



THE HON. JOEL FITZGIBBON MP Minister for Defence

Saturday, 2 May 2009

THE LARGEST EVER DEFENCE REFORM PROGRAM

As part of the 2009 Defence White Paper, the Government has committed to fundamental and extensive reform of Defence business to improve accountability, planning and productivity in the organisation.

The Minister for Defence, the Hon Joel Fitzgibbon MP, said "The Government is committed to ensuring Defence does its business more effectively and efficiently so the Australian Defence Force has the equipment it needs to deliver the maximum capability for the tax payers' dollars."

These reforms are expected to deliver \$3 billion over the next four years. This money will be reinvested back into frontline capabilities.

The new Strategic Reform Program will provide a vehicle for deep and enduring reform that will ensure the goals of the most comprehensive White Paper ever are delivered.

"In the lead up to every five-yearly White Paper there will be an independent audit to ensure that Defence remains on track and that reform is enduring," Mr Fitzgibbon said.

The reforms will ensure Defence manages cost pressures through a tighter budget process, captures lasting and substantial productivity gains, achieves greater accountability through an outputs-driven budget model, and constructs a Strategic Reform Program that will ensure deep and lasting reform.

"The savings will be delivered by fundamental changes to the way Defence works. The Strategic Reform Program will challenge the preconceptions about how Defence works and will result in a better Defence organisation," Mr Fitzgibbon said.

The Strategic Reform Program will be carefully planned, led and managed on a whole-of-Defence basis. It will draw on the knowledge, skills and commitment from both military and civilian personnel across the organisation.

The 2009 Defence White Paper represents the most comprehensive statement on Defence ever produced. It affirms the Government's

A Defence Force for the 21st Century

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commitment to the defence of Australia, the protection of our sovereign interests and the security and stability of our region.

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