



THE HON. JOEL FITZGIBBON MP
Minister for Defence

Saturday, 2 May 2009

**GOVERNMENT TO IMPROVE THE MANAGEMENT OF
DEFENCE FORCE PREPAREDNESS**

The Government will improve Defence's preparedness management arrangements to ensure a better alignment between strategic guidance, preparedness goals and Australian Defence Force activity levels the Minister for Defence, the Hon. Joel Fitzgibbon MP announced today.

"This will allow us to control which activities Defence spends its money on, to ensure we get the best bang for the taxpayers bucks," Mr Fitzgibbon said.

"These reforms will optimise the resources available for frontline activities by allowing Defence to control fuel and consumable use within Defence."

Defence will develop a better process for translating preparedness requirements into activity levels, with a view to ensuring that the Australian Defence Force is prepared to do what is required of it by Government, while containing unnecessary costs associated with preparedness and, over the long term, identifying potential savings in this area.

The preparedness management reforms will include the development of a comprehensive preparedness decision support capability, to allow Defence leaders to know the cost of their decisions and refinement of the preparedness management system, to ensure Defence resources are focused on the tasks needed by Government.

"These reforms will shift Defence's focus, ensuring that the ADF is poised to respond to future contingencies in the shifting global environment," 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.

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