



THE HON. JOEL FITZGIBBON MP Minister for Defence

Saturday, 2 May 2009

ENHANCED SURVIVABILITY AND MOBILITY OF LAND FORCES

The Minister for Defence, the Hon Joel Fitzgibbon MP, today announced the substantial enhancements to the survivability and mobility of our land forces.

“Australia’s 21st century land force must be capable of conducting joint land combat in complex operational environments characterised by increasing lethality and operational uncertainty within the complex environments.”

The Combat Vehicle System will be built and delivered to the Army with an integrated battle management system. This will reinforce Defence’s networking capability, and thus significantly enhancing Army’s and Defence’s situational awareness on the battlefield.

“The Government will provide enhanced land combat survivability through the provision of around 1100 deployable combat vehicle systems,” Mr Fitzgibbon said.

This combat vehicle system will replace existing cavalry vehicles, armoured personnel carriers and other combat vehicles as they reach the end of their operational life.

Mr Fitzgibbon confirmed that the new combat vehicle system will provide greatly improved firepower, protection and mobility. It will also be designed to fight and win close combat engagements in open and complex terrain.

“The Combat Vehicle System will be developed closely alongside other combat and combat support projects to ensure land forces are provided with an integrated combat capability that enhances survivability and mobility enabling the land force to win on the modern battlefield,” Mr Fitzgibbon said.

The 2009 Defence White Paper represents the most comprehensive statement on Defence ever produced. It affirms the Government’s commitment to the defence of Australia, the protection of our sovereign interests and the security and stability of our region.

A Defence Force for the 21st Century

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