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Driving defence jobs

The Marshall Liberal Government is investing to drive defence jobs, capitalising on the Federal Government’s $90 billion investment in naval shipbuilding.

The 2018-19 State Budget will deliver on election commitments to establish a defence export program and veterans’ employment initiative.

“The new State Government has a strong focus on growing job opportunities in the defence sector that will exist for decades to come,” said Premier Marshall.

“We have worked constructively with the Federal Government to ensure that South Australia is the base for the $90 billion investment in naval shipbuilding, securing significant defence contracts.

“We are also investing $1.5 million over the next four years to support defence industry export opportunities for South Australian businesses, helping to create more local jobs.

“This includes the establishment of a defence industries scholarships fund in partnership with universities and industry, providing support to attract the biennial Land Forces Conference to Adelaide in 2020, and a further two years funding from 2020-21 to support the important work of the Defence Teaming Centre.

“We are also investing $700,000 over the next four years to support a Defence Industry Employment Program for Ex-Service Personnel.

“This important employment program, operating within the Defence Teaming Centre, will help transition former defence force personnel into civilian defence sector jobs.

“In addition to these measures, the new State Government is also partnering with the Federal Government to deliver skills funding of $202.6 million to create 20,800 new apprenticeships and traineeships in South Australia over the next four years.

“We are investing to build the skilled workforce that will result in thousands of jobs into the future as we take full advantage of the naval shipbuilding contracts.
“We are also abolishing payroll tax for small businesses in South Australia, many of which will play an important role in the supply chain of these massive naval shipbuilding projects.

“The new State Government is lowering the cost of doing business to help South Australian businesses grow, support more local jobs and make the most of the opportunities arising from the Federal Government $90 billion naval shipbuilding investment.”

In order to meet the $715 million savings task by 2021-22 left by the former Labor government and to deliver the new State Government’s priorities, the 2018-19 State Budget includes savings measures in the Defence SA portfolio of $285,000 in 2018-19, increasing to $580,000 per annum (indexed) from 2019-20, which will be realised through the identification of general corporate efficiencies.