

McGOWAN GOVERNMENT — DEFENCE INDUSTRY STRATEGY

Statement by Minister for Defence Issues

MR P. PAPALIA (Warnbro — Minister for Defence Issues) [12.18 pm]: It is with great pleasure that I stand today to inform Parliament of the opening of the South Metropolitan TAFE Naval Base campus and the opening of the Defence Industry Workforce Office, a key commitment of the “Western Australian Defence and Defence Industries Strategic Plan” launched by the McGowan government on 30 October 2018. A first for WA, the plan outlines a strategy to grow this state’s defence industry and make it a key pillar of the WA economy. An integral part of delivering key strategies identified within the strategic plan is the establishment of a dedicated office to provide a coordinated approach to defence workforce planning to ensure that WA meets the workforce needs and the training and education requirements to support the defence industry.

On 1 May, I had the pleasure of joining the Premier and the Minister for Education and Training to officially launch the South Metropolitan TAFE Naval Base campus in Henderson, which will house the new WA Defence Industry Workforce Office. For more than two decades, South Metropolitan TAFE has been working in close partnership with defence to deliver a range of qualifications and courses throughout Western Australia, and nationally, to support the defence industry.

The McGowan government has invested \$2.4 million in the new campus, which will offer a mix of apprentice training and fee-for-service as well as post-trade training. It will also be home to the WA office of the federal government’s Naval Shipbuilding College. The new campus delivers this government’s commitment to support the education and skilling of workers to meet the future needs of the defence industry workforce. The campus will enable current and future staff and students to learn and work in close proximity to key defence stakeholders, employers, industry and the Australian Marine Complex. The new WA Defence Industry Workforce Office will develop a defence workforce development strategy, as well as develop a state-based skills profile for naval shipbuilding.

It will also play a major role in supporting the state’s case for Western Australia to become the principal location for all submarine maintenance and sustainment, creating new jobs and opportunities for Western Australians. The WA Defence Industry Workforce Office and the new South Metropolitan TAFE Naval Base campus will work closely with Defence West to continue to support and champion the defence industry in our state to benefit all Western Australians.