

Premier Jay Weatherill Minister Jack Snelling

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Minister for Defence Industries
Minister for Veterans' Affairs

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Key milestone for Air Warfare Destroyer project

The Air Warfare Destroyer Project has reached a key milestone with the keel laying of the Hobart class AWD Ship 2, Brisbane.

Premier Jay Weatherill said the ceremony marked the commencement of the consolidation of the second warship on the State Government's Techport Australia Common User Facility.

"The keel laying ceremony is an important shipyard and naval tradition, to bring good luck through the construction and life of the ship," Mr Weatherill said.

"It continues the progress on the \$8 billion AWD project, the largest and most complex defence project in Australia.

"The first ship is nearly fully consolidated and blocks are underway for the third ship."

Mr Weatherill said South Australia's \$300 million plus investment in Techport Australia was paying off – for the AWD project and for the thousands of South Australians it employs and for local suppliers.

"Currently, some 1800 people are directly working on the project in Adelaide out of a national workforce of more than 2800 people," he said.

"Using cutting edge technology and innovative manufacturing practices, this project epitomises South Australia's advanced manufacturing future.

"The State Government has invested in Techport Australia to make it a national strategic asset, which will support delivery of Australia's future naval fleet including the massive Future Submarine project."

Defence Industries Minister Jack Snelling said with our world class shipbuilding infrastructure and critical mass of highly skilled workers, South Australia was well positioned to capture a significant share of any future defence work.

"As a nation, we will spend up to \$250 billion building and maintaining naval ships and submarines over the next 30 years," Mr Snelling said.

"This will provide unprecedented opportunities for South Australia as The Defence State and indeed the entire nation.

"We stand ready to support Commonwealth Government policy and project decisions that will hopefully ensure long-term sustainability of Australia's future naval shipbuilding and sustainment capability."

Construction of the AWDs involves the fabrication of 90 separate steel blocks, 30 for each ship, as well as three sonar blocks, one for each ship, at a number of shipyards in Australia and overseas.

ASC in Adelaide is the principal shipbuilder in the project. BAE Systems in Melbourne, Forgacs in Newcastle and Navantia in Spain are also building blocks.

These blocks are being brought together by ASC at the South Australian-owned Techport Australia Common User Facility where the ships are being assembled.

Following consolidation, the destroyers will be launched using Techport Australia's shiplift and then undergo a series of sea trials and tests, prior to their delivery to the Navy.