheinmetall's historic win in the LAND 400 Phase 2 tender, the government built the Military Vehicle Centre of Excellence (MILVEHCOE) in Ipswich, now the most advanced military vehicle manufacturing facility in Australia.

Rheinmetall shares our vision to establish a sovereign military vehicle capability. The expertise now based at the MILVEHCOE is boosting Queensland's ability to deliver hi-tech defence projects.

As it ramps up to full production, Rheinmetall is creating a 300-strong workforce based at MILVEHCOE, delivering domestic and international contracts and that number is expected to grow.

A technology transfer program has accelerated the delivery of the first 25 of 211 Boxer combat reconnaissance vehicles to the Australian Army.

The program has enabled Rheinmetall's Australian workforce to perfect the manufacturing techniques and assembly line processes.

The MILVEHCOE will now manufacture, sustain and upgrade the Boxers over the long term.

We strongly support Rheinmetall's bid for the LAND 400 Phase 3 project and we believe that beyond the capabilities of the Lynx infantry fighting vehicle, the MILVEHCOE will be a compelling consideration in the tender evaluation. Importantly, Rheinmetall expect this project will create 500 additional jobs.

Regional Queensland is also a key player in our growing defence capabilities.

With support from the Queensland government, Rheinmetall NIOA Munitions is establishing a \$60m shell forging and manufacturing facility in Maryborough.

This one-of-a-kind facility in Australia will produce 30,000 155mm artillery shell cases each year. Nearing completion, it will create 100 new jobs when it becomes operational.

Queensland is committed to ensuring we have the skills base to support our thriving defence industry. We will continue to establish and support programs, partnerships and initiatives that build our expertise and ability to deliver significant projects.

The government has partnered with seven Queensland universities, industry partners, and the Defence Science Technology Group to establish the Queensland Defence Science Alliance. This alliance aims to foster collaborative research and development opportunities.

Strengthening autonomous systems development is the Queensland Flight Test Range at Cloncurry Airport.

As the first of its kind in Australia, the test facility accommodates high-speed and high-altitude performance testing and is capable of beyond visual and extended visual line-of-sight testing of new platforms developed by the commercial sector. We also have the Trusted Autonomous Systems Defence Cooperative Research Centre headquartered here, a \$50m centre to develop drone and robotics technology for the Australian Defence Force.

In addition to Boeing's largest autonomous systems development program outside of the US, Queensland will now be home to the primary final assembly facility for the Boeing Airpower Teaming System, the Loyal Wingman, conditional on orders. It will be the first military aircraft to be designed, engineered and manufactured in Australia for more than 50 years.

The Queensland government not only has a long-term plan to grow defence capability, but we plan to exceed expectations in what we deliver.

Queensland is truly a next-generation defence supplier.

Steven Miles is Queensland Deputy Premier and State Development Minister.

TRENDING



Labor's pre-election green washing is all about deception

Labor's energy deception is staggering and its attempts to avoid accountability before the next election are shameless, but unless these issues about pending new targets and prices are exposed the government will get away with it.

By PETA CREDLIN



'Politics is tough': Trump meets Biden at the White House

The two men met in the Oval Office with the pair emphasising a peaceful handover of power, a moment that stood in contrast to the discord that followed Joe Biden's 2020 victory over Donald Trump.

By TARINI PARTI, ALEX LEARY



All aboard the COP29 gravy train

In what appears to be a wholesale dismissal of human rights, good governance or even the whiff of democratic principles, the last three COP hosting nations have grim track records in each of these categories but have solid claims as money makers.

By JACK THE INSIDER



'They made it excessively difficult': Widow demands action on Cbus delay



'Powerful voice for freedom': Trump appoints Rubio as Secretary of State



Why Cbus is simply the canary in the coalmine

Too big to fail, the battered industry fund Cbus has

When Jamie Bell died of a rare neurological cancer in 2022, Cbus Super forced his devastated widow Karen Redhead to wait 10 excruciating months before paying out his life insurance and superannuation.

By MACKENZIE SCOTT

Marco Rubio will become the first Latino to serve as America's top diplomat, with Donald Trump saying he'll be a 'fearless warrior,' as the president-elect names Matt Gaetz as his Attorney-General.

By ANNE BARROWCLOUGH, AGENCIES

turned the spotlight on the wider failings of big super.

By JAMES KIRBY

SPONSORED CONTENT

5 local hotel meals you can't miss

Every Australian city has its own vibrant twist on culinary culture.

SPONSORED



The remote island you need to visit

Just 1000km off the east coast of Australia you'll find one of Australia's best kept secrets - ...

SPONSORED

