

# 7RAR BATTLE GROUP

## GROWING DEFENCE PRESENCE

The 7th Royal Australian Regiment Battle Group has successfully relocated from Darwin, and formally commenced operations from new purpose-built facilities at RAAF Base Edinburgh in January 2011.

Adelaide was chosen as the Battle Group's new home because of its easy access to transport, training facilities and deep maintenance support, as well as being an attractive location for Defence personnel and their families.

Army's presence at Edinburgh consists of the 7RAR mechanised infantry battalion equipped with upgraded M113 Armoured Personnel Carriers, a mechanised combat engineer squadron, a self-propelled artillery battery, a combat services support team and a detachment from the headquarters of the 1st Brigade.

## HUGE ECONOMIC BENEFIT

The Battle Group's establishment at Edinburgh is providing huge economic opportunities for South Australia and reinforces our position as the *Defence State*.

The relocation will boost the state's population by around 1900 people – including soldiers, their partners and children. A large portion of these will integrate into northern suburb communities creating demand for housing as well as education, childcare, sporting and medical facilities.

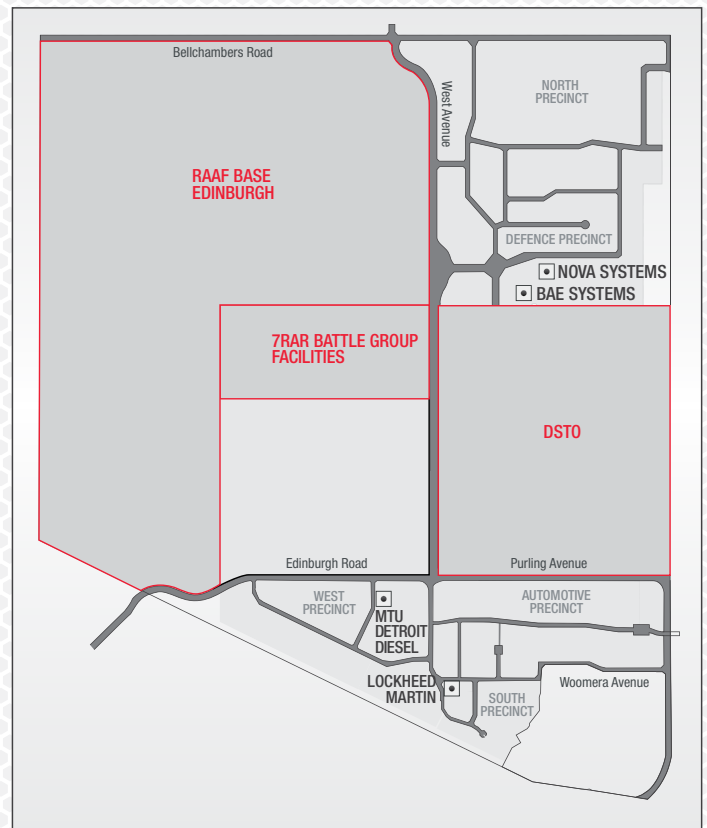
At full operating capacity, the 1100-strong Battle Group is expected to contribute over \$100 million per annum to the South Australian economy and support 1675 jobs on an annual basis.

## GREAT LOCATION

The Edinburgh Defence Precinct is a key national research, manufacturing and sustainment hub. It houses DSTO and RAAF Base Edinburgh, as well as key industry players including BAE Systems Australia, Lockheed Martin Australia, Australian Aerospace, MTU Detroit Diesel and Nova Group.

Transport networks link RAAF Base Edinburgh to existing Army training facilities across South Australia including Woomera, Cultana, Murray Bridge and Port Wakefield.

Edinburgh has been identified as a potential future Defence super base, and land has been reserved for future expansion.



# ARMY BATTLE GROUP RELOCATION

## SIGNIFICANT INVESTMENT

Significant changes are occurring at RAAF Base Edinburgh, including the most extensive reconstruction of any Defence facility in Australia, with around \$750 million being invested by Defence to upgrade or build new facilities.

The majority of these works (some \$600 million) are in support of the 7RAR Battle Group. Works commenced in October 2008 and are well advanced, with Adelaide-based firm Baulderstone the head contractor for the two main construction packages.

The project is scheduled for completion in 2012, with progressive occupation of facilities from December 2010.

New facilities include:

- working accommodation
- state of the art health facility
- combined dining and recreation facility
- substantial fitness centre
- living accommodation
- support facilities.

In addition there have been significant upgrades to the existing Air Force infrastructure at Edinburgh. Additional facilities have also been provided at Murray Bridge and Cultana to support the influx of soldiers to the state.

## HIGH-TECH FACILITIES

The new barracks at Edinburgh include high-tech combat simulation facilities enabling soldiers to maintain high levels of deployable readiness. The new facilities allow soldiers to be networked with other soldiers and vehicles both within and outside the barracks during training. There is also capability to network to other training facilities across Australia and around the world.

## STATE SUPPORT

The South Australian Government, through Defence SA, continues to work closely with Army to ensure a smooth relocation and establishment for 7RAR, with the least disruption to Army's operational plans and Army families.

Dedicated resources are allocated in South Australia's health, education, transport services and employment agencies to support relocating families with state-specific information and to ensure the smooth transition of spouses and children into the community.

Further, the State Government, in conjunction with the cities of Salisbury and Playford, is delivering a \$20 million program of road and rail works to improve connectivity and traffic flow on the existing transport network to support increased Defence activity within the Edinburgh Defence Precinct.

The State Government is also engaging Defence to consider possible future growth at the base as part of holistic planning for the overall Edinburgh Parks industrial area, and town planning for the adjacent Elizabeth Centre.

## PROJECT MILESTONES

<b>December 2005</b>	Australian Government announces relocation of Battle Group to Edinburgh Defence Precinct
<b>October 2008</b>	Construction works commence at Edinburgh
<b>September 2010</b>	7RAR advance party arrives in Adelaide
<b>November 2010</b>	Relocation of 7RAR personnel and family and equipment commences
<b>January 2011</b>	7RAR commences operations at RAAF Base Edinburgh
<b>2012</b>	New facilities at Edinburgh complete
<b>2014</b>	7RAR Battle Group reaches full operating capacity

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