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TECHPORT DEVELOPMENT ON TIME AND ON BUDGET

Premier Mike Rann says about \$250 million in contracts have already been let and more than \$80 million has been spent building the massive Techport Australia shipbuilding facility on the Lefevre Peninsula.

Since construction began in August last year, the project is moving ahead on time, on budget and due to be completed by early 2010.

Mr Rann says there are now more than 200 people on site working to build the Common User Facility at Techport Australia, which is expected to grow to 250 as the project peaks.

“In total the Government will be spending more than \$300 million on developing the whole shipbuilding hub which also includes the supplier precinct, commercial precinct, Maritime Skills Centre and the AWD Systems Centre.

“Work began in August last year, and when it is completed we will have:

- A wharf that is 213 metres long and 25 metres wide;
- A runway and dry berth with a rail based transfer systems allowing movement of modules and completed vessels around the site; and
- A ship lift that is 156 metres long and 34 metres wide, and capable of supporting a vessel of up to 9300 tonnes.

“On average, 2400 tonnes (or 1000 cubic metres) of concrete is being poured at the site every two weeks.

“To date, 11 000 tonnes (or 4600 cubic metres) has been poured.

“There is another 38 640 tonnes (or 16 100 cubic metres) still to be poured for the wharf, ship lift and runway and dry berth.

“The concrete comes from Readymix’s Brompton plant, with some also coming from the company’s Osborne plant.

“More than 2500 piles will have gone into the completed site and to date 1900 piles have been driven into the ground at Techport.

Deputy Premier and Treasurer Kevin Foley says as Techport Australia’s anchor tenant ASC (formerly Australian Submarine Corporation) gears up to build the AWDs, it is spending \$100 million on upgrading its shipyard.

“At its peak, ASC’s new yard will employ 350 workers directly, with new opportunities for our local construction industry,” Mr Foley said.

Some of the local companies on site include:

- Candetti Constructions for building of the Maritime Skills Centre - \$3 million
- Leed Engineering and Construction - \$8.4 million for construction of head works
- Bardavcol - \$5.7 million for site preparation and supply of filling material
- Subcontractors to ship lift supplier Rolls Royce - RPG Australia (\$10 million to supply the steel and build the platform) and Mayfield Engineering (provision of motor control centre), and
- Built Environs is the joint venture partner with McConnell Dowell for the \$180 million Common User Facility construction.