



## THE HON. JOEL FITZGIBBON MP Minister for Defence

Saturday, 2 May 2009

### UAV TECHNOLOGY TO PLAY A LARGE ROLE IN THE FUTURE ADF

The Minister for Defence, the Hon. Joel Fitzgibbon MP, today announced the Government's plans to introduce advanced tactical uninhabited aerial vehicle (UAV) systems to provide increased intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance support to deployed land forces.

"The acquisition of a number of advanced tactical Uninhabited Aerial Vehicles will greatly enhance the force protection, mobility and real time situational awareness of our troops on the ground," Mr Fitzgibbon said.

There is a genuine requirement for multiple tiers of tactical Uninhabited Aerial Vehicles to support soldier's operational needs in challenging land combat environments.

These will range from larger Tier II tactical Uninhabited Aerial Vehicles with longer endurance and a wider range of payloads, supporting Brigade and Battalion-sized organisations; through to smaller Tier I man portable systems supporting Company sized elements.

"The use of uninhabited vehicles is reducing the number of lives put at risk and enabling significant increases in the information available to the war fighter. While the vehicles themselves are unmanned, humans remain in control of the vehicles and the mission," Mr Fitzgibbon said.

The White Paper development process identified a broad range of future military applications for tactical Uninhabited Aerial Vehicles, including support to Special Operations tasks, base and air defence missions, communication enhancement, surveillance and reconnaissance flights and support to inspection and search.

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.

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