



Australian Government

Defence

INTEGRATED INVESTMENT PROGRAM

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Defence acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of Country throughout Australia. Defence recognises their continuing connection to traditional lands and waters and would like to pay respect to their Elders both past and present.

Defence would also like to pay respect to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who have contributed to the defence of Australia in times of peace and war.

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1 Investing in the National Defence Strategy

2026 National Defence Strategy

- 1.1 There is no more important task for the Government than defending Australia and protecting the security, interests and way of life of the Australian people.
- 1.2 Since the 2024 National Defence Strategy, the trends driving the deterioration in Australia's strategic environment have broadened and intensified. We have entered a more dangerous and unpredictable era, characterised by a more overt struggle among states, where thresholds against the use of force are being eroded. The net effect is that Australia will face elevated levels of geopolitical risk over the coming decade and our exposure to force projection and military coercion will reach levels not seen since the Second World War.
- 1.3 The 2026 National Defence Strategy builds on the 2024 National Defence Strategy's direction that Australia should become more self-reliant and take greater responsibility for its own security. Through the 2026 Integrated Investment Program, the Government will continue to deliver the capabilities needed to implement the 2026 National Defence Strategy.
- 1.4 The 2026 National Defence Strategy builds on the foundations of the 2024 National Defence Strategy by:
 - ▶ increasing efforts to develop greater self-reliance over the longer term so Defence can more ably and independently deter force projection against Australia;
 - ▶ prioritising capability acquisition and sustainment plans to deliver the Strategy of Denial, drawing on lessons learned from the war in Ukraine and conflicts in the Middle East;
 - ▶ strengthening the resilience of Australia's sovereign defence industrial base and building stronger, more diverse international industrial partnerships;
 - ▶ improving national civil preparedness and national resilience as part of *National Defence* to help shield Australia from regional or global disruption; and
 - ▶ increasing coordination with regional partners to collectively deter actions inimical to our shared interests and shape a region governed by rights and rules, not fear or force.



- 1.5 The 2026 Integrated Investment Program will continue to deliver the integrated, focused force and the capability effects needed to enable the ADF to deter actions against Australia's interests, shape Australia's strategic environment and respond with credible military force, where required. The design of the integrated, focused force remains centred on introducing minimum viable next-generation capabilities, as soon as possible.
- 1.6 To achieve these objectives, Defence must continue to transition the ADF to an integrated, focused force. This transformation is designed to ensure the ADF can achieve its five Government-directed tasks:
- ▶ **defend** Australia and our immediate region;
 - ▶ **deter** through denial any potential adversary's attempt to project power against Australia through our northern approaches;
 - ▶ **protect** Australia's economic connection to our region and the world;
 - ▶ **contribute** with our partners to the collective security of the Indo-Pacific; and
 - ▶ **contribute** with our partners to protecting and upholding global rules and norms.
- 1.7 The ADF's force structure, including its capabilities, technologies and systems, is designed to deliver six key capability effects to protect and defend Australia and its interests:
- ▶ project force;
 - ▶ hold a potential adversary's forces at risk;
 - ▶ protect ADF forces and supporting critical infrastructure in Australia;
 - ▶ sustain protracted combat operations;
 - ▶ maintain persistent situational awareness in our primary area of military interest; and
 - ▶ achieve decision advantage.

Defence capability investment priorities

1.8 The 2026 Integrated Investment Program will continue to focus on 11 capability investment priorities for the integrated, focused force outlined below.

Capability investment priorities for the integrated, focused force



Undersea warfare



Maritime capabilities for sea denial and localised sea control operations



Targeting and long-range strike



Space and cyber



Amphibious capable combined-arms land system



Expeditionary air operations



Missile defence



Theatre logistics and health



Theatre command and control



Guided weapons and explosive ordnance



Enhanced and resilient northern bases

Note: In addition to these capability priorities, the Integrated Investment Program also outlines investment in the enabling areas of enterprise infrastructure and enterprise data and information and communications technology (ICT) that are needed to support, sustain and inform ADF operations. The Integrated Investment Program also outlines the Government's approach to naval shipbuilding, which supports multiple capability priorities.



1.9 In light of an increasingly dangerous and unpredictable geostrategic environment, advances in military technology and the changing character of war, the Government has further increased the level of investment in defence capability over the decade. The 2026 Integrated Investment Program will support efforts to deliver the 2026 National Defence Strategy with greater self-reliance, strengthen the resilience of Australia's sovereign defence industrial base and build stronger, more diverse international industrial partnerships and supply chains. The 2026 Integrated Investment Program includes new or reprioritised investment to:

- ▶ deliver an **enhanced undersea warfare capability**, supported by a sovereign fleet of conventionally-armed, nuclear-powered submarines, upgraded communications and command and control systems and investment in existing seabed and undersea warfare capabilities that protect critical undersea infrastructure;
- ▶ accelerate the delivery of more lethal **maritime capabilities** in ways that expand opportunities for Australia's **naval shipbuilding and sustainment** enterprise. This includes increased investment to advance the acquisition and build of the upgraded Mogami class general purpose frigates, the construction of landing craft medium and heavy for Army and the establishment of the Henderson Defence Precinct to support continuous naval shipbuilding and sustainment, including for AUKUS, in Western Australia. The establishment of the Submarine Construction Yard at Osborne, South Australia to build SSN-AUKUS and new investment to replace Navy's Hobart class destroyers in the 2040s will also support continuous naval shipbuilding. These investments support efforts to increase Australia's self-reliance and strengthen the resilience of Australia's sovereign defence industrial base;
- ▶ enhance Australia's Guided Weapons and Explosive Ordnance (GWEO) enterprise as well as expand stockpiles of **long-range strike capabilities** across the integrated, focused force. This responds to the proliferation of long-range strike capabilities and lessons from conflicts in Ukraine and the Middle East that underscore the necessity of domestic manufacturing capability, maintaining sufficient stockpiles and the ability to scale. New investment will support national resilience by prioritising the acquisition of weapons manufactured in Australia and the sovereign development of a hypersonic strike capability;
- ▶ accelerate the introduction of **integrated air and missile defence** capabilities to enhance protection against advanced aircraft and missiles. This includes new investment in a medium-range, ground-based air defence system, with opportunities for Australian defence industry involvement;

- ▶ expand the adoption of **autonomous and uncrewed systems** across the land, air and maritime domains with a focus on sovereign defence industry and harnessing Australian innovation. This investment reflects lessons from conflicts in Ukraine and the Middle East that these cheaper, attributable systems can generate significant asymmetric advantage against larger more expensive platforms. New investment, calibrated to our strategic circumstances, will enable the proliferation of autonomous systems to support force projection, logistics, mine countermeasures and intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance missions;
- ▶ concurrently field sovereign **counter-uncrewed air systems** to protect Australian sites, events and critical infrastructure from autonomous and uncrewed systems, in a cost-effective and sustainable way. This will include longer-term investment in directed energy weapons; and
- ▶ deliver a **resilient, multi-orbit satellite communications** capability optimised for operations in the Indo-Pacific that reflects advances in technology and grows opportunities for sovereign Australian defence industry involvement over time.

1.10 The 2026 Integrated Investment Program also seeks to provide additional, targeted investment to uplift the ADF's sustainment and preparedness. Investment is targeted towards assuring availability, lethality and interoperability of credible military capabilities. The 2026 Integrated Investment Program includes new or reprioritised investment to:

- ▶ upgrade, sustain and maintain Navy's existing Collins class submarines and increase the lethality and availability of Navy's surface combatant fleet;
- ▶ upgrade, sustain and maintain Air Force's existing F-35A Joint Strike Fighter, F/A-18F Super Hornet, E-18G Growler, KC-30A multi-role tanker transport and P-8A Poseidon aircraft to increase their capability and lethality;
- ▶ enhance pilot training systems, including the delivery of a new lead-in fighter aircraft training system to replace the existing Hawk 127 training aircraft and enable the next-generation of Australian fighter pilots;
- ▶ maintain robust security of Defence's information, communication and technology (ICT) systems to detect and respond to cyber threats, as well as investments in secure information architecture to support targeting and intelligence functions;



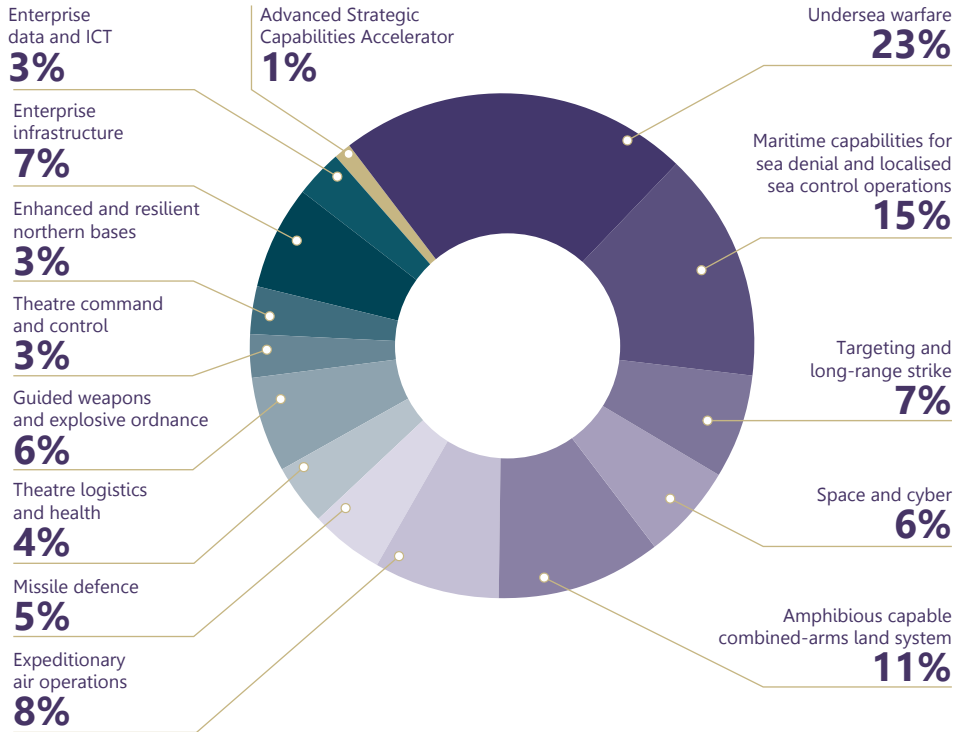
- ▶ enhance and sustain the defence estate to increase Defence preparedness and readiness and support ADF training and operations, including ongoing investment in Australia's northern bases; and
 - ▶ enhance health materiel and treatment systems.
- 1.11 The 2026 Integrated Investment Program includes additional funding beyond the Forward Estimates towards future capabilities. This funding will enable Defence to support flexible program management and capability prioritisation. It includes funding for minor projects, experimentation, innovation, research, testing and evaluation. This has been adopted as part of a suite of Defence budget and governance reforms to provide flexibility where precision of investment in future capability platforms is not yet known. It enables Defence to support innovation and ensure we can invest in emerging technologies at the speed of relevance.
- 1.12 The Government has undertaken further reprioritisation within the 2026 Integrated Investment Program to progress projects that are critical to delivering the integrated, focused force and grow sovereign industrial capability. This includes necessary decisions to cancel, divest, delay or re-scope projects or activities that are less critical to delivering the integrated, focused force that our strategic circumstances require.
- 1.13 The Integrated Investment Program will continue to be revised in line with each biennial National Defence Strategy. This will ensure our investment plans take account of developments in our strategic environment and rapid advances in technology.

Funding the integrated, focused force

- 1.14 Through the 2026 National Defence Strategy, the Government has reaffirmed the longstanding practice of providing a 10-year funding model for Defence. This funding model will provide Defence, including the Australian Signals Directorate, the Australian Submarine Agency and the Australian Naval Nuclear Power Safety Regulator, with total funding of \$887 billion to 2035-36.
- 1.15 Building on the foundations laid by the 2024 National Defence Strategy, the Government is investing an additional \$14 billion over the next four years and \$53 billion over the next 10 years in the 2026 Integrated Investment Program through Defence funding, net proceeds from estate divestment and alternative financing where feasible and there is value for money.
- 1.16 This brings the additional investment from the 2024 National Defence Strategy and the 2026 National Defence Strategy to a total of \$30 billion over the next four years and \$117 billion over the decade to 2035-36. In line with the common methodology adopted by NATO allies to measure defence expenditure, Defence funding is now projected to rise to approximately 3.0 per cent of GDP by 2033-34.
- 1.17 The total funding of \$887 billion over the decade includes around \$425 billion in allocated funding for the capabilities set out in the 2026 Integrated Investment Program. This compares to \$330 billion in investment for the decade to 2033-34 through the 2024 National Defence Strategy and around \$270 billion for the decade to 2029-30 when the 2020 Defence Strategic Update was released.
- 1.18 Chart 1 shows the breakdown of investment across the capability priority areas, including essential enabling capabilities and the Advanced Strategic Capabilities Accelerator (ASCA). Collectively, investment in these capability priorities will enable the delivery of the 2026 National Defence Strategy and continue to shift the ADF to an integrated, focused force.



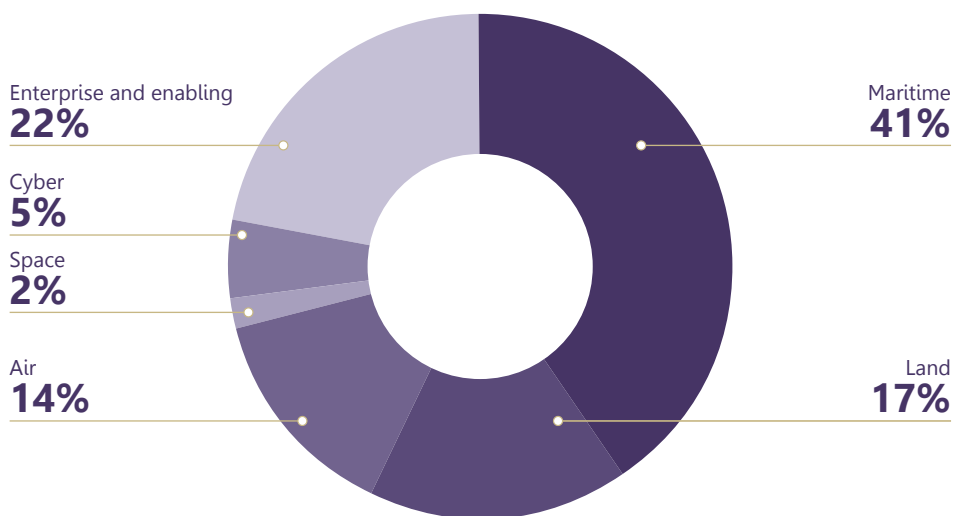
Chart 1: Proportional investment for the decade 2026-2036 by capability priority



Note: For Chart 1, individual investments have been solely attributed based on an assessment of the capability priority to which they will contribute most. The percentages provided in Chart 1 should not be seen as an upper limit to investment within any particular capability priority, as many projects will contribute to multiple capability priorities. For example, maritime capabilities for sea denial and localised sea control operations includes planned investments that also contribute to other capability effects, such as missile defence and targeting and long-range strike. Investments in the naval shipbuilding and sustainment enterprise have been included within the capability priorities it directly supports, including undersea warfare and maritime capabilities for sea denial and localised sea control. Percentages have been rounded to the nearest whole number, and as such, Charts 1 and 2 may not add up to 100 per cent in their totality.

1.19 Chart 2 shows a breakdown of investments across the five domains of maritime, land, air, space and cyber, as well as Defence's enterprise and enabling functions for the next decade.

Chart 2: Proportional investment for the decade 2026-2036 by domain



Note: For Chart 2, investments have been attributed according to the domain in which projects are managed and delivered, rather than according to the future capability priority to which they will contribute most. The use of this narrower framework, underpinned by different assumptions relative to Chart 1, results in some differences in attribution. For example, some planned investments attributed to Land in Chart 2 have been attributed to Targeting and long-range strike in Chart 1.

- 1.20 While these charts provide a useful basis for comparing planned investment, it is important to note that the development of an integrated, focused force requires sustained investment across multiple capability priorities and the five domains. For example, delivering an enhanced lethality surface combatant fleet and submarines, as well as Army's littoral manoeuvre capabilities, enables continuous naval shipbuilding.
- 1.21 The 2026 National Defence Strategy acknowledges the need to leverage all forms of investment and financing to deliver defence capability at the scale and pace required. This can include equity-based financing through Commonwealth bodies such as specialist direct investment vehicles and government business enterprises, as well as private financing. Alternative financing, where appropriate and feasible, can present advantages in delivery models, accessing private sector expertise and supporting the sovereign defence industrial base while maintaining responsible budget management. Partnering with the private sector can help manage and balance large upfront capital outlays and better align delivery milestones, performance outcomes and asset utilisation. These mechanisms also provide options for the Government to pursue receipts for goods and services provided outside of the Commonwealth.



- 1.22 The Government has identified approximately \$5 billion over the forward estimates and \$15 billion over the decade in projects for which Defence will prioritise developing alternative financing delivery options as part of the additional investment in the 2026 National Defence Strategy. This includes projects in the Defence estate, consolidation of the Henderson Defence Precinct and the development of the GWEO enterprise.

Reforming Defence capability development and delivery

- 1.23 Reforms to Defence's capability development and delivery functions are essential to delivering the capabilities required by the integrated, focused force to contribute to *National Defence*.
- 1.24 The establishment of the Defence Delivery Agency will integrate three existing Defence capability delivery groups: Capability Acquisition and Sustainment Group, GWEO Group and Naval Shipbuilding and Sustainment Group. These foundational reforms will drive better budget management, cost estimation and project assurance to strengthen capability delivery. The focus is on improving accountability and clarifying organisational structures to streamline decision-making and prioritisation in the delivery of the integrated, focused force.
- 1.25 The Defence Delivery Agency will be stood up in July 2027 and led by the National Armaments Director, who will report directly to Ministers. The National Armaments Director will play a crucial role in providing advice to the Government on acquisition strategies and delivery of acquisition and sustainment projects.
- 1.26 The Government will consolidate Defence's capability development functions under the Vice Chief of the Defence Force to support prioritisation and streamline decision-making and accountability for new capability proposals. This will ensure that new capability proposals are strongly aligned to the requirements of the integrated, focused force.

2026 Defence Industry Development Strategy

- 1.27 Defence industrial resilience underpins national resilience and supports national productivity, innovation and economic security. The credibility of the 2026 Integrated Investment Program depends on the ADF possessing the right capabilities at the right time to address the nation's most significant strategic risks. It also requires Australia to have the domestic industrial capacity to adapt, sustain and replenish defence capabilities in the event of conflict.

- 1.28 In order to achieve the objectives set out in the 2026 National Defence Strategy, Australia must increase our self-reliance over time by growing our sovereign defence industrial capability and capacity.
- 1.29 Delivering the sovereign defence industrial base Australia needs is a long-term undertaking, requiring sustained investment and deliberate government prioritisation of the areas most critical for *National Defence*. This requires weighting investment toward the sovereign defence industrial capabilities that can produce, adapt, sustain and replenish the most critical lethal systems and munitions to ensure the credibility of our deterrence and support rapid force expansion in the event of a conflict. It will also require a genuinely collaborative approach between government, industry and workers and unions.
- 1.30 The Government will coordinate policy levers to shape the structure of our sovereign defence industrial base. This includes the *Future Made in Australia* agenda, defence acquisition and sustainment, developing defence export opportunities, international industrial collaboration, commercialising research and development, trade relations and foreign direct investment.
- 1.31 Australian industry is proving its ability to support not only ADF requirements, but the needs of international partners through defence exports of major systems. This is important to enable industrial depth and adaptability. The Government will continue to advocate for the sale of select Australian-made capabilities, supported by the Australian Defence Strategic Sales Office.
- 1.32 The Government will continue to pursue co-development, co-production and co-sustainment programs with key allies and partners in the areas most critical for our future defence needs. Through early engagement in such programs, the ADF's requirements, as well as Australian suppliers, can be integrated into future capabilities and supply chains at the earliest possible stage. This supports Australia's national security, more robust and resilient global supply chains and the overall health and commercial viability of Australia's sovereign defence industrial base.
- 1.33 The forthcoming 2026 Defence Industry Development Strategy will distil the strategic guidance from the 2026 National Defence Strategy and the subsequent capability priorities in the 2026 Integrated Investment Program to update the seven Sovereign Defence Industrial Priorities outlined in the 2024 Defence Industry Development Strategy. It will also provide further detail on how the Government will build, grow and sustain the sovereign defence industrial base that Australia needs.



A highly skilled and integrated workforce

- 1.34 The Government's investment in a highly skilled ADF and Defence civilian workforce across the coming decade remains critical to the successful delivery and operation of the capabilities set out in the 2026 Integrated Investment Program. Defence is focused on recruitment, retention and skilling initiatives to grow and diversify the workforce to become an even more attractive employer.
- 1.35 Since the 2024 National Defence Strategy, Defence has delivered a suite of tangible workforce reforms, addressing immediate needs by increasing recruitment and retention numbers across all three services. Defence has stabilised workforce recruitment and retention by improving ADF inflows and retaining existing, highly skilled personnel. In addition to addressing the ADF's immediate workforce needs, Defence has strengthened its recruitment pipeline by expanding offers of continuation bonuses and delivering significant culture and wellbeing reforms, reflecting the Government's response to the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide. The Government has also expanded recruitment of non-Australian citizens into the ADF, commencing with Five Eyes nations and Papua New Guinea.
- 1.36 The Government will continue to grow and develop the Defence workforce to deliver credible military capabilities that deter military coercion, contribute to collective deterrence and prepare for future challenges. The Government remains committed to a permanent ADF of 69,000 personnel by the early 2030s, with continual growth to achieve a permanent ADF and Australian Public Service combined workforce of around 100,000 by 2040.
- 1.37 The 2026 National Defence Strategy outlines eight strategic workforce tasks that enable Defence to meet the Government's commitment to grow and develop the Defence workforce. The forthcoming 2026 Defence Workforce Plan will set out the detailed actions required to achieve the Government's workforce targets over the next biennial National Defence Strategy cycle.
- 1.38 Defence will uplift the capacity of ADF personnel to support preparedness. This includes strengthening of the ADF Reserve to enable force expansion. Defence will ensure the recommendations of the 2024 Strategic Review of the ADF Reserves continue to be implemented at pace.
- 1.39 Workforce remains at the heart of delivering the sovereign defence industrial base to support *National Defence* activities. The forthcoming 2026 Defence Industry Development Strategy will outline measures to support industry to grow and train its workforce. This will be supported by deep collaboration between the Commonwealth and state and territory governments, in consultation with defence industry, unions and education providers, to build Australia's defence industry workforce in priority areas.

Defence innovation, science and technology

- 1.40 Innovation, science and technology is a critical component of defence capability. Defence's ability to adopt and integrate new and emerging technologies will shape the effectiveness of the integrated, focused force over the coming decade.
- 1.41 Investment in innovation, science and technology provides pathways to accelerate capability development and build asymmetric advantage that can increase our ability to deter and respond to larger and more capable adversaries. It also enables Defence to contribute world-leading, sovereign capabilities to international partnerships.
- 1.42 The 2026 Integrated Investment Program will drive new technology solutions, accelerate technology maturity and support capability delivery. This includes embracing greater risk in how we rapidly pull through emerging and disruptive technologies and accelerate capability delivery. Further details will be provided in the forthcoming 2026 Defence Innovation, Science and Technology Strategy.
- 1.43 The 2026 National Defence Strategy updates the six priorities for Defence innovation, science and technology identified in the 2024 National Defence Strategy and the 2024 Defence Innovation, Science and Technology Strategy. These have evolved to reflect the changing technology landscape:
- ▶ long-range fires and hypersonic weapons;
 - ▶ high-energy lasers;
 - ▶ autonomous systems;
 - ▶ quantum technologies;
 - ▶ artificial intelligence; and
 - ▶ undersea warfare.
- 1.44 There is significant investment in new and emerging technologies through the 2026 Integrated Investment Program, including:
- ▶ highly advanced, extremely capable autonomous and uncrewed systems that represent the cutting-edge in disruptive technology. This includes the MQ-28A Ghost Bat collaborative combat aircraft – the first aircraft designed, developed and built in Australia in 50 years; the MQ-4C Triton intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance remotely piloted aircraft system; the Australian-designed and built Ghost Shark uncrewed underwater vehicle; and the Bluebottle uncrewed surface vessel;



- ▶ accelerated technological developments in countering small uncrewed air systems, including partnering with industry to enhance the ADF's ability to detect and defend against uncrewed air systems. These investments leverage Australian industry innovation to enhance the ADF's ability to detect and defend against uncrewed air systems;
- ▶ smaller, low-cost and expendable robotic and autonomous systems for deployment in large numbers in the maritime, land and air domains;
- ▶ the development of advanced intelligence, surveillance, reconnaissance and early warning sensors, as well as the Jindalee Operational Radar Network, advanced radar technologies, space-based sensors and geospatial intelligence capabilities;
- ▶ accelerated hypersonic missile technology development, including working with the United Kingdom and the United States through AUKUS Pillar II; and
- ▶ tactical electronic warfare capabilities being rapidly acquired and integrated at the Army brigade and battalion level.

1.45 All weapons and weapon systems acquired by Defence will comply with Australia's domestic and international legal obligations and will be subject to legal reviews prior to employment in accordance with Article 36 of Additional Protocol 1 of the Geneva Conventions. Defence continues to undertake rigorous assessments on a case-by-case basis of each defence export application to ensure compliance with relevant legislation and Australia's domestic and international legal obligations.

The AUKUS Pillar II technology partnership

- 1.46 The 2026 Integrated Investment Program includes projects dedicated to the delivery of AUKUS Pillar II – Advanced Capabilities.
- 1.47 AUKUS Pillar II is harnessing developments in cutting-edge technologies with the United Kingdom and the United States to deliver asymmetric advantage to our defence forces, as well as bolstering industry and innovation sector collaboration.
- 1.48 This collaboration is focused on near-term warfighting objectives. AUKUS Pillar II is advancing the development of priority capabilities across the three nations' militaries that are integrated by design, increasing the interchangeability of our systems and platforms in ways that are a force multiplier. This includes advancements in:
- ▶ **undersea warfare** – to protect our critical undersea infrastructure and to support anti-submarine warfare, Defence is utilising artificial intelligence to assist in the detection and identification of targets. This complements ongoing

work to enhance interoperability and interchangeability of intelligence-led undersea and seabed warfare technologies, such as autonomous and uncrewed underwater systems. For example, AUKUS partners continue to develop advanced artificial intelligence algorithms that are being used operationally to process large volumes of anti-submarine data from each nation's sonobuoys, supporting our operators' decision-making;

- ▶ **hypersonic and counter-hypersonic capabilities** – to hold time-critical and heavily defended targets at risk from increased ranges. The Hypersonic Flight Test and Experimentation Project will enable all three nations to accelerate development, testing and evaluation of innovative hypersonic systems. This will include multiple test flights across all nations to accelerate the development of hypersonic concepts and critical enabling technologies;
- ▶ **artificial intelligence and autonomy** – sharing and harmonising artificial intelligence algorithms between AUKUS partners to improve performance and enhance the speed and precision of decision-making. In 2025, AUKUS artificial intelligence models were integrated into autonomous and robotic systems to conduct intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance and simulate strike missions against a range of targets, all with a human in the loop;
- ▶ **electronic warfare** – including the development of electronic warfare tools, techniques and technologies. ASCA launched the first AUKUS Electronic Warfare Innovation Challenge in 2024 to leverage electromagnetic spectrum technologies and capabilities. Australian Challenge winners, PentenAmio and Advanced Design Technology, demonstrated their next-generation electronic warfare capabilities during an AUKUS Pillar II Maritime Big Play exercise in February 2026;
- ▶ **quantum technologies** – including the development of advanced quantum capabilities for positioning, navigation and timing. This will reduce all three nations' reliance on Global Positioning System satellites, thereby increasing the resilience of our platforms. For example, in 2025, AUKUS partners successfully trialled quantum clocks, to test their performance and potential for defence applications, including communication and navigation systems; and
- ▶ **advanced cyber** – focused on strengthening cyber capabilities, including the protection of critical communications and operations systems used by the ADF. For example, AUKUS partners are supporting critical suppliers in the supply chain to uplift their cyber security and strengthen their defences against cyber espionage and sabotage.



The Advanced Strategic Capabilities Accelerator

- 1.49 Through the 2026 Integrated Investment Program, the Government is investing up to \$4.3 billion over the next decade in ASCA – a critical pillar of Defence’s innovation, science and technology agenda. This includes rapidly prototyping, scaling and translating innovative technologies into capabilities that support the delivery of the 2026 National Defence Strategy. To support this, in 2025, ASCA transitioned to the Vice Chief of the Defence Force Group to ensure investments are directly informed by operational needs.
- 1.50 ASCA’s mission is to accelerate the development and transition of asymmetric capabilities to the ADF through innovation in order to meet Defence’s priority needs. Its work directly supports a coherent, sustainable and employable integrated, focused force.
- 1.51 Through more than 125 contracts worth over \$400 million, ASCA has accelerated the maturation of advanced asymmetric technologies, including undersea navigation, maritime autonomy, electronic warfare, counter-small uncrewed air systems and precision strike technologies. ASCA’s partnerships with sovereign industry, academia and international technology ecosystems have broadened national capability, strengthened industrial depth and enhanced technological resilience.
- 1.52 ASCA will continue to support the co-development of priority capabilities identified through AUKUS Pillar II, leveraging the respective strengths of each country’s innovation organisations and industrial base.

Advanced Strategic Capabilities Accelerator – innovation through speed

ASCA has brought a disciplined focus to Defence innovation and strengthened the ADF's ability to adopt new capability approaches at speed and scale. ASCA is successfully leveraging its programs to address Defence operational capability needs to field future disruptive capability.

ASCA Missions are typically time-bound to no more than three years with clear performance targets to deliver capability into the hands of the warfighter. Since 2025, ASCA has launched several missions, including:

- ▶ Mission Syracuse, with investments over \$45 million to develop counter-small uncrewed air systems for the ADF;
- ▶ Mission Talon-Strike, focused on developing a medium-range precision loitering munition capability for Army. In October 2025, ASCA invested \$20.8 million with an Australian-based company, Innovaero, to certify and deliver this capability; and
- ▶ Mission Black Thorn, focused on rapid development of technology to degrade integrated air and missile defence systems of potential adversaries. In 2025, ASCA invested over \$61.5 million in two Australian-based companies through 12-month contracts to develop and deliver this capability.



The Innovation Incubation Program identifies and supports innovations that can be rapidly adapted, tested and demonstrated. Since 2024, ASCA has launched the following challenges:

- ▶ the 2024 AUKUS Electronic Warfare Innovation Challenge to leverage electromagnetic spectrum technologies and capabilities. Contracts were awarded to two Australian companies with a combined value of \$8 million;
- ▶ the 2025 AUKUS Maritime Innovation Challenge to develop technologies for undersea communications and control of autonomous systems, which will see three Australian companies awarded with contracts worth over \$6 million for demonstration in 2026; and
- ▶ the 2025 Undersea Navigation Challenge to develop capabilities that will enable autonomous underwater vehicles to operate in GPS-denied environments, which will see three companies awarded with contracts worth over \$6 million for demonstration in 2026.

The Emerging and Disruptive Technologies Program invests in long-term research and development partnerships for new technologies or asymmetric or accelerated improvements to existing capabilities. The program identifies potential emerging technologies that could become the focus of future ASCA missions.

Under the Emerging and Disruptive Technologies Program, ASCA has invested over \$125 million in contracts with industry and academia to conduct research that will strengthen Defence's decision advantage capabilities, information warfare and quantum technologies.





2

2 Undersea Warfare

- 2.1 The Government is investing \$94-\$130 billion over the decade to deliver undersea warfare capabilities. This includes ongoing investments to acquire conventionally-armed, nuclear-powered submarines under AUKUS, sustain and extend the life of Navy's Collins class submarine fleet and continue to rapidly acquire uncrewed and undersea warfare support systems.

Conventionally-armed, nuclear-powered submarines

- 2.2 Through the AUKUS partnership, the Government is investing \$71-\$96 billion over the decade in conventionally-armed, nuclear-powered submarines and related infrastructure. This represents the largest single defence capability investment in Australian history and will grow Australia's sovereign ability to build, operate and sustain conventionally-armed, nuclear-powered submarines and support continued design work on SSN-AUKUS. The Government is resourcing the Australian Submarine Agency, the Australian Naval Nuclear Power Safety Regulator and other Commonwealth agencies, in recognition of AUKUS being a whole-of-nation undertaking.
- 2.3 The AUKUS Pillar I Optimal Pathway sets out the trilaterally agreed roadmap to deliver an enduring and sovereign conventionally-armed, nuclear-powered submarine capability for Australia.
- ▶ **Phase one** of the Optimal Pathway is well underway. Australian military and civilian personnel are widely embedded with the United Kingdom and United States navies and submarine industrial bases. The United States has increased nuclear-powered submarine port visits to Australia, with six visits conducted since 2023, at the time of publication. The United Kingdom has also begun port visits to Australia under the Optimal Pathway, commencing with the February 2026 arrival of HMS *Anson* for a submarine maintenance period. In addition, around 200 Royal Australian Navy personnel are currently undertaking training or serving at sea with the United Kingdom and United States nuclear-powered submarine crews.



- ▶ As early as 2027, the United States and the United Kingdom will commence rotations of up to four United States Virginia class submarines and up to one United Kingdom Astute class submarine at HMAS *Stirling* in Western Australia to establish Submarine Rotational Force – West (SRF-West). SRF-West will support Australia to build the necessary operational and industrial capabilities and skills to be sovereign ready and capable of safely owning, operating, sustaining and regulating a fleet of conventionally-armed, nuclear-powered submarines from the early 2030s.
- ▶ Under **Phase two** of the Optimal Pathway, Australia will acquire three United States Virginia class submarines from the early 2030s, with the option to seek approval for a further two, if required. Acquiring Virginia class submarines will provide Australia with a sovereign conventionally-armed, nuclear-powered submarine capability that will be operated by the Royal Australian Navy.
- ▶ **Phase three** of the Optimal Pathway involves the delivery of the Australian-built SSN-AUKUS. SSN-AUKUS will be trilaterally developed based on the United Kingdom’s next-generation design and will incorporate technology from all three nations, supported by Australia’s sovereign industrial base. Australia will commence building its first SSN-AUKUS at the Osborne Naval Shipyard in South Australia by the end of this decade, with the first Australian-built SSN-AUKUS to be delivered to Navy in the early 2040s.

- 2.4 The uplift in Australian industrial capability to support the acquisition and sustainment of the conventionally-armed, nuclear-powered submarine fleet is unprecedented and is a whole-of-nation undertaking. There are significant opportunities across Defence and related industries, as well as research, education and training institutions, to meet the demands of the conventionally-armed, nuclear-powered submarine program. AUKUS Pillar I also requires collaboration across Commonwealth, state and territory governments and with industry and its workforce.
- 2.5 Importantly, Australia, the United Kingdom and the United States will progress Australia’s acquisition of conventionally-armed, nuclear-powered submarines in a way that sets the highest non-proliferation standards and maintains the integrity and strength of the non-proliferation regime.
- 2.6 Defence’s conventionally-armed, nuclear-powered submarine acquisition will occur within the framework of Australia’s safeguards agreements with the International Atomic Energy Agency in a manner fully consistent with AUKUS partners’ respective non-proliferation obligations and commitments.

The path to sovereign ready

The Government's generational investment in conventionally-armed, nuclear-powered submarines has delivered key milestones and reforms.

Since 2024, Navy and Australian industry have conducted historic maintenance on both Royal Navy and United States Navy nuclear-powered submarines, through both a submarine tendered maintenance period and submarine maintenance periods. Navy and Australian industry have played a key role in sustaining and maintaining nuclear-powered submarines, building Australia's sovereign capability and capacity.

These maintenance periods are a tangible demonstration of AUKUS partners' commitment and ability to deliver a conventionally-armed, nuclear-powered submarine capability for Australia.

Through the Government-funded Defence Industry Vendor Qualification Program, Australian industry has demonstrated its ability to qualify to supply parts for United States Virginia class submarines, with the first company achieving qualified status in November 2025. This helps alleviate pressure in AUKUS partners' supply chains and grows the collective capacity of the trilateral industrial base, while also accelerating Australia's efforts to be sovereign ready to own and operate our own conventionally-armed, nuclear-powered submarines.

The Defence Industry Vendor Qualification Program is a rigorous and comprehensive supplier qualification process being progressively rolled out across a wide range of product types that directly contribute to submarine construction and sustainment. It is complemented by the Australian Submarine Supplier Qualification Program, which qualifies Australian companies to join the Huntington Ingalls Industries and Babcock global supply chains.



Infrastructure for conventionally-armed, nuclear-powered submarines

- 2.7 Infrastructure is a critical enabler of Australia's ability to support rotations of the United Kingdom and United States nuclear-powered submarines from HMAS *Stirling* from 2027, operate Australian Virginia class submarines from the early 2030s and begin construction of SSN-AUKUS at the Osborne Naval Shipyard in South Australia by the end of this decade.
- 2.8 In September 2025, the Government announced an additional \$12 billion in new funding towards delivering the Henderson Defence Precinct for both continuous naval shipbuilding and sustainment and nuclear-powered submarine sustainment in Western Australia. This new funding builds upon other investments to establish depot-level maintenance and contingency docking capabilities at the Henderson Defence Precinct, which are critical to Australia's delivery of the Optimal Pathway. Progress is key to ensuring Australia is ready to receive the first Virginia class submarine in the early 2030s.
- 2.9 Following Government and environmental approvals, main construction works at HMAS *Stirling* commenced in August 2025. As part of the Government's \$8 billion investment, these upgrades will ensure the safe and secure operation of nuclear-powered submarines at and from SRF-West as early as 2027.
- 2.10 Work at Osborne Naval Shipyard to deliver Australia's SSN-AUKUS is also well underway. Since 2024, the Government has approved more than \$3.9 billion in investment for Defence infrastructure at the new Osborne Submarine Construction Yard as part of a broader projected \$30 billion investment in Osborne over the coming decades, to be delivered by Australian Naval Infrastructure. The delivery of the Osborne Submarine Construction Yard for the build of Australia's SSN-AUKUS will make Osborne Naval Shipyard one of the most advanced technology hubs in the world and the only nuclear-powered submarine construction yard in the southern hemisphere.
- 2.11 Further detail on the Government's investment in infrastructure to support the acquisition of conventionally-armed, nuclear-powered submarines is detailed at Chapter 4: Naval Shipbuilding and Sustainment Enterprise.

Collins class submarines

- 2.12 Australia's transition to conventionally-armed, nuclear-powered submarines is underpinned by the ongoing availability of the Collins class submarine fleet.
- 2.13 The Government is investing \$7.8-\$11 billion over the decade to ensure Navy's Collins class submarines remain a potent strike and deterrent capability. The Collins life-of-type extension program includes investments in:
- ▶ ongoing sustainment, including the full-cycle docking of Collins class submarines to undertake deep maintenance and selected capability upgrades, cognisant of the material state of each submarine, to ensure the operational viability of the Collins class into the 2040s; and
 - ▶ the skilled workforce and infrastructure at Osborne Naval Shipyard in South Australia and at the Henderson Defence Precinct in Western Australia to sustain the Collins class fleet.

Undersea warfare and uncrewed maritime systems

- 2.14 Uncrewed and undersea warfare capabilities are a force multiplier for crewed platforms and enhance the agility, asymmetry and survivability of the ADF. These capabilities will support the ADF's maritime intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance and enhance its ability to detect and strike at long-range.
- 2.15 The Government is investing \$4.8-\$5.8 billion over the decade to continue to develop and acquire cost-effective autonomous and uncrewed undersea warfare capabilities. This includes:
- ▶ a fleet of extra-large autonomous undersea vehicles – known as Ghost Shark – to conduct intelligence, surveillance, reconnaissance, strike and logistics operations for extended periods and at long-range. Ghost Shark is being delivered in partnership between Defence and Anduril Australia;
 - ▶ a fleet of large uncrewed underwater vehicles – known as Speartooth. Speartooth is capable of conducting shorter range intelligence, surveillance, reconnaissance, strike and logistics operations at sea. Due to its smaller size and lower unit cost, Speartooth is optimised for seabed warfare and agile undersea operations, reaching areas Ghost Shark cannot; and



- ▶ a fleet of uncrewed surface vessels – known as Bluebottle. The Bluebottle will provide persistent surface and sub-surface surveillance. It can carry payloads and operate as part of a teamed, integrated maritime force. Powered by the sun, wind and waves, the Bluebottle can cover long distances, undertake a variety of missions and remain at sea for extended periods. In March 2026, the Government announced the Bluebottle fleet would be expanded to 55 vessels, giving Australia one of the world's largest sovereign uncrewed surface vessel fleets. This investment will boost opportunities for Australian industry as production scales.
- 2.16 The dedicated undersea support vessel *ADV Guidance* will continue to provide support to undersea surveillance systems trials, including through the ability to deploy undersea crewed and uncrewed vehicles and robotic and autonomous systems.
- 2.17 Additional enabling capabilities are being integrated into ADF operations, including command and control systems, robotic and autonomous systems and capabilities for the collection and analysis of hydrographic and oceanographic data.

Ghost Shark – delivering undersea warfare capability

In 2025, the Government signed a \$1.7 billion contract with Anduril Australia to acquire a new fleet of Australian designed and built extra-large autonomous undersea vehicles – known as Ghost Shark.

This cutting-edge capability is designed to conduct intelligence, surveillance, reconnaissance, strike and logistics operations at long-range. It will deliver a substantial boost to Australia's undersea warfare capabilities – complementing the ADF's future surface combatant fleet and conventionally-armed, nuclear-powered submarines.

The first Ghost Shark prototype was delivered in April 2024 – one year ahead of schedule – through a jointly developed and funded partnership between Defence and Anduril Australia.

Ghost Sharks are being manufactured in Australia, for the ADF and our international partners.

Underwater range systems

- 2.18 To further safeguard Australia's undersea capability, the Government is investing \$460-\$560 million over the decade to develop and acquire acoustic underwater range systems and expanded undersea warfare facilities and infrastructure.



Table 1: Investments in undersea warfare

Capability Element	Approved Planned Investment (2026-27 to 2035-36)	Unapproved Planned Investment (2026-27 to 2035-36)	Total Planned Investment (2026-27 to 2035-36)
Conventionally-armed, nuclear-powered submarines and infrastructure	\$11bn	\$60bn - \$85bn	\$71bn - \$96bn
Collins class submarines	\$810m	\$7bn - \$10bn	\$7.8bn - \$11bn
Undersea warfare and uncrewed maritime systems	\$1.8bn	\$3bn - \$4bn	\$4.8bn - \$5.8bn
Underwater range systems	\$160m	\$300m - \$400m	\$460m - \$560m
Future investments	nil	\$10bn - \$15bn	\$10bn - \$15bn
Total	\$14bn	\$80bn - \$115bn	\$94bn - \$130bn

Note: Planned investments that also contribute to the ADF's anti-submarine warfare capability include the P-8A Poseidon maritime patrol aircraft in Table 6 (Investments in expeditionary air operations), the Hunter class frigates in Table 2 (Investments in maritime capabilities for sea denial and localised sea control operations) and intelligence and space and cyber capabilities in Table 4 (Investments in space and cyber). Future investments includes minor projects, experimentation, innovation, research and testing and evaluation.



3 Maritime Capabilities for Sea Denial and Localised Sea Control Operations

- 3.1 The 2026 Integrated Investment Program prioritises investment in maritime capabilities that can project force and hold potential adversary forces at risk. The Government is investing \$62-\$77 billion over the decade to double the size of the Navy's surface combatant fleet and enhance its lethality, while delivering continuous naval shipbuilding and sustainment, enabled by resilient supply chains.

Enhanced lethality surface combatant fleet

- 3.2 The Government is investing \$52-\$65 billion over the decade to deliver a larger, more lethal surface combatant fleet, through enhancements to strike, air defence and undersea warfare capabilities. This includes:
- ▶ 11 new general purpose frigates of the upgraded Japanese Mogami class design, with the first three to be built in Japan and the successful consolidation of the Henderson Defence Precinct in Western Australia enabling the remainder of the build to be constructed locally. These are larger, more lethal and have lower crewing requirements than the existing Anzac class frigates. They will operate both independently and in conjunction with the Hobart class destroyers and Hunter class frigates to secure our maritime trade routes and Australia's northern approaches as well as escort military assets;
 - ▶ three Hobart class destroyers, to be upgraded to the Baseline 9 Aegis combat system and with enhanced strike and air defence capabilities;
 - ▶ six Australian-built Hunter class anti-submarine frigates, boosting Navy's undersea warfare, strike and air defence capabilities. Construction of the first frigate by BAE Systems Australia is underway at the Osborne Naval Shipyard in South Australia;



- ▶ six Large Optionally Crewed Surface Vessels with up to 32 vertical launch system cells to increase the ADF's maritime long-range strike capability. These vessels will be developed in line with international developments, innovation and investment and be built at Henderson Defence Precinct from the mid-2030s. They will operate at high endurance and lower cost and be optimised for operating in company with the rest of the surface combatant fleet;
- ▶ six Arafura class offshore patrol vessels, the first of which has already been commissioned into service. These vessels will perform a maritime patrol and reconnaissance role for Navy;
- ▶ 10 Evolved Cape class patrol boats, two of which provide a navigation and seamanship training capability. The final vessel was delivered in February 2026. These vessels enhance civil maritime surveillance and enforcement in Australia's waters; and
- ▶ an expanded Fleet Air Arm comprised of 36 MH-60R Romeo multi-role helicopters, to support the ADF's airborne anti-submarine warfare and logistics support capabilities.

3.3 Anzac class frigates will be replaced by the new general purpose frigates. Defence will successively decommission Anzac class frigates, to transition to the new fleet of general purpose frigates while maintaining availability levels and workforce and industry skills.

3.4 A larger, more lethal surface fleet requires advanced and sophisticated maritime strike and air defence capabilities. The Government is making significant investments to uplift Navy's maritime strike and air defence capabilities, including through:

- ▶ the finalisation of upgrades to the Phalanx close-in weapon systems for the Hobart class destroyers and HMAS *Choules*, delivering an enhanced anti-ship missile defence capability. This includes the ability to engage slow flying aircraft, uncrewed air systems and surface vessels;
- ▶ enhancing the Australian-designed Nulka missile decoy system through the provision of next-generation Nulka rounds and a sovereign support facility. The system is fitted to the Canberra class landing helicopter docks, the Anzac class frigates and the Hobart class destroyers and will be fitted to the future Hunter class frigates;
- ▶ acquisition of the Tomahawk weapon system for the Hobart class destroyers, to enhance Navy's long-range strike capability. Defence continues to explore the suitability of fitting the system onto the Hunter class frigates;

- ▶ continued integration of the Naval Strike Missile onto the Hobart class destroyers and Anzac class frigates, replacing the Harpoon anti-ship missile; and
- ▶ upgrading the Aegis combat system and integrating the Standard Missile-2 (SM-2) and Standard Missile-6 (SM-6) long-range air defence missiles onto the Hobart class destroyers and the Hunter class frigates.

Accelerating the delivery of a larger and more lethal surface combatant fleet

The Government is doubling the size of Navy's surface combatant fleet and enhancing its lethality with the selection of the upgraded Japanese Mogami class frigate as the preferred platform for Navy's future fleet of general purpose frigates.

The upgraded Mogami class frigate boasts a range of up to 10,000 nautical miles, a 32-cell vertical launch system and is fitted with surface-to-air missiles and anti-ship missiles. In recognition of Australia's more complex and dangerous strategic environment and the need to accelerate acquisition of key capabilities, the first three frigates will be built in Japan by Mitsubishi Heavy Industries with the first scheduled to be delivered in 2029. The successful consolidation of the Henderson Defence Precinct in Western Australia will enable the remainder of the build to be constructed locally in line with the Government's commitment to continuous naval shipbuilding.

- 3.5 Resilient sealift, maritime logistics and amphibious capabilities are essential for the ADF's ability to project force and to enable the movement of personnel and materiel. The Government will continue to make investments to maintain and sustain the two Supply class replenishment oilers, the two Canberra class landing helicopter docks and HMAS *Choules*. This will be supported by investments in surface fleet support infrastructure, including the ongoing redevelopment of the Garden Island Defence Precinct in Sydney.



Hydrographic systems

- 3.6 Charting and geospatial awareness of the maritime domain is critical to the safety of the surface and undersea fleets. The Government is investing \$1.1-\$1.2 billion over the decade to continue to enhance the use of contemporary systems for hydrographic surveying, data collection and underwater depth mapping. This includes the HydroScheme Industry Partnership Program, which collects, collates and produces nautical charts and publications with industry and the Australian Hydrographic Office. Defence is transitioning to uncrewed systems to improve maritime domain awareness and navigation safety, as well as provide real-time intelligence.

Maritime mining and mine countermeasures

- 3.7 The recent conflict in the Middle East has reinforced the threat of maritime mining to naval activities and the safe passage of trade and commercial shipping. The Government is continuing to invest in capabilities that help secure Australia's regional maritime approaches and augment the ADF's ability to protect littoral manoeuvre.
- 3.8 Mine countermeasures detect, classify and neutralise naval mines to ensure safe passage for vessels. Legacy crewed minehunter vessels will be decommissioned as part of the transition to modern remote and autonomous mine countermeasure capabilities. These autonomous systems will deliver a more technologically advanced maritime mining capability. This will reduce the risk to personnel while ensuring persistent and precise mine clearance.
- 3.9 The Government is also continuing to invest in the acquisition of advanced, multi-sensor sea mines capable of being deployed from air, surface and undersea uncrewed and autonomous systems.

Maritime support to regional partners

- 3.10 The Pacific Maritime Security Program is a comprehensive package of investment in capability, infrastructure, sustainment, training and coordination. The program is designed to increase national and regional maritime security for 16 partner nations across the Pacific. The twenty-third Guardian class patrol boat was delivered to the Republic of the Marshall Islands in January 2026.
- 3.11 The Pacific Maritime Security Program will continue to evolve and respond to the security needs of Pacific partners, including illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and transnational maritime crime.

- 3.12 The last of the 24 Guardian class patrol boats is scheduled to be gifted to the Republic of Maldives in April 2026, accompanied by a tailored sustainment package, to enhance its capability to protect and secure its waters and contribute to maritime security in the Northeast Indian Ocean.
- 3.13 ADV *Reliant* will continue to perform its role providing support to Australia's Pacific partners and remains prepared for humanitarian assistance and disaster relief operations when called upon.





Table 2: Investments in maritime capabilities for sea denial and localised sea control operations

Capability Element	Approved Planned Investment (2026-27 to 2035-36)	Unapproved Planned Investment (2026-27 to 2035-36)	Total Planned Investment (2026-27 to 2035-36)
Surface combatant fleet			
<i>Hobart class</i>	\$2.2bn	\$5bn - \$7bn	\$7.2bn - \$9.2bn
<i>Hunter class</i>	\$17bn	\$10bn - \$15bn	\$27bn - \$32bn
<i>General purpose frigates</i>	\$51m	\$15bn - \$20bn	\$15bn - \$20bn
<i>Large Optionally Crewed Surface Vessels</i>	nil	\$200m - \$300m	\$200m - \$300m
<i>Arafura class</i>	\$1.6bn	\$1bn - \$1.5bn	\$2.6bn - \$3.1bn
<i>Evolved Cape class</i>	\$27m	nil	\$27m
<i>Anzac class</i>	nil	\$20m - \$50m	\$20m - \$50m
MH-60R Romeo	\$970m	\$1bn - \$1.5bn	\$2bn - \$2.5bn
Surface combatant fleet support			
<i>Nulka missile decoys</i>	\$210m	\$300m - \$400m	\$510m - \$610m
<i>Surface fleet support systems</i>	nil	\$500m - \$700m	\$500m - \$700m
<i>Supply class</i>	\$5m	\$400m - \$500m	\$410m - \$510m
<i>Canberra class</i>	\$3m	\$500m - \$700m	\$500m - \$700m
<i>Surface fleet support infrastructure (including Garden Island Defence Precinct)</i>	\$170m	\$3bn - \$4bn	\$3.2bn - \$4.2bn
<i>Pacific support vessel</i>	\$7m	\$200m - \$300m	\$210m - \$310m
Hydrographic systems	\$910m	\$200m - \$300m	\$1.1bn - \$1.2bn
Maritime support to regional partners	\$280m	nil	\$280m
Future investments	\$1.3bn	\$200m - \$300m	\$1.5bn - \$1.6bn
Total	\$25bn	\$38bn - \$53bn	\$62bn - \$77bn

Note: Planned investments in the Tomahawk weapon system, Naval Strike Missile, SM-2 and SM-6 integration are included in Table 3 (Investments in targeting and long-range strike). Funding for maritime mining has been incorporated into the broader maritime weapons program and incorporated into funding for Navy – sea-based strike included in Table 3 (Investments in targeting and long-range strike). Funding for mine countermeasures is included under Surface Fleet Support Systems in the table above. Future investments includes minor projects, experimentation, innovation, research and testing and evaluation.





4

4 Naval Shipbuilding and Sustainment Enterprise

- 4.1 The Government has committed to continuous naval shipbuilding in both South Australia and Western Australia, with naval sustainment activities dispersed right across Australia.
- 4.2 This commitment is underpinned by an historic investment over the decade in the naval shipbuilding and sustainment enterprise. This includes \$71-\$96 billion in conventionally-armed, nuclear-powered submarines and related infrastructure, \$52-\$65 billion in Navy's enhanced lethality surface combatant fleet and \$16-\$19 billion in littoral manoeuvre vessels and facilities. Sustained investment will ensure Australia has the critical infrastructure, workforce and sovereign defence industrial base to build, operate, maintain and sustain modern and lethal capabilities to project force, hold potential adversary forces at risk and sustain protracted combat operations.

Continuous naval shipbuilding and sustainment

- 4.3 Continuous naval shipbuilding and sustainment is a whole-of-nation endeavour, involving a tripartite approach between government, industry and workers and unions. The Government's approach focuses on two core objectives: uplifting the capability, productivity and resilience of the shipbuilding and sustainment industrial base and generating ongoing benefits for the Australian economy.
- 4.4 The inaugural 2024 Naval Shipbuilding and Sustainment Plan set out the national program of activities required to deliver maritime capability to the ADF and to uplift the maritime industrial base. It provided a long-term, 30-year demand signal for shipbuilding and sustainment activities including conventionally-armed, nuclear-powered submarines, enhanced lethality surface combatants, Army landing craft and other minor war vessels. It highlighted the need for a network of modern facilities and fit-for-purpose infrastructure within the two principal shipyards at Osborne and Henderson and regional maintenance centres across Australia, and highly skilled and experienced workers to deliver continuous naval shipbuilding and sustainment.



- 4.5 The Government has made significant progress alongside, state and territory governments, industry and workers and unions to advance continuous naval shipbuilding and sustainment, including:
- ▶ the Government announcement of an additional \$12 billion in new funding toward delivering the Henderson Defence Precinct for both continuous naval shipbuilding and nuclear-powered submarine sustainment in Western Australia;
 - ▶ the Government's approval of more than \$3.9 billion in investment for Defence infrastructure at the new Osborne Submarine Construction Yard as part of a broader projected \$30 billion investment in Osborne over the coming decades, to be delivered by Australian Naval Infrastructure. The submarine construction program is expected to create around 10,000 new jobs in South Australia alone;
 - ▶ the Government's 2025 Strategic Shipbuilding Agreement that established Austal Defence Australia as Australia's strategic shipbuilder; and
 - ▶ the awarding of over \$5 billion in contracts to Austal Defence Australia to design and build Army's landing craft medium and heavy, with construction to begin at the Henderson Defence Precinct later in 2026.
- 4.6 The Government is committed to a continuous build program for Australia's surface, undersea and littoral manoeuvre fleet, providing certainty to industry and securing sovereign capability. The Government is making investments to continue the delivery of key projects, including:
- ▶ constructing the Hunter class frigates at the Osborne Naval Shipyard in South Australia;
 - ▶ establishing a new build line for Australia's future general purpose frigates at the Henderson Defence Precinct in Western Australia;
 - ▶ constructing new classes of Army landing craft at the Henderson Defence Precinct, as part of Army's littoral manoeuvre capability;
 - ▶ construction of Large Optionally Crewed Surface Vessels at the Henderson Defence Precinct from the mid-2030s;
 - ▶ maintaining a continuous build program for constabulary and patrol vessels at the Henderson Defence Precinct, based on the proven Evolved Cape class hull form, supporting both Navy and the Australian Border Force; and
 - ▶ commencing a project to replace the Hobart class destroyers from the 2040s, to be constructed at the Osborne Naval Shipyard, supporting continuous naval shipbuilding in South Australia.

Establishment of the Henderson Defence Precinct

The Henderson Defence Precinct in Western Australia is a national strategic asset, vital for Australia's national security. In September 2025, the Government announced an additional \$12 billion in new funding to establish the Henderson Defence Precinct as a world-class centre of excellence for shipbuilding and sustainment.

This investment is a significant down payment, with early independent planning and advice indicating the Henderson Defence Precinct will involve approximately \$25 billion of investment over the decade. The Government will explore alternative financing opportunities and work with industry to deliver this significant infrastructure project.

This investment will underpin the delivery of:

- ▶ the construction of surface vessels for the ADF, starting with Army landing craft and the domestic build element of Australia's future general purpose frigates, and a fleet of Large Optionally Crewed Surface Vessels;
- ▶ the construction of minor vessels for the ADF and the Australian Border Force;
- ▶ facilities to support the sustainment of surface combatant vessels and Collins class submarines;
- ▶ contingency docking capabilities for Australia's future conventionally-armed, nuclear-powered submarines from the early 2030s; and
- ▶ depot-level maintenance for conventionally-armed, nuclear-powered submarines, including graving docks.

Progressing these capabilities is critical for the AUKUS Optimal Pathway and ensuring Australia is ready to receive its first Virginia class submarine in the early 2030s.



- 4.7 The Government is also supporting Australia's broader sovereign defence industrial base through the local builds of uncrewed maritime systems such as Ghost Shark and Bluebottle, alongside small maritime vessels.
- 4.8 A highly skilled and experienced Australian workforce is essential to support an industrial base that delivers and sustains the nation's maritime capability. The Government has adopted a national ecosystem approach to invest in and manage the shipbuilding workforce, in recognition of the scale and scope of the continuous naval shipbuilding and sustainment enterprise. This is a long-term undertaking that requires a genuinely collaborative, tripartite approach between government, industry and workers and unions, in order to succeed.
- 4.9 The Government is investing in initiatives that continue to grow, skill and retain the continuous naval shipbuilding and sustainment workforce and develop a robust sovereign defence industrial base in close cooperation with industry, workers and unions. This includes the establishment of the Skills and Training Academy at the Osborne Naval Shipyard in South Australia.

2026 Naval Shipbuilding and Sustainment Plan

- 4.10 The 2026 Naval Shipbuilding and Sustainment Plan will build on the inaugural 2024 Naval Shipbuilding and Sustainment Plan and set out the Government's approach to supporting the growth of a productive and resilient sovereign shipbuilding and sustainment industrial enterprise.
- 4.11 The 2026 Naval Shipbuilding and Sustainment Plan will be complemented by a 30-year shipbuilding forecast to industry and the public to build confidence in Australia's shipbuilding industry. The 2026 Naval Shipbuilding and Sustainment Plan will be released later in 2026.



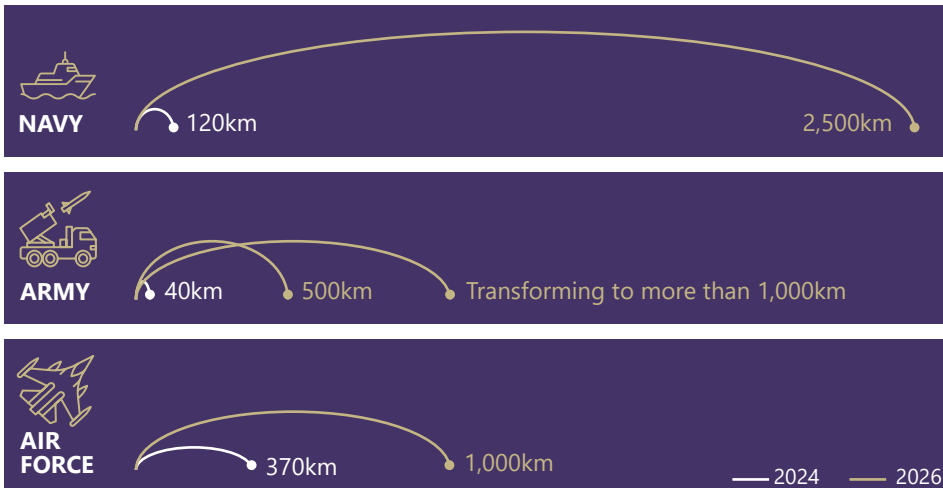


5

5 Targeting and Long-Range Strike

- 5.1 The Government is investing \$28-\$35 billion over the decade to develop and enhance Defence's targeting and long-range strike capabilities. This includes continuing to acquire advanced strike weapons, building weapons stockpiles and developing and integrating targeting capabilities to ensure weapons are delivered effectively.
- 5.2 Since 2024, the Government has rapidly expanded the range of the ADF's long-range strike capability across the maritime, land and air domains (Chart 3 below refers). The Government's investments in targeting and long-range strike complement broader investments in the GWEO enterprise, as outlined in Chapter 12.

Chart 3: Increasing the strike range of the ADF



Note: For Chart 3, the ranges illustrated reflect capabilities that have commenced integration, acquisition or testing by the ADF. For Army, the transformation to more than 1,000km reflects future increments of the Precision Strike Missile.

Defence targeting enterprise

- 5.3 A modern and resilient targeting capability supports the ADF to achieve strategic and tactical advantage over potential adversary forces. Established in 2024, the Defence targeting enterprise provides the people, processes and technology needed to detect, identify and track targets more precisely, at longer range and in contested environments. Targeting is enabled by intelligence, space and sensor capabilities and a highly trained workforce. The Defence targeting enterprise contributes to the ADF's ability to achieve battlefield decision advantage.
- 5.4 The Government is investing \$7.5-\$10 billion over the decade to deliver the Defence targeting enterprise and enhancements to command, control and communications systems. These investments will enhance the ADF's ability to rapidly process targeting data and prioritise targets with greater efficiency.

Long-range strike

- 5.5 Credible and lethal long-range strike capabilities underscore the ADF's capability and intent to hold potential adversary forces at risk. The Government is investing \$30-\$37 billion over the decade to uplift long-range strike capabilities for the Navy, Army and Air Force, including enabling data and systems. Elements of these investments are captured in Chapter 12: Guided Weapons and Explosive Ordnance Enterprise.

Navy

- 5.6 The Government is acquiring the Tomahawk weapon system to allow Navy's Hobart class destroyers to hold targets at risk at longer ranges. HMAS *Brisbane* successfully fired a Tomahawk cruise missile in December 2024, representing a major milestone in realising an enhanced and lethal surface combatant fleet. The acquisition of the Tomahawk weapon system increases Navy's strike range from 120 kilometres to around 2,500 kilometres.
- 5.7 In addition to the Tomahawk, Navy has rapidly progressed the acquisition of next-generation Evolved Sea Sparrow Missile Block II, SM-2 and SM-6 missiles, capable of being deployed on the Hobart class destroyers and Hunter class frigates. This provides Navy with greater capacity to target aircraft and incoming missiles. The ADF reached a key milestone in August 2024, when HMAS *Sydney* became the first non-United States Navy ship to fire the SM-6.

- 5.8 The integration of the Naval Strike Missile into Navy's Hobart class destroyers and Anzac class frigates will continue, increasing the lethality and survivability of Australia's surface fleet by enabling Navy to hold potential adversary forces at risk at greater range. Naval Strike Missiles will be manufactured by Kongsberg Defence Australia at a new factory near Newcastle, New South Wales, from 2027.

Army

- 5.9 Defence has accelerated and expanded the acquisition of land-based long-range strike capabilities. The first High Mobility Artillery Rocket System was delivered to Army in 2025, significantly increasing Army's capacity to project force at extended range. The successful firing of the Precision Strike Missile from a High Mobility Artillery Rocket System at Exercise TALISMAN SABRE 25 demonstrated Army's capability to deploy and execute precision long-range strike capabilities. These developments are transforming Army's strike range from 40 kilometres to over 1,000 kilometres. Paired with air power and new littoral manoeuvre capabilities, this allows Army to project force and contribute to sea denial and localised sea control. In addition, through investments in the GWEO enterprise, domestic manufacture of the Guided Multiple Launch Rocket System commenced in December 2025 at a new facility in Port Wakefield, South Australia.
- 5.10 In 2024, the Government announced the ADF will establish a second long-range fires regiment. The Government will also accelerate the introduction of a medium-range ground-based active missile defence capability through additional investment in multi-domain missile launchers and munitions integrated with command and control systems.
- 5.11 The integration of Army's long-range strike capabilities with littoral manoeuvre vessels increases the ADF's lethality and ability to project force. Army's sensor and command and control networks will be bolstered by the introduction of new land-based radar systems, advanced decision support tools and communications capabilities. This will strengthen the ADF's ability to detect and track approaching threats at extended range.
- 5.12 The development of loitering precision munitions, their associated launch platforms and enabling data and systems remains a priority for the ADF. These munitions will enable the ADF to respond to threats more quickly without placing ADF personnel and systems at risk.



High Mobility Artillery Rocket System – a game-changer for the ADF

The Government has invested \$1.6 billion in accelerating and expanding the acquisition of the High Mobility Artillery Rocket System. Following the initial delivery of eight High Mobility Artillery Rocket Systems in 2025, a further 20 will be delivered in 2026. This represents an acceleration of delivery by around 12 months and means that the first long-range fires battery will be at full strength by the middle of 2026.

High Mobility Artillery Rocket Systems are a game-changer for the ADF. They are resilient, highly deployable and deliver increased mobility, lethality and accurate land and maritime strike at ranges of more than 1,000 kilometres with future increments of the Precision Strike Missile. High Mobility Artillery Rocket Systems make sea denial and localised sea control from land a reality. This was demonstrated at Exercise TALISMAN SABRE 25 – the first time a Precision Strike Missile was launched from a High Mobility Artillery Rocket System on Australian soil – two years ahead of schedule.

Air Force

- 5.13 The Long-Range Anti-Ship Missile is now in operational use on the F/A-18F Super Hornet and will be integrated with the P-8A Poseidon and F-35A Joint Strike Fighter aircraft in the near future. This follows a successful operational test conducted by a F/A-18F Super Hornet in February 2025.
- 5.14 The Government has further enhanced Australia's long-range strike capability through the acquisition of the Joint Strike Missile. The Joint Strike Missile will be integrated onto the F-35A Joint Strike Fighter aircraft, enhancing the ADF's ability to precisely strike targets at longer range.
- 5.15 The integration of both the Joint Air-to-Surface Standoff Missile – Extended Range onto the F/A-18F Super Hornet and F-35A Joint Strike Fighter and Advanced Anti-Radiation Guided Missile – Extended Range onto the EA-18G Growler and the F-35A Joint Strike Fighter will improve Air Force's ability to defeat a more diverse set of targets and disrupt potential adversaries' surveillance and targeting capabilities.

- 5.16 The Government is also investing in hypersonic technology, including the continued development of hypersonic air-launched weapons for use with combat aircraft. Defence is working alongside the United Kingdom and the United States through the AUKUS Pillar II Hypersonic Flight Test and Experimentation Project Arrangement to accelerate development of hypersonic technology through further testing and evaluation.



Table 3: Investments in targeting and long-range strike

Capability Element	Approved Planned Investment (2026-27 to 2035-36)	Unapproved Planned Investment (2026-27 to 2035-36)	Total Planned Investment (2026-27 to 2035-36)
Defence targeting enterprise	\$480m	\$7bn - \$10bn	\$7.5bn - \$10bn
Long-range strike			
<i>Navy – sea-based strike</i>	\$7.1bn	\$7bn - \$10bn	\$14bn - \$17bn
<i>Army – land-based strike</i>	\$2bn	\$3bn - \$4bn	\$5bn - \$6bn
<i>Air Force – air-launched strike</i>	nil	\$400m - \$500m	\$400m - \$500m
<i>Air Force – hypersonic weapons</i>	\$27m	\$700m - \$1bn	\$730m - \$1bn
Total	\$9.6bn	\$18bn - \$26bn	\$28bn - \$35bn

Note: Elements of planned investment in long-range strike are included in Australia's GWEO enterprise as outlined in Table 10 (Investments in GWEO).





6

6 Space and Cyber

- 6.1 The Government is investing \$27-\$38 billion over the decade in resilient space, cyber and electronic warfare capabilities to support the ADF's ability to respond to potential threats, including protecting ADF forces and safeguarding our critical infrastructure, while also harnessing rapid advancements in technology.

Enhanced space capabilities

- 6.2 Space capabilities are critical to the ADF's warfighting effectiveness and support resilient communications, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance, targeting, positioning, navigation and timing.
- 6.3 The Government is investing \$9-\$12 billion over the decade in enhanced space capabilities, with a focus on resilient communications, space domain awareness and space control. Investments include:
- ▶ delivery of a resilient, multi-orbit Australian Defence Satellite Communications (SATCOM) capability optimised for operations over the Indo-Pacific. This system will include communications satellites with ground stations and operations centres across Australia as well as an integrated SATCOM management system;
 - ▶ enhanced space domain awareness to better monitor the space environment, detect potential threats to Australian and ADF capabilities and protect space-based assets. This includes collaboration with the United Kingdom and the United States on the Deep-space Advanced Radar Capability to provide continuous global detection, tracking and identification of satellites and other space objects;
 - ▶ enhanced space control measures to protect and defend Australia's use of the space domain and, where necessary, deny attempts to interfere with, or attack, Australia's use of the space domain. This will ensure the resilience of space capabilities needed to support ADF operations; and
 - ▶ delivery of an advanced geospatial intelligence satellite capability.



Enhanced cyber capabilities

- 6.4 Cyber threats are growing in number, speed and sophistication, posing a serious threat to Australia's national security and economy. The cyber domain is not bound by geography; it connects people, platforms and systems and shapes the modern battlespace in real time. Modern, secure and resilient cyber capabilities are needed to protect ADF warfighting networks, support ADF operations and address evolving threats.
- 6.5 The Government is investing \$15-\$21 billion over the decade in capabilities that support both defensive and offensive options for Government in an increasingly contested cyber domain.
- 6.6 Defence and the Australian Signals Directorate have made significant progress in enhancing Australia's cyber capabilities. Initiatives prioritise greater visibility of cyber threats to critical infrastructure, increasing the resilience of infrastructure to cyber-attacks, building new intelligence functions to enable offensive cyber operations and building a specialised cyber workforce.
- 6.7 The Australian Signals Directorate helps defend Australia from cyber threats by comprehensively understanding the threat environment, providing proactive advice and assistance to improve the management of cyber risks and applying its offensive capabilities offshore, including to support military operations.
- 6.8 The Australian Signals Directorate's REDSPICE program represents the largest ever investment in Australia's signals intelligence and cyber capability. The Government's continued investment in REDSPICE is enhancing Australia's cyber, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance capabilities and building resilient communications and computer network defence and disruption options. REDSPICE provides:
- ▶ offensive cyber capabilities to support the ADF;
 - ▶ enhanced strategic and operational intelligence;
 - ▶ new national cyber defence capabilities to defend Australia's critical systems and infrastructure against malicious cyber activity and assist government and industry partners to do the same;
 - ▶ increased resilience of classified communications and networks through national and international dispersal;
 - ▶ enhanced space capability to support the ADF and maintain resilient communications; and
 - ▶ foundational technologies to process increasing volumes of data and support offensive and defensive cyber capabilities through artificial intelligence.

- 6.9 The Government is also investing in capabilities to uplift Defence's ability to operate in and secure the cyber terrain. These investments complement REDSPICE and will deliver a comprehensive program to harden and modernise Defence's networks, including through:
- ▶ continual improvement of the warfighting capabilities of Defence's networks and strengthening cyber interoperability with the United States and other key partners;
 - ▶ enhancing strategic communications systems and continuing to develop joint warfighting networks and applications to improve communications for ADF forces operating in challenging environments;
 - ▶ implementing zero-trust architecture, advanced encryption and enhanced security monitoring to protect against cyber intrusions;
 - ▶ continuing to develop alternative position, navigation and timing capabilities, including through AUKUS Pillar II; and
 - ▶ modernising Defence's cryptography to provide enduring communications security.

Electronic warfare

- 6.10 Electronic warfare capabilities protect the ADF's assets from interference, including jamming, and enable the ADF to locate and disrupt a potential adversary's electronic signals. The Government is investing \$2.4-\$3.4 billion over the decade to uplift the ADF's electronic warfare capabilities.




Table 4: Investments in space and cyber

Capability Element	Approved Planned Investment (2026-27 to 2035-36)	Unapproved Planned Investment (2026-27 to 2035-36)	Total Planned Investment (2026-27 to 2035-36)
Enhanced space capabilities			
<i>Satellite communications</i>	\$240m	\$5bn - \$7bn	\$5.2bn - \$7.2bn
<i>Space sensors</i>	\$190m	\$3bn - \$4bn	\$3.2bn - \$4.2bn
<i>Space control</i>	\$180m	\$500m - \$700m	\$680m - \$880m
Enhanced cyber capabilities			
<i>Cyber capabilities</i>	\$230m	\$10bn - \$15bn	\$10bn - \$15bn
<i>Cyber terrain</i>	\$2.5bn	\$2bn - \$3bn	\$4.5bn - \$5.5bn
Electronic warfare	\$430m	\$2bn - \$3bn	\$2.4bn - \$3.4bn
Future investments	\$30m	\$1.5bn - \$2bn	\$1.5bn - \$2bn
Total	\$3.8bn	\$24bn - \$35bn	\$27bn - \$38bn

Note: Future investments include minor projects, experimentation, innovation, research and testing and evaluation.





7



7 Amphibious Capable Combined-arms Land System

- 7.1 The Government is continuing to invest in the delivery of a world-class amphibious capable combined-arms land system optimised for littoral manoeuvre. This will allow Army to support and enable localised sea denial and control, provide layered land-based long-range strike and deny potential adversaries access to Australia's maritime approaches.
- 7.2 In line with the 2024 National Defence Strategy, Army has undergone a rapid transformation of its force structure and force posture. This has included changes to Army's units and formations, which have been adapted to include specialised combat and support brigades, along with a new long-range fires brigade and a littoral manoeuvre group.
- 7.3 Army's transformation is strengthening the capacity of the ADF to deploy and sustain operations in our region. Key capabilities that underpin this transformation include land-based, long-range strike, infantry fighting vehicles, combat reconnaissance vehicles, main battle tanks, uncrewed tactical systems, new attack helicopters, new landing craft, modernised special operations forces and other key enablers.
- 7.4 The Government is investing \$48-\$59 billion over the decade to ensure Army has the ability to hold potential adversary forces at risk, maintain persistent forward presence to control key strategic land positions and protect and sustain deployed forces within the Indo-Pacific.

Littoral manoeuvre

- 7.5 The Government is investing \$11-\$12 billion over the decade to continue to deliver Army littoral manoeuvre capabilities and \$5-\$7 billion for related infrastructure.



- 7.6 Army is acquiring 18 landing craft medium and eight landing craft heavy, to be built by Austal Defence Australia at the Henderson Defence Precinct in Western Australia. Construction of the first landing craft medium and landing craft heavy will commence in 2026. All landing craft and amphibious capable vehicles will be built in Australia, further strengthening our sovereign defence industrial capability.
- 7.7 Defence will also acquire up to 15 amphibious capable support vehicles. Australian company, Birdon, is currently developing a prototype at their facility in Port Macquarie, New South Wales.
- 7.8 Defence will also deliver essential facilities and infrastructure for the berthing and sustainment of Army's landing craft fleets in the Northern Territory and southeast and north Queensland.

Boosting ADF capability through accelerated sovereign littoral fleet build

The Government has awarded Austal Defence Australia over \$5 billion in contracts to design and build 18 landing craft medium and eight landing craft heavy for Army's new littoral fleet. These vessels will be built at the Henderson Defence Precinct in Western Australia and are an essential component of Army's transformation and optimisation for littoral manoeuvre. This follows the signing of the Strategic Shipbuilding Agreement that established Austal Defence Australia as Australia's strategic shipbuilder and the prime contractor for the construction and delivery of Army landing craft.

The Government is committed to building vessels for Australia, in Australia, developing our sovereign defence industrial base and delivering continuous naval shipbuilding and sustainment. The landing craft will be formed into three littoral lift battalions, with each battalion consisting of four landing craft medium and two landing craft heavy.

When operating with the landing craft heavy, landing craft medium have a range of up to 2,000 nautical miles and can transport a payload of over 80 tonnes – a similar capacity to Air Force's C-17A Globemaster III transport aircraft. Landing craft heavy have a range of up to 4,000 nautical miles and can carry over 500 tonnes.

These vessels will be crewed by highly trained and skilled Army personnel, with the first officers having graduated from Navy's Maritime Warfare Officer Course in December 2025.

Combined-arms land system

- 7.9 The Government is providing significant investment over the decade to continue to deliver an Army that will be better able to identify threats, protect ADF units and respond quickly and decisively in our primary area of military interest. This will be achieved through:
- ▶ modernisation of Defence's protected mobility fleet, including the Hawkei protected mobility vehicle – light, as well as protected and medium heavy trucks in southeast Queensland and the ongoing construction of the Bushmaster protected mobility vehicles medium in Bendigo, Victoria;
 - ▶ ongoing delivery of 75 M1A2 Abrams main battle tanks and 46 armoured combat vehicles, increasing Army's lethality, mobility, protection and communications. Full delivery is expected by 2028. In September 2025, the ADF successfully tested the sea transportability and live-fire capabilities of the M1A2 Abrams main battle tank and its enabling functions, marking a significant milestone in the development of Australia's littoral capability;
 - ▶ continued domestic production and delivery of 129 Redback infantry fighting vehicles by Hanwha Defence Australia at their Armoured Vehicle Centre of Excellence in Geelong, Victoria. The Redback will provide Army with an improved ability to detect threats and strike targets in hostile environments with high levels of survivability;
 - ▶ delivery of 211 Boxer combat reconnaissance vehicles to provide modern, protected mobility and firepower and meet Army's land combat reconnaissance requirements. The first tranche of Australian-built Boxer vehicles have been completed by Rheinmetall Defence Australia at their Military Vehicle Centre of Excellence in Redbank, Queensland. These vehicles can be operated in littoral environments as well as contested and complex urban environments in the Indo-Pacific;
 - ▶ continued delivery of 30 AS9 Huntsman self-propelled howitzers to provide indirect fire support in the event of crisis or conflict. The first three of these vehicles were built in the Republic of Korea and delivered to Defence in 2025. The remaining howitzers are being constructed by Hanwha Defence Australia at their Armoured Vehicle Centre of Excellence in Geelong, Victoria, with components assembled in Tasmania;
 - ▶ continued acquisition of an enlarged and enhanced fleet of superior bridging, breaching, engineer support and combat engineering vehicles. Army integrated the use of bridging equipment into its September 2025 live-fire and sea transportability demonstration of the M1A2 Abrams main battle tank;



- ▶ continued investment in world-leading protection and lethality for ADF personnel through ongoing acquisition and sustainment of advanced small arms, direct fire support weapons, night-fighting equipment, combat equipment, simulation systems for training and other technologies to maintain a decisive edge on the battlefield; and
- ▶ continued modernisation and delivery of the Dismounted Soldier Combat System, delivering improvements in lethality, survivability and situational awareness for combatants operating in the littoral environment.

Battlefield aviation

- 7.10 Battlefield aviation remains an essential enabler of Army's mobility, reconnaissance and firepower. It provides Army with enhanced situational awareness and underpins the ability to manoeuvre quickly in our region.
- 7.11 The Government is investing \$6.3-\$7 billion over the decade to continue to uplift Army's battlefield aviation capabilities to enhance aviation firepower. This will be achieved through:
- ▶ continued delivery of the AH-64E Apache attack helicopters, following the successful arrival of the first Apaches in September 2025 and subsequent commencement of flying operations. The Apaches replace the Tiger armed reconnaissance helicopters, which will be withdrawn by the end of 2026. Continued investment in this fleet will provide Army with a formidable and networked air firepower platform capable of maritime strike and overland attack, enhancing the ADF's ability to conduct sea denial operations;
 - ▶ continued accelerated delivery of the UH-60M Black Hawk fleet, following the withdrawal of the MRH-90 Taipan helicopter fleet in 2024. The first tranche of UH-60M Black Hawks are operational. Continued investment will provide proven combat and logistics capability with the ability to deploy rapidly in support of a wide variety of missions; and
 - ▶ strengthening Army's airlift capability through continued investment in the expanded fleet of 14 CH-47F Chinook helicopters to increase its ability to support operations, including disaster response.

Special operations

7.12 Special operations forces offer asymmetric advantage to the ADF. The Government is investing \$2.3-\$3.3 billion over the decade to support the modernisation of the ADF's special operations forces. This will strengthen capability to operate in high-risk or sensitive environments, including the conduct of reconnaissance, targeting, long-range strike and technical operations. Continued investment in advanced technologies across all domains is critical to the ability of special operations forces to operate against sophisticated threats. Special operations forces will also continue to support state and territory counter-terrorism responses, as required.

Advanced technologies

7.13 Defence continues to test, acquire and integrate new technologies and capabilities to strengthen Army's lethality and survivability. This complements existing investments while exploiting a broad range of technological developments across all domains and warfighting functions. This includes:

- ▶ adopting uncrewed air and ground systems to strengthen surveillance, reconnaissance, targeting and logistics capabilities in support of ADF operations. Defence is working with industry to rapidly deliver this capability, with delivery having commenced in March 2026;
- ▶ increasing investment to rapidly accelerate Australia's counter-small uncrewed air systems capability to protect ADF personnel, equipment, infrastructure, bases and major events. These investments are being accelerated through close coordination between Australian industry and ASCA, drawing on lessons learned from the conflicts in Ukraine and the Middle East. An initial component of Army's counter-small uncrewed air systems capability was successfully demonstrated in Cultana, South Australia in December 2025. These capabilities are being delivered to Navy, Army and Air Force throughout 2026;
- ▶ rapidly acquiring and integrating tactical electronic warfare capabilities and delivering these to high-readiness Army units. Electronic warfare capabilities enable the ADF to detect, locate and disrupt potential adversary forces' communications, targeting systems and uncrewed and remote platforms; and
- ▶ delivery of a modernised ADF tactical command and control system. The system will integrate and synchronise Army's amphibious capable combined-arms system, long-range strike capabilities, littoral manoeuvre and battlefield aviation with each other, allies and partners. The system is purpose designed for littoral operations in a contested electromagnetic spectrum and provides the digital foundation to employ autonomous systems and artificial intelligence-enabled support tools.



Enabling rapid responses to drone threats

The Government is accelerating the acquisition of cutting-edge drone and counter-drone technologies to protect ADF personnel, equipment, infrastructure, bases and major events.

The Government is making investments to rapidly develop cutting-edge counter-drone technology and is working with industry to drive innovation.

Through Project LAND 156, the ADF will continually upgrade and refresh capabilities to address emerging drone threats and ensure access to cutting-edge capabilities as they are developed. This includes the development of a comprehensive counter-small uncrewed air systems capability for the ADF that is able to detect, track and identify potential adversary capabilities through a comprehensive, layered and distributed approach.

This work is complemented by ASCA's Mission Syracuse, which is accelerating the development of capabilities to counter medium-sized drones and drone swarms. Defence is working alongside Australian industry to deliver this technology, demonstrating world-leading innovation, while creating Australian jobs.

In December 2025, Defence and industry partners successfully demonstrated an Australian-designed counter-small uncrewed air systems command and control capability and Australian-designed and manufactured sensors and effectors. The first of these systems and the associated training have already been delivered to Navy, Army and Air Force.

In addition, in January 2026, the Government established a new industry panel to advise Defence and other Commonwealth agencies on counter-small uncrewed air systems services and stay ahead of rapidly evolving drone and counter-drone technology.

The Government has enacted the *Defence Amendment (Counter-UXS Measures) Regulations 2025* to strengthen our national security by protecting ADF personnel, assets and facilities. This provides Defence the authority, in support of our law enforcement agencies, to detect and disable or destroy drones that are suspected of posing a threat to ADF assets and establishments.

The amended Regulations will enable the ADF to respond quickly to threats and keep our communities safe.



Table 5: Investments in amphibious capable combined-arms land system

Capability Element	Approved Planned Investment (2026-27 to 2035-36)	Unapproved Planned Investment (2026-27 to 2035-36)	Total Planned Investment (2026-27 to 2035-36)
Littoral manoeuvre			
<i>Littoral manoeuvre vessels</i>	\$8.5bn	\$2bn - \$3bn	\$11bn - \$12bn
Combined-arms land system			
<i>Hawkei protected mobility vehicle – light</i>	\$5m	nil	\$5m
<i>Bushmaster protected mobility vehicle – medium</i>	\$77m	\$2bn - \$3bn	\$2.1bn - \$3.1bn
<i>M1A2 Abrams main battle tank</i>	\$140m	\$50m - \$75m	\$190m - \$220m
<i>Redback infantry fighting vehicle</i>	\$4.8bn	\$700m - \$1bn	\$5.5bn - \$5.8bn
<i>Boxer combat reconnaissance vehicle</i>	\$1.6bn	\$5m - \$15m	\$1.6bn
<i>Land mobility vehicles</i>	\$63m	\$300m - \$400m	\$360m - \$460m
<i>Combat vehicle systems</i>	nil	\$7bn - \$10bn	\$7bn - \$10bn
<i>Huntsman self-propelled howitzer</i>	\$240m	\$500m - \$700m	\$740m - \$940m
<i>Artillery ammunition and control</i>	\$3m	\$300m - \$400m	\$300m - \$400m
<i>Combat engineering</i>	\$4m	\$2bn - \$3bn	\$2bn - \$3bn
<i>Uncrewed tactical systems</i>	\$42m	\$1.5bn - \$2bn	\$1.5bn - \$2bn
<i>Individual combat equipment</i>	\$67m	\$3bn - \$4bn	\$3.1bn - \$4.1bn
<i>Counter explosive hazards</i>	\$64m	\$1bn - \$1.5bn	\$1.1bn - \$1.6bn
Battlefield aviation			
<i>UH-60M Black Hawk</i>	\$1.7bn	\$1bn - \$1.5bn	\$2.7bn - \$3.2bn
<i>AH-64E Apache</i>	\$2.8bn	\$300m - \$400m	\$3.1bn - \$3.2bn
<i>CH-47F Chinook</i>	\$100m	\$400m - \$500m	\$500m - \$600m
Special operations capability	\$340m	\$2bn - \$3bn	\$2.3bn - \$3.3bn
Future investments	\$1.5bn	\$1bn - \$1.5bn	\$2.5bn - \$3bn
Total	\$22bn	\$25bn - \$36bn	\$48bn - \$59bn

Note: Planned investment in essential facilities and infrastructure for the amphibious capable combined-arms land system is captured in Table 11 (Investments in northern bases) and Table 12 (Investments in enterprise infrastructure). Funding for Reserves recapitalisation has been re-profiled in line with Government directed priorities and is not within the scope of the 2026 Integrated Investment Program. Future investments includes minor projects, experimentation, innovation, research and testing and evaluation.





8

8 Expeditionary Air Operations

- 8.1 The Government is investing \$34-\$41 billion over the decade in capabilities that will enable Air Force to undertake expeditionary air operations to project force, sustain protracted combat operations and maintain situational awareness in our primary area of military interest. This investment will ensure Air Force can deliver air power across air mobility, air combat, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance and uncrewed air systems to deliver asymmetric advantage.

Air mobility

- 8.2 Air mobility is critical to sustaining rapid deployments of Australian personnel and equipment into the Indo-Pacific, including in contested environments or those impacted by conflict or humanitarian disasters. The Government is investing \$11-\$13 billion over the decade in ongoing projects to optimise the air mobility fleet through:
- ▶ a new and expanded fleet of 20 C-130J Hercules medium air mobility aircraft to replace the existing fleet of 12 first-generation C-130J Hercules aircraft operated by Air Force;
 - ▶ continued sustainment and maintenance of the C-17A Globemaster III and KC-30A multi-role tanker transport aircraft fleets to support the rapid deployment of personnel and equipment;
 - ▶ replacement of the C-27J Spartan aircraft fleet, including options to maintain the ADF's ability to support the sovereign airlift and surveillance needs of Pacific partners through the Defence Pacific Air Program; and
 - ▶ enhancements to Defence's network of northern air bases to improve resilience against attack, including dispersed and upgraded aircraft shelters, redundant fuel and munitions storage.



Air intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance

8.3 Intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance are critical enablers of the ADF's ability to defend our northern approaches, hold potential adversary forces at risk and maintain persistent situational awareness in our primary area of military interest. The Government is investing \$4.5-\$5.5 billion over the decade to continue to enhance the ADF's air intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance and maritime patrol and response capabilities through:

- ▶ sustainment and capability enhancements to Australia's fleet of P-8A Poseidon maritime patrol and reconnaissance aircraft to support maritime intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance, anti-submarine warfare and anti-surface warfare. The final P-8A will be delivered in 2026, bringing the fleet to 14 aircraft;
- ▶ introduction into service of the MC-55A Peregrine electronic warfare aircraft to further enhance the ADF's airborne intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance and electronic warfare capability; and
- ▶ delivery of the MQ-4C Triton remotely piloted aircraft system. Three Tritons have already been delivered and are operational at RAAF Base Tindal, with the fourth and final aircraft to be delivered before the end of the decade. The Tritons provide persistent, high-altitude intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance coverage across Australia's maritime approaches, with extended range and endurance.

Air combat capability

8.4 The Government is investing \$11-\$13 billion over the decade to continue to enhance the ADF's air combat capability. This investment will increase the lethality and survivability of the air combat fleet, maintain interoperability with allies and partners, mitigate emerging threats and integrate collaborative combat uncrewed platforms alongside crewed platforms, including:

- ▶ continuing delivery and capability enhancements of the F-35A Joint Strike Fighter aircraft, including expanded integration of long-range strike weapons such as the Long-Range Anti-Ship Missile and the Joint Strike Missile. This will ensure the Joint Strike Fighter remains the cornerstone of Australia's air combat capability;

- ▶ upgrading and extending the operational life of the F/A-18F Super Hornet and the EA-18G Growler to maintain interoperability with the United States and other partners. Continued investment in the F/A-18F Super Hornet and EA-18G Growler will preserve their presence in the crewed fleet out to 2040. The EA-18G Growler supports ADF ground, sea and air operations through its capability to detect, analyse, identify, disrupt and destroy potential adversary radar and communications systems; and
- ▶ increasing the capacity of Air Force's pilot, aircrew and mission controller training to support the growing need for qualified airwarfare personnel. This includes investment in a future lead-in-fighter capability.

Uncrewed air systems

8.5 Uncrewed air systems have fundamentally changed how traditional air power is projected and sustained, enabling the projection of force over long distances at relatively low cost and risk to the operator. The Government is investing \$6.1-\$8.1 billion over the decade in the development and acquisition of low-cost, expendable, uncrewed air systems to augment Air Force's crewed fleet. This includes:

- ▶ scaling the MQ-28A Ghost Bat program to multiply the lethality and survivability of the crewed fleet through sensing, electronic warfare, strike and missile defence capabilities;
- ▶ developing sovereign enabling infrastructure, data links, mission systems and testing ranges required to support the continued development, evolution and operation of the MQ-28A Ghost Bat; and
- ▶ exploring opportunities to integrate future uncrewed air systems into the ADF force structure, ensuring Australia remains at the forefront of autonomous air power and providing Defence with a range of options into the future.



Ghost Bat – the loyal wingman takes flight

The MQ-28A Ghost Bat is a landmark demonstration of Australia's world-leading capacity to design and develop uncrewed collaborative combat aircraft. The Ghost Bat, developed through a partnership between Defence and Boeing Defence Australia, is the first military aircraft designed and built in Australia in over 50 years.

Collaborative combat aircraft like the Ghost Bat deliver asymmetric surveillance and air combat capabilities, increasing the lethality and survivability of existing crewed platforms. The Government is investing approximately \$4.3 billion over the decade on uncrewed air systems, including a \$1.4 billion commitment announced in December 2025 to transition the Ghost Bat into a fully operational warfighting asset for the ADF.

At the time of publication, the Ghost Bat program supports more than 440 high-skilled jobs nationwide, including roles at Boeing Defence Australia and more than 200 Australian suppliers. Maintaining the sovereign capability to design, produce and maintain air systems reduces Australia's reliance on foreign supply chains and susceptibility to supply shocks.

In December 2025, the Ghost Bat successfully engaged an air target with an AIM-120 Advanced Medium Range Air-to-Air Missile during trials at the Woomera Test Range in South Australia. The Government also plans to integrate and test a European air-to-air weapon to support potential export markets.



Table 6: Investments in expeditionary air operations

Capability Element	Approved Planned Investment (2026-27 to 2035-36)	Unapproved Planned Investment (2026-27 to 2035-36)	Total Planned Investment (2026-27 to 2035-36)
Air mobility			
<i>C-130J Hercules</i>	\$6.8bn	\$1bn - \$1.5bn	\$7.8bn - \$8.3bn
<i>Air mobility</i>	nil	\$3bn - \$4bn	\$3bn - \$4bn
<i>Air training and support systems</i>	\$340m	\$300m - \$400m	\$640m - \$740m
Air intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance	\$1.5bn	\$3bn - \$4bn	\$4.5bn - \$5.5bn
Air combat capability			
<i>F-35A Joint Strike Fighter</i>	\$2.5bn	\$4bn - \$5bn	\$6.5bn - \$7.5bn
<i>EA-18G Growler and F/A-18F Super Hornet</i>	\$1.3bn	\$3bn - \$4bn	\$4.3bn - \$5.3bn
Uncrewed air systems	\$1.1bn	\$5bn - \$7bn	\$6.1bn - \$8.1bn
Future investments	\$1.4bn	\$200m - \$300m	\$1.6bn - \$1.7bn
Total	\$15bn	\$20bn - \$26bn	\$34bn - \$41bn

Note: Future investments includes minor projects, experimentation, innovation, research and testing and evaluation. Planned investments for air-to-air weapons have now been consolidated into the broader air weapons program and are now included in Table 3 (Investments in targeting and long-range strike) and Table 10 (Investments in GWEO).





9

9 Missile Defence

- 9.1 The Government is investing \$21-\$30 billion over the decade to deliver a layered, integrated air and missile defence capability to detect, track, counter, withstand and recover from missile attacks.

A layered approach to integrated air and missile defence

- 9.2 A layered air and missile defence architecture enables the integrated, focused force to detect and counter threats at various ranges. This includes passive measures such as integrated sensors and command and control systems, integrated air and missile defence enabling functions and resilient infrastructure, as well as active missile defence systems to defeat threats in flight. This investment is spread across multiple elements of the 2026 Integrated Investment Program in support of the integrated, focused force.
- 9.3 The Government is investing \$14-\$20 billion over the decade to maintain resilient and networked sensor and command control capabilities that can effectively sense and track incoming threats and integrate with the ADF's targeting enterprise and allies and partners. This includes:
- ▶ continued investment in the joint air battle management system which provides the underpinning architecture for integrated air and missile defence. The system will link together passive and active missile defence elements to fuse data from all domains, building a common operating picture for integrated air and missile defence. This will include targeting and strike and will have the capacity to function in a degraded communications environment;
 - ▶ maintaining investment in the Jindalee Operational Radar Network, continued investment in advanced radar technologies and investment in space-based sensors and geospatial intelligence capabilities to detect and locate air and missile threats;
 - ▶ maintaining the effectiveness of the E-7A Wedgetail airborne early warning and control aircraft fleet and continuing the development and planning for their scheduled replacement, in cooperation with international partners. This will ensure Australia maintains a sovereign, world-leading airborne battle management capability that can operate in highly contested environments into the 2040s; and



- ▶ continued integration of the Baseline 9 Aegis combat system into the Hobart class destroyers. The same combat system will also be fitted to the Hunter class frigates, providing world-leading naval command and control capability.

9.4 Following the effective detection and identification of a threat, the ADF must be able to actively respond to protect Australia and our interests. The Government is investing an initial \$7.2-\$10 billion over the decade in active missile defence capabilities across the air, land and maritime domains, including:

- ▶ acquisition and introduction of dismounted and vehicle-mounted systems to protect deployed forces from low-altitude aerial threats, including uncrewed air systems and helicopters;
- ▶ continued introduction of the enhanced ground-based National Advanced Surface-to-Air Missile System (NASAMS), with the first two batteries now in service with Army's 10th Brigade. This system provides Army with an expeditionary short-range air defence capability to protect ADF forces and assets against rotary-wing aircraft, cruise missiles and uncrewed air systems as part of a networked air defence capability;
- ▶ new investment in a medium-range, ground-based air defence system to defeat advanced aircraft and missiles. This program will commence as a priority from 2026, with investment to build a resilient, networked capability that will form a core component of the National Integrated Air and Missile Defence System. Additional opportunities to further increase our air and missile defence capabilities in the short term will also be explored;
- ▶ continued acquisition of the next-generation Evolved Sea Sparrow Missile Block II, SM-2 and SM-6. In combination with the upgraded Aegis combat system, this provides Navy with greater capacity to target aircraft and incoming missiles;
- ▶ continued integration of detection technology into the F-35A Joint Strike Fighter, F/A-18F Super Hornet and MQ-28A Ghost Bat aircraft fleets, maintaining their ability to detect and destroy airborne threats;
- ▶ continued development of counter-small uncrewed air systems and associated command and control, in collaboration with industry and in response to lessons learned from the ongoing conflicts in Ukraine and the Middle East. This is complemented by the development of new technologies such as directed energy weapons; and

- ▶ investment in research, development and testing of sovereign hypersonic missile defence technologies, designed to counter emerging hypersonic threats.
- 9.5 The Government is also investing in passive missile defence capabilities to upgrade key northern bases to enhance their survivability, preparedness and responsiveness to air and missile attacks. This will increase the ADF's ability to withstand and respond to a hostile action, while degrading the effectiveness of air and missile threats.
- 9.6 A layered approach to integrated air and missile defence also includes strengthening Defence's reserve of munitions and providing the ability to scale up the production of relevant munitions through the GWEO enterprise.

National Advanced Surface-to-Air Missile System – a leap forward in missile defence capability for Australia

Exercise TALISMAN SABRE 25 saw Australia reach a key milestone in integrated air and missile defence capability with the successful firing of the NASAMS by Army's 16th Regiment.

The surface-to-air missile system was deployed to the remote Bradshaw Field Training Area, where Army successfully engaged aerial targets with AIM-120 Advanced Medium-Range Air-to-Air Missiles from the NASAMS.

The NASAMS is a critical component of Australia's networked air defence capability and represents a step forward for the ADF's survivability and lethality. Australia has two NASAMS batteries, with each battery consisting of multiple launchers.




Table 7: Investments in missile defence

Capability Element	Approved Planned Investment (2026-27 to 2035-36)	Unapproved Planned Investment (2026-27 to 2035-36)	Total Planned Investment (2026-27 to 2035-36)
Command and control and sensor capabilities			
<i>Joint air battle management system</i>	\$190m	\$3bn - \$4bn	\$3.2bn - \$4.2bn
<i>E-7A Wedgetail airborne early warning and control aircraft replacement</i>	\$5m	\$10bn - \$15bn	\$10bn - \$15bn
<i>Jindalee Operational Radar Network</i>	\$440m	\$100m - \$150m	\$540m - \$590m
Active missile defence (excluding planned investment captured under other capability priorities)	\$210m	\$7bn - \$10bn	\$7.2bn - \$10bn
Total	\$850m	\$20bn - \$29bn	\$21bn - \$30bn

Note: Planned investments in air and missile defence are spread across multiple elements of the 2026 Integrated Investment Program. This includes planned maritime missile defence investments captured in Table 2 (Investments in maritime capabilities for sea denial and localised sea control operations) and Table 3 (Investments in targeting and long-range strike). Planned investments in passive missile defence measures are included in Table 8 (Investments in theatre logistics and health) and Table 11 (Investments in northern bases). Other investments that support command and control are included in Table 9 (Investments in theatre command and control). E-7A Wedgetail AEW&C aircraft continue to be supported through approved sustainment funding. Approved sustainment funding is not reported in the 2026 Integrated Investment Program.





10

10 Theatre Logistics and Health

- 10.1 The Government is investing \$14-\$21 billion over the decade to develop the posture and preparedness of the Defence logistics network, harden it against disruption and enhance the resilience of key supply and distribution chains. This includes investments to uplift Defence's health capabilities, providing the ADF with critical medical supplies and equipment.

Additional logistics centres and capacity

- 10.2 The Government is investing \$10-\$15 billion over the decade to develop and enhance logistics infrastructure across Australia, with a focus on central and northern Australia. This will enhance Defence's ability to rapidly move equipment and supplies to areas of operational need and ensure that the ADF has access to sufficient stocks of critical supplies in resilient storage facilities. In parallel, Defence will modernise its logistics information system to provide a near real-time logistics picture with planning tools, enhancing visibility of supplies, equipment and distribution within the network.
- 10.3 Defence will continue to advance its integration with Australian industry to enable access to additional capacity in crisis or conflict. In 2025, Defence signed a \$1.5 billion contract with Toll Remote Logistics to optimise the delivery of warehousing, distribution and retail services across Australia.

Fuel holdings, storage and distribution capacity

- 10.4 Fuel security is a critical component of *National Defence*. Recent conflicts have demonstrated the exposure of the global supply chain, including the distribution of commercial fuel. The Government is accelerating efforts to increase the reliability, resilience and capacity of the Defence fuel network. This will ensure that the ADF has access to the right fuel, in sufficient quantities, at the right time and in the right location.



- 10.5 In line with the 2024 National Defence Strategy, Defence has redoubled its efforts to build national resilience through closer partnerships between other Commonwealth agencies, state and territory governments and industry to secure Australia's supply chains and reduce disruptions. At the national level, Defence co-chairs the National Fuel Council with the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water, which is supporting efforts to deliver more resilient national fuel supply, distribution and storage. The Department of Industry, Science and Resources is also working with Defence to support more resilient supply chains and advance domestic manufacturing for sovereign capabilities.
- 10.6 The Government is investing \$2.7-\$3.8 billion over the decade to support fuel resilience and sovereign fuel capability, including through the Defence Fuel Resilience Program. The program is delivering improvements to the existing Defence fuel network, enhancing storage capacity through the delivery of new infrastructure across Australia's northern bases, increasing on-hand reserves and investing in alternative fuel sources and distribution systems to improve resilience against supply chain disruption. This has resulted in a doubling of Defence fuel stockholdings since 2022.

Defence Fuel Resilience Program – doubling fuel stockholdings

Through the Defence Fuel Resilience Program, Defence is delivering enhanced fuel holdings, enhanced storage and resilience all over Australia. The Government has already invested \$2 billion to increase Defence fuel stocks and uplift Defence's fuel distribution capability. Since 2022, Defence has:

- ▶ established a strategic fuel reserve, almost doubling its fuel stockholdings;
- ▶ enhanced fuel distribution capability by acquiring additional road distribution assets, improving Defence's ability to distribute fuel for consumption; and
- ▶ introduced the capability for the ADF to convert civilian grade aviation fuel to military specification, improving Defence's ability to access alternate stockholdings in times of crisis or conflict.

The Government will make further investments over the decade to support fuel resilience and sovereign fuel capability through the Defence Fuel Resilience Program. This includes:

- ▶ additional improvements to the existing Defence fuel network, including a significant increase in fuel storage capacity and holdings; and
- ▶ enhancements to other major means of distribution of fuel, including rail and sea.

These investments will further enhance storage capacity through the delivery of new infrastructure across Australia's northern bases, significantly increasing on-hand reserves and investing in alternative fuel sources and distribution systems to improve resilience against supply chain disruption.

In parallel, Defence is delivering on its Future Energy Strategy by diversifying Defence's fuel supply chain and supporting the Government's emissions reductions targets. This includes accelerating the adoption of low-carbon liquid fuels – which can be used without any loss of capability in Defence platforms – and can be produced entirely in Australia.

Defence has demonstrated the successful use of these fuels across air, maritime and land platforms, including in trials at RAAF Base East Sale, the Army's School of Armour in Puckapunyal and in the deployment of ADV *Reliant*.

Improved health capability and protective measures

10.7 The ADF must possess modern, scalable and integrated health systems to sustain forces engaged in operations. The Government is investing \$1.3-\$1.8 billion over the decade to further develop and enhance the ADF's health capability and to support protective measures. These investments support:

- ▶ developing modern, deployable ADF health command and control systems to provide real-time visibility of casualties, medical resources and patient movement, with the capacity to integrate with civilian health systems;
- ▶ uplifting the ADF's deployable health capability and casualty evacuation capability, including investment in protected mobility ambulances, enhanced aero-medical evacuation services and the integration of uncrewed systems for medical logistics and casualty extraction in high-risk environments;



- ▶ continuing to develop a health knowledge management system for garrisons, ships and deployed environments to improve health readiness;
- ▶ establishing a strategic medical and health materiel stockpile in collaboration with state and territory governments, supported by a modern and resilient theatre logistics network to ensure supplies can move efficiently to the area of need;
- ▶ continuing to develop a scalable and agile chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear defence capability that will protect ADF personnel against exposure to chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear substances; and
- ▶ replacing and upgrading aviation fire vehicles with dedicated, modern and purpose-built rescue and firefighting vehicles, enabling emergency response to airfield incidents and bushfire response.



Table 8: Investments in theatre logistics and health

Capability Element	Approved Planned Investment (2026-27 to 2035-36)	Unapproved Planned Investment (2026-27 to 2035-36)	Total Planned Investment (2026-27 to 2035-36)
Additional logistics centres and capacity	\$270m	\$10bn - \$15bn	\$10bn - \$15bn
Fuel holdings, storage and distribution capacity			
<i>Improved fuel resilience</i>	\$350m	\$2bn - \$3bn	\$2.4bn - \$3.4bn
<i>Bulk fuel distribution</i>	\$100m	\$200m - \$300m	\$300m - \$400m
Improved health capability and protective measures			
<i>Deployable health capability</i>	\$22m	\$700m - \$1bn	\$720m - \$1bn
<i>CBRN defence</i>	\$14m	\$500m - \$700m	\$510m - \$710m
<i>Rescue and firefighting vehicles</i>	\$33m	\$20m - \$50m	\$53m - \$83m
Total	\$790m	\$13bn - \$20bn	\$14bn - \$21bn

Note: Additional logistics centres and capacity includes capabilities such as logistics vehicles, systems, storage and warehousing, deployable basing infrastructure and enhancements to support services for deployed forces, such as the provision of clean water and power generation.





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11 Theatre Command and Control

- 11.1 The Government is investing \$14-\$19 billion over the decade to continue to modernise Defence networks, deliver assured communications, establish resilient command and control nodes and harness advanced technologies to achieve decision advantage. These capabilities, underpinned by enhancements to Defence's intelligence capabilities, will support the ADF to assess the security environment, plan effectively and act quickly to defend Australia and our interests.

Command and control

- 11.2 The Government is modernising the ADF's command and control systems to improve integration, resilience and responsiveness. These investments will ensure the ADF is working off a common operating picture across all domains, supporting the ADF's participation in operations while remaining interoperable with key allies and partners. Key capability investments include:
- ▶ modernising Defence's strategic and tactical communications networks through investment in cryptographic systems, modern satellite terminals and resilient high-capacity data links. This is supported by the development of protected satellite communications and line-of-sight systems, ensuring the ADF can maintain its command and control in contested or degraded environments;
 - ▶ enhancing the resilience of theatre land command and control architecture against electronic, cyber and physical attack by hardening fixed and deployable command and control headquarters and enabling functions;
 - ▶ continued modernisation of Defence's air traffic management system and air control system, integrated, where appropriate, with civil aviation authorities. These systems are essential for maintaining persistent situational awareness and managing military air operations in Australian airspace and in our region; and
 - ▶ continued rollout of ICT and communications systems, applications and supporting infrastructure to Navy's surface fleet to enable effective command and control and data sharing across deployed maritime units.





Table 9: Investments in theatre command and control

Capability Element	Approved Planned Investment (2026-27 to 2035-36)	Unapproved Planned Investment (2026-27 to 2035-36)	Total Planned Investment (2026-27 to 2035-36)
Warfighting networks and strategic communications	nil	\$2bn - \$3bn	\$2bn - \$3bn
Decision advantage and intelligence	\$21m	\$1.5bn - \$2bn	\$1.5bn - \$2bn
Land command systems	\$600m	\$5bn - \$7bn	\$5.6bn - \$7.6bn
Air command systems	\$5m	\$500m - \$700m	\$500m - \$700m
Air traffic management and control capability	\$480m	\$500m - \$700m	\$980m - \$1.2bn
Maritime command systems	\$460m	\$700m - \$1bn	\$1.2bn - \$1.5bn
Future investments	nil	\$2bn - \$3bn	\$2bn - \$3bn
Total	\$1.6bn	\$12bn - \$17bn	\$14bn - \$19bn

Note: Future investments includes minor projects, experimentation, innovation, research and testing and evaluation.





12

12 Guided Weapons and Explosive Ordnance Enterprise

- 12.1 The Government is investing \$26-\$36 billion over the decade to continue the acceleration of the GWEO enterprise to support the ADF's ability to project force, hold potential adversary forces at risk and sustain protracted combat operations. This investment will enhance Australia's ability to produce, maintain, repair and overhaul selected weapons. It will also increase Australia's strategic stockpile of weapons and munitions and expand storage and distribution facilities to accommodate Defence's growing GWEO inventory.
- 12.2 The Government's investments in the GWEO enterprise are complemented by investments in targeting and long-range strike, as outlined in Chapter 5.
- 12.3 In addition, as outlined in Chapter 1, Defence will also explore opportunities to leverage alternative financing to accelerate the GWEO enterprise.

Domestic manufacture of guided weapons and explosive ordnance

- 12.4 Domestic manufacturing of GWEO and munitions is one of the Government's Sovereign Defence Industrial Priorities.
- 12.5 The initial focus for Australia's domestic GWEO manufacturing capability has been domestic production using imported components and materials. The number of munitions components made in Australia will increase over time, enabled by a dedicated investment of over \$500 million to uplift the GWEO supply chain.



- 12.6 The Government has prioritised four GWEO manufacturing projects to uplift Australia's industrial capabilities. Significant progress has been made to advance each of these projects, which are collectively bolstering ADF stockpiles, improving the ADF's timely access to weapons and building resilience into Australian and global supply chains. This includes:
- ▶ the Government's investment of \$850 million, in partnership with Kongsberg Defence Australia, to manufacture the advanced anti-ship Naval Strike Missile and Joint Strike Missile at a purpose-built facility near Newcastle, New South Wales, with production to commence in 2027. Given global demand, domestic manufacture will enable Australia to receive these weapons faster than if they were ordered from Kongsberg's existing factory in Norway;
 - ▶ the manufacture of the Guided Multiple Launch Rocket System, which will extend Army's stockpiles of land-based strike munitions. Domestic manufacture of the first Australian made Guided Multiple Launch Rocket System commenced in December 2025 in partnership with Lockheed Martin Australia, at a new factory in Port Wakefield, South Australia. Over time, the future Australian Weapons Manufacturing Complex will be capable of producing 4,000 Guided Multiple Launch Rocket Systems per year;
 - ▶ the new cooperative program with the United States to co-develop, co-produce and co-sustain the Precision Strike Missile – the next-generation of surface-to-surface missiles that can deliver effects at longer range. In October 2025, Australia, the United States and Lockheed Martin Corporation signed a joint statement of intent providing a pathway for the co-development, co-production and co-sustainment of critical long-range fires and their component supply chains;
 - ▶ the establishment of a sovereign rocket motor manufacturing capability. Rocket motors are critical components of missiles and global supply chain issues have led to global production shortages, underpinning the importance of this investment for Australia. Developing this sovereign capability will provide the propulsion element for current and future munitions; and
 - ▶ Defence's work to refine its large calibre ammunition domestic manufacturing requirements in response to notable changes to the global defence industrial base. Defence will collaborate with industry to accelerate production of naval 5-inch ammunition in response to increased demand. Domestic manufacture of 155mm large calibre ammunition remains a priority and Defence is working with industry to establish a facility capable of producing 15,000 rounds of ammunition per year, with the capacity to scale up to 100,000 per year to meet both Australian and global needs.

- 12.7 Following agreement at the Australia-United States Ministerial Consultations in 2025, Australia and the United States are furthering depot-level sustainment of AIM-9X Sidewinder and Advanced Medium-Range Air-to-Air Missiles through a two-year shared pathway for the GWEO enterprise. Defence will also explore sovereign component manufacture and co-production of these missiles, supporting Australia's sovereign defence industrial base.
- 12.8 Over time, as domestic capability and capacity grows, the focus of the GWEO enterprise will shift to manufacturing more complex weapons and components. Further details will be provided in the 2026 Guided Weapons and Explosive Ordnance Plan.

Co-development, co-production and co-sustainment of the Precision Strike Missile

The Government has entered into a new cooperative program with the United States to co-develop, co-produce and co-sustain the Precision Strike Missile – the next-generation of surface-to-surface missile that can deliver effects beyond 500km, central to strengthening Australia's land and maritime strike capability, with future missile upgrades to extend this range beyond 1,000km.

In 2025, Australia and the United States established a Cooperative Program Office to coordinate the leadership and management of the Precision Strike Missile program.

In October 2025, Australia, the United States and Lockheed Martin Corporation signed a joint statement of intent providing a pathway for the co-development, co-production and co-sustainment of critical long-range fires and their component supply chains.

Following the successful cooperative production of the Guided Multiple Launch Rocket System, Defence will look to accelerate the cooperative production of the Precision Strike Missile. This will provide greater and earlier opportunities for Australian industry to contribute to the component supply chain, which will attract investment in advanced manufacturing capabilities and support skilled jobs to strengthen the Australian economy.

Co-sustainment will enable the establishment of a regional support base for the sustainment of Australia's Precision Strike Missile and potentially that of our allies and partners.



Co-production of the Precision Strike Missile will build on the longstanding engagement between the Defence Science and Technology Group and the United States Army, enabling ongoing opportunities for Australia to contribute to future increments of the Precision Strike Missile family of munitions.

The Precision Strike Missile program marks the deepening of a long-term partnership for this critical capability between the United States and Australia.

Industry and international collaboration

- 12.9 The Government is advancing the GWEO enterprise in close coordination with defence industry and international partners.
- 12.10 The Government has committed more than \$500 million across all the GWEO domestic manufacturing projects to support Australian industry. This is helping Australian businesses, in particular small and medium enterprises, to increase their capabilities in manufacturing selected GWEO components for Australian use and to support global supply chains.
- 12.11 Australia is also collaborating closely with key international partners, including the United States and Norway, to:
- ▶ strengthen innovation through joint research and development, technology transfer and information sharing;
 - ▶ integrate Australian GWEO into international supply chains; and
 - ▶ establish joint test and evaluation functions and cooperate on maintenance and repair capabilities.

Securing strategic stockpiles

- 12.12 A sufficient stockpile of munitions is critical to ensuring the ADF can sustain operations in a potential conflict. Complementing the Government's investments in targeting and long-range strike, Defence is also bolstering its weapons stockpiles through the GWEO enterprise, including:
- ▶ additional stocks of Advanced Anti-Radiation Guided Missile – Extended Range;
 - ▶ acquiring additional quantities of air intercept missiles such as the AIM-120 Advanced Medium Range Air-to-Air Missile, Ground-to-Air missiles, the AIM-9X Sidewinder Missile and even longer range missiles including the AIM-260 Joint Advanced Tactical Missile;

- ▶ acquiring additional stocks of MK-48 Heavy Weight Torpedoes; and
 - ▶ additional investment in ground-based missile interceptors to accelerate introduction of a medium-range missile defence capability.
- 12.13 The Government is also investing in the supporting infrastructure needed to securely store and maintain the expanded inventory of GWEO, including the \$508 million investment in the redevelopment of base facilities and new explosive ordnance at Defence Establishment Orchard Hills, New South Wales.
- 12.14 Defence needs a resilient logistics chain that ensures weapons can move quickly and efficiently to the area of operational need. Defence is working with industry to invest in an enhanced network of GWEO storage and distribution locations to expand secure storage capacity and enable agile deployments to the area of operational need.
- 12.15 The stockpile will also be supported by other GWEO enterprise enablers, including test and evaluation to ensure weapons remain viable and operationally fit for use, research and development and disposal and demilitarisation.



Table 10: Investments in GWEO

Capability Element	Approved Planned Investment (2026-27 to 2035-36)	Unapproved Planned Investment (2026-27 to 2035-36)	Total Planned Investment (2026-27 to 2035-36)
GWEO enterprise	\$6.1bn	\$20bn - \$30bn	\$26bn - \$36bn
Total	\$6.1bn	\$20bn - \$30bn	\$26bn - \$36bn

Note: Some planned investments to uplift long-range strike capabilities and other munitions for Navy, Army and Air Force are included in Table 3 (Investments in targeting and long-range strike).





13

13 Northern Bases

- 13.1 Australia's northern bases are vital to the ADF's readiness, resilience and ability to project force. The Government is investing \$13-\$16 billion over the decade to ensure Defence has a logistically connected and resilient set of bases, ports and barracks across northern Australia. These investments are fundamental to the ADF's ability to hold potential adversary forces at risk, project force and sustain protracted combat operations.

Enhanced basing capacity for force projection

- 13.2 The Government is investing in a range of projects and activities across northern Australia to enable the ADF's ability to rapidly generate and support operations. These investments include:
- ▶ development of airfield infrastructure in the Cocos (Keeling) Islands to support operations by P-8A Poseidon maritime surveillance aircraft;
 - ▶ developments at RAAF Bases Tindal and Darwin to increase basing capacity and enable combat operations;
 - ▶ upgrades to RAAF Base Learmonth to enhance the ADF's ability to undertake and sustain operations from northern Australia, including through refuelling operations using the KC-30A multi-role tanker transport aircraft;
 - ▶ works to develop the Defence estate across Darwin and Townsville to improve capacity and deliver force posture requirements to support interoperability with the United States and other key partners;
 - ▶ redevelopment of Larrakeyah Defence Precinct in Darwin to uplift its capacity to accommodate major surface combatants and submarines. Further works to engineering services, accommodation and fuel storage are ongoing;
 - ▶ ongoing works to upgrade range facilities and infrastructure at training areas across the Northern Territory including Kangaroo Flats and Bradshaw Field Training Area; and
 - ▶ delivery of additional infrastructure in the Northern Territory and southeast and north Queensland to support Army's littoral manoeuvre capabilities and enable logistics vessels to be loaded and unloaded.



- 13.3 Investments in northern base infrastructure will be complemented by enhancements to the northern logistics network to pre-position essential supplies at northern bases, as well as improved supply and distribution resilience within the Defence estate.

Enhanced basing resilience

- 13.4 The Government is also continuing to invest in projects to enhance resilience across northern Australia and strengthen Defence's ability to sustain operations, with a particular focus on air base remediation, including:
- ▶ redevelopment of RAAF Base Townsville to upgrade facilities and engineering services;
 - ▶ airfield works at RAAF Bases Curtin and Learmonth to support dispersed and sustained ADF operations into the future; and
 - ▶ sustainment, maintenance and enhancements to enabling infrastructure across the network of northern bases, including resilient water, power and communications facilities.
- 13.5 The Government is investing in deployable infrastructure that can be quickly established to support or reconstitute operations at alternative locations to support basing resilience.

Enhancing our ability to operate from our northern bases

Improving the ADF's ability to operate from Australia's northern bases was one of the Government's six immediate priorities announced in response to the 2023 Defence Strategic Review.

Since the release of the 2024 National Defence Strategy and Integrated Investment Program, the Government has delivered over \$2 billion of investment to enhance defence infrastructure and capabilities across Defence's northern bases. This includes, but is not limited to:

- ▶ the completion in October 2025 of the nation's largest and most advanced marksmanship training range at Kangaroo Flats Training Area near Darwin;

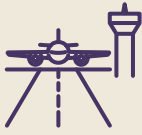
- ▶ the completion in December 2025 of a shared user facility to house Navy cadets and support other Defence personnel at HMAS *Cairns* in Queensland;
- ▶ the opening in July 2024 of the new Kuru Wharf at HMAS *Coonawarra* in the Northern Territory providing additional berthing capacity for naval vessels, including major surface combatants and submarines;
- ▶ upgrades and construction of a new 212 metre wharf underway at HMAS *Cairns* in Queensland to support Arafura Class Offshore Patrol Vessels, Evolved Cape Class Patrol Vessels and a variety of visiting vessels;
- ▶ the construction of an Urban Operations Training Facility at the Bradshaw Training Area in the Northern Territory to support training for complex modern fighting techniques;
- ▶ major base upgrades at RAAF Base Tindal in the Northern Territory, including enhancements to critical airfield infrastructure and engineering services;
- ▶ airfield infrastructure upgrades at RAAF Base Darwin and Mount Bunday underway in the Northern Territory;
- ▶ upgrades and maintenance of airfield infrastructure underway at RAAF Base Townsville in Queensland, including to extend the runway to support maritime patrol aircraft.

Continued investment in northern Australia remains a key focus of the 2026 National Defence Strategy to support Defence preparedness, resilience, force projection and force generation.

Defence bases and infrastructure in northern Australia remain essential enablers for Australia's capability and operations and major drivers of economic activity in regional and remote areas.

The investment in our northern bases builds on the broader investments in enterprise infrastructure. This investment is supported by the Government's response to the Defence Estate Audit, where all proceeds from divestments of the Defence estate that are not aligned with current or future capability needs will be reinvested into the priorities of the Government's defence strategy, including northern bases.




Table 11: Investments in northern bases

Capability Element	Approved Planned Investment (2026-27 to 2035-36)	Unapproved Planned Investment (2026-27 to 2035-36)	Total Planned Investment (2026-27 to 2035-36)
Enhanced basing capacity for force projection and enhanced basing resilience			
<i>Northern operational base infrastructure</i>	\$130m	\$7bn - \$10bn	\$7.1bn - \$10bn
<i>Northern air base infrastructure</i>	\$1.4bn	\$4bn - \$5bn	\$5.4bn - \$6.4bn
<i>Northern training area enhancements</i>	\$23m	nil	\$23m
Total	\$1.6bn	\$11bn - \$15bn	\$13bn - \$16bn

Note: Investments in northern base infrastructure are being complemented by investments across the 2026 Integrated Investment Program to enhance the northern logistics network to pre-position stocks of key munitions, spare parts and other essential supplies at northern bases, as well as improved supply and distribution resilience within the Defence estate. The above figures do not include ongoing general and routine estate maintenance investment.





14

14 Enabling Capabilities

- 14.1 The Government is investing \$30-\$40 billion over the decade in enterprise infrastructure and \$12-\$15 billion over the decade in enterprise data and ICT to ensure Defence is fit-for-purpose and can operate seamlessly and effectively in competition, crisis and conflict. This includes defence intelligence, resilient enterprise infrastructure, a trained, professional workforce and modern, secure and integrated ICT.

Intelligence

- 14.2 Timely and relevant defence intelligence that provides objective insight is crucial to delivering decision advantage. Defence relies on intelligence for early indicators and warnings of threats to Australia and to enable the ADF's advanced platforms, sensors and weapons to be fully employed at the right time and place. Intelligence is also a critical enabler for policy, capability and ADF operations.
- 14.3 Defence intelligence, comprising its people, processes, systems and data, also supports targeting across all domains as a critical enabler of the Defence targeting enterprise and long-range strike. This includes geospatial intelligence capabilities which provide intelligence and data for the integrated, focused force.
- 14.4 Defence continues to look for ways to optimise and innovate the way intelligence is collected, analysed and disseminated, including through enhanced training and new facilities.
- 14.5 Innovation is enabled by technological advancement. Defence is developing an integrated and resilient network of sensors and intelligence mission systems, strengthened by automation and artificial intelligence. Defence is working to bolster the capacity of classified information storage, leveraging the Government's investment in cloud technologies. Defence continues to grow partnerships with industry to uplift defence intelligence mission data production. This is critical to ensuring the ADF can navigate and counter threats and hold potential adversary forces at risk in our primary area of military interest.
- 14.6 Intelligence investments deliver effects across the integrated, focused force and are reflected throughout the 2026 Integrated Investment Program.



Enterprise infrastructure

- 14.7 A resilient network of bases and facilities in the south of Australia provides strategic depth and enables the integrated, focused force and the national support base to generate force and support the ADF's participation in operations.
- 14.8 The Government is investing \$30-\$40 billion over the decade in infrastructure across key Defence facilities. Work includes significant upgrades to training institutions in southern Australia focused on force generation, sustainment, health networks and logistics. These investments also include funding to maintain and upgrade Defence's airfields and maritime infrastructure.
- 14.9 The Defence Estate Audit, commissioned as part of the Government's response to the recommendations of the 2023 Defence Strategic Review, made recommendations to reorient the Defence estate to meet current and future security challenges.
- 14.10 In 2026, the Government agreed or agreed-in-principle to all 20 of the Estate Audit's recommendations to ensure the Defence estate is modern, future-focused and fit-for-purpose. This includes fully or partially divesting 67 Defence sites across Australia, while preserving and enhancing public access to historically significant sites.

Base infrastructure

- 14.11 A consolidated, efficient and sustainable estate is critical for training, force generation and operational readiness. Continued investment in Defence's bases will ensure the ADF can generate operational capability, including enhancements to HMA Ships *Stirling* and *Harman*. The Government is also investing in the Edinburgh Defence Precinct and at RAAF Bases Amberley, Pearce and Richmond to ensure Air Force can train with and maintain its highly effective fleet of aircraft.

Training and workforce growth infrastructure

- 14.12 As the size of the Defence workforce grows, the Government is investing to meet future workforce requirements. This includes investments across the Defence estate to meet future training and accommodation requirements.
- 14.13 Planning is underway to upgrade key ADF training establishments in southern Australia, including the Riverina redevelopment program that is delivering infrastructure works at:
- ▶ RAAF Base Wagga Wagga to support Air Force recruit and initial employment training;

- ▶ Albury Wodonga Military Area for defence logistics initial employment and career-continuation training; and
 - ▶ Blamey Barracks, Kapooka to support Army recruit training.
- 14.14 The Australian Defence Force Academy living-in accommodation will expand and replace existing facilities to provide contemporary, safe and suitable accommodation for future workforce growth.
- 14.15 The construction of the next-generation *Young Endeavour II* is underway, replacing the current *Young Endeavour*. Operated by Navy, the new ship will provide youth development and sail training through the Young Endeavour Youth Scheme.

Net zero and clean energy

- 14.16 Climate change is a national security issue, which could impede the ADF's ability to defend Australia and our interests. In 2024, the Government released the Defence Net Zero Strategy, which, together with the Defence Future Energy Strategy, sets out Defence's transition to clean energy. Defence is working to improve power consumption efficiency, reduce reliance on the civilian electricity grid and enhance the operational resilience of key bases, including through:
- ▶ accelerating emissions reduction with secure and reliable renewable electricity;
 - ▶ transitioning current fuels to low emissions alternatives;
 - ▶ increasing energy efficiency on the Defence estate to reduce emissions and costs; and
 - ▶ embedding a unified and integrated approach to achieving net zero with enabling functions and resources.

Science and technology infrastructure

- 14.17 Defence's science and technology infrastructure is critical to supporting our sovereign science and technology ecosystem which maintains Australia's technological edge. The Government is investing in digital, technical and estate capabilities needed to support Australia and our interests.
- 14.18 Modernised and enhanced digital and physical infrastructure supports the ADF to use emerging science, technology and innovation to pursue asymmetric advantage. The Government is investing in next-generation research infrastructure, specialised experimental facilities and digital infrastructure systems to capture, analyse and share research. This supports Australia's sovereign innovation and technology development, aligned to the 2026 National Defence Strategy.



National capital works

14.19 National capital works include upgrades to sites supporting command, control and communications functions and investment in initiatives to address environmental management and energy security.



Table 12: Investments in enterprise infrastructure

Capability Element	Approved Planned Investment (2026-27 to 2035-36)	Unapproved Planned Investment (2026-27 to 2035-36)	Total Planned Investment (2026-27 to 2035-36)
Training and workforce growth infrastructure			
<i>Training infrastructure</i>	\$2.2bn	\$700m - \$1bn	\$2.9bn - \$3.2bn
<i>Workforce growth infrastructure</i>	\$710m	\$7bn - \$10bn	\$7.7bn - \$11bn
<i>Base infrastructure</i>	\$1.1bn	\$13bn - \$18bn	\$14bn - \$19bn
<i>Science and technology infrastructure</i>	\$70m	\$1.5bn - \$2bn	\$1.6bn - \$2.1bn
<i>National capital works</i>	\$250m	\$3bn - \$4bn	\$3.3bn - \$4.3bn
Total	\$4.3bn	\$25bn - \$35bn	\$30bn - \$40bn

Note: The above figures do not include ongoing general and routine estate maintenance investment.

Enterprise data and information and communication technology

14.20 A modern, secure and integrated information environment is a critical enabler of the integrated, focused force. The ability to acquire, process, move and use data securely is essential for decision making and operational effectiveness. It delivers decision advantage for the ADF, enhances the availability and effectiveness of our military capabilities, protects ADF forces and Australia's critical infrastructure and underpins our ability to maintain persistent situational awareness in our primary area of military interest.

- 14.21 The Government is investing in projects to continue to deliver capabilities that safeguard the resilience of the ADF's data, networks and processes. These investments will:
- ▶ enhance the efficiency, resilience and redundancy of Defence's ICT and the people and systems that enable it;
 - ▶ secure Defence's ICT, including implementing zero trust architecture to ensure the integrated, focused force is supported by secure networks;
 - ▶ enhance interoperability and connectivity with key allies and partners, building on concurrent work in communications, command and control and targeting integration; and
 - ▶ ensure Defence can attract, train and retain a specialised data workforce, including data scientists, engineers and analysts to employ the best minds available.
- 14.22 Defence will continue to integrate automated processes, such as artificial intelligence and machine learning to process, exploit and disseminate data and enhance productivity. These processes will enable faster and better informed decisions at the tactical, operational and organisational levels.
- 14.23 The Government is investing \$12-\$15 billion over the decade in data and ICT at the enterprise level through:
- ▶ delivering modern, secure and survivable ICT networks and applications that support current and future corporate, intelligence and warfighting requirements. This includes migrating to cloud-based systems. In 2025, Defence signed a multi-year agreement with Google Australia to deliver enhanced, secure and air-gapped, hyper-scale cloud capability for Defence's ICT environment;
 - ▶ enhancing the One Defence Data Program, following its successful launch in 2025. One Defence Data will improve the storage, management, acquisition and discovery of data and become Defence's single source of truth for key operational and corporate data. This program is a key enabler of future artificial intelligence capabilities;
 - ▶ implementing the Enterprise Resource Planning system across Defence to simplify key business functions. The first phase of the Enterprise Resource Planning roll out has successfully integrated core business functions across Defence, including finance, procurement, supply chain maintenance and personnel performance management; and
 - ▶ uplifting the Defence payroll system, transforming Defence's human resources enabling functions.





Table 13: Investments in enterprise data and ICT

Capability Element	Approved Planned Investment (2026-27 to 2035-36)	Unapproved Planned Investment (2026-27 to 2035-36)	Total Planned Investment (2026-27 to 2035-36)
Enterprise networks	\$1.9bn	\$5bn - \$7bn	\$6.9bn - \$8.9bn
Enterprise systems	\$230m	\$4bn - \$5bn	\$4.2bn - \$5.2bn
Future investments	\$420m	nil	\$420m
Total	\$2.6bn	\$9bn - \$12bn	\$12bn - \$15bn

Note: Future investments includes minor projects, experimentation, innovation, research, testing and evaluation.





Appendix A: Budget Summary

Table 14: Integrated Investment Program planned investment summary

Capability Element	Approved Planned Investment (2026-27 to 2035-36)	Unapproved Planned Investment (2026-27 to 2035-36)	Total Planned Investment (2026-27 to 2035-36)
ASCA	\$2.8bn	\$1bn - \$1.5bn	\$3.8bn - \$4.3bn
Undersea warfare	\$14bn	\$80bn - \$115bn	\$94bn - \$130bn
Maritime capabilities for sea denial and localised sea control operations	\$25bn	\$38bn - \$53bn	\$62bn - \$77bn
Targeting and long-range strike	\$9.6bn	\$18bn - \$26bn	\$28bn - \$35bn
Space and cyber	\$3.8bn	\$24bn - \$35bn	\$27bn - \$38bn
Amphibious capable combined-arms land system	\$22bn	\$25bn - \$36bn	\$48bn - \$59bn
Expeditionary air operations	\$15bn	\$20bn - \$26bn	\$34bn - \$41bn
Missile defence	\$850m	\$20bn - \$29bn	\$21bn - \$30bn
Theatre logistics and health	\$790m	\$13bn - \$20bn	\$14bn - \$21bn
Theatre command and control	\$1.6bn	\$12bn - \$17bn	\$14bn - \$19bn
GWEO	\$6.1bn	\$20bn - \$30bn	\$26bn - \$36bn
Northern bases	\$1.6bn	\$11bn - \$15bn	\$13bn - \$16bn
Enterprise infrastructure	\$4.3bn	\$25bn - \$35bn	\$30bn - \$40bn
Enterprise data and ICT	\$2.6bn	\$9bn - \$12bn	\$12bn - \$15bn
Total	\$110bn	\$315bn - \$450bn	\$425bn - \$560bn



Notes on the Integrated Investment Program and the presentation of financial information

- 1. Purpose of the public Integrated Investment Program.** The 2026 Integrated Investment Program has been developed in order to: provide the Australian public with transparency of the Government's plans to develop defence capabilities over the decade to 2035-36, in line with the biennial National Defence Strategy cycle; and provide defence industry with information on Defence's capability goals and requirements to support industry planning.
- 2. Development of the Integrated Investment Program.** The public Integrated Investment Program provides information to support the goals outlined above while protecting national security and taking account of commercial sensitivities. To facilitate this approach, a reporting structure was established to enable aggregation of all planned defence capability investments within thematic categories and subcategories that are aligned with the capability priorities identified in the 2026 National Defence Strategy.
- 3.** The thematic groupings presented in the public Integrated Investment Program correlate with a full list of Defence's capability projects that is held at a classified level, to provide transparency and ensure accuracy. The methodology adopted also involved a consistent approach to the presentation of financial confidence intervals or 'range bands' to present funding provisions for projects that have not been approved by the Government. The methodology used established a coherent reporting framework to enable the release of an appropriate level of detail on Defence's capability plans and associated financial information. The public Integrated Investment Program will be updated biennially in line with the National Defence Strategy.
- 4. Planned capability investment tables and charts.** The tables included in the public Integrated Investment Program encapsulate planned investment over the period from 2026-27 to 2035-36. The figures:
 - describe the planned investment (not precise cost estimates) for approved and unapproved acquisition funding and associated unapproved sustainment funding for defence capabilities;
 - do not include expenditure prior to 2026-27 on existing projects, nor long-term expenditure beyond 2035-36;
 - are based on investment plans for individual projects, including a reasonable level of over-programming at the total program level to assist with budget management by helping to mitigate the impact of unforeseen project delays;
 - do not include project contingency;
 - below \$100 million have been rounded to the closest \$1 million;
 - between \$100 million and \$1 billion have been rounded to the closest \$10 million;
 - between \$1 billion and \$10 billion have been rounded to the closest \$0.1 billion;
 - between \$10 billion and \$100 billion have been rounded to the closest \$1 billion;
 - above \$100 billion have been rounded to the closest \$5 billion;

- listed as totals may not precisely add due to rounding; and
 - are based on a point-in-time and will be regularly adjusted in line with Defence's capability development, acquisition and approval processes.
5. **Approved planned investment.** Figures for approved planned investment include previous investment decisions where budget and scope authority for future expenditure has been decided. These approximate figures reflect the unexpended portion of approved funding from 2026-27. They include approved acquisition funding only and not sustainment funding. Approved planned investment includes some infrastructure projects that have not yet received Parliamentary Works Committee approval. Approved planned investment also includes particular approved funds that have been transferred from Defence to the Australian Signals Directorate.
 6. **Unapproved planned investment.** Figures for unapproved planned investment include planned investment that has not received final approval. These figures include both unapproved acquisition funding and unapproved sustainment funding. Figures have been presented within range bands taking into account that funding approvals have not yet been provided and the need to preserve commercial sensitivities.
 7. **Total planned investment.** Total planned investment is the sum of approved planned investment plus unapproved planned investment. This entails approved and unapproved acquisition funding as well as unapproved sustainment funding. Approved sustainment funding has not been included. Defence's published annual reports and portfolio budget statements provide information on Defence's Top 30 sustainment products, incorporating approved sustainment funding.
 8. **Allocated funding.** The Government has allocated funding of around \$425 billion to Defence capability investment over the decade to 2035-36 through the 2026-27 Budget process. This includes new and re-prioritised investment. The Integrated Investment Program is revised in line with each biennial National Defence Strategy to ensure our investment plans take account of developments in our strategic environment and rapid advances in technology. This amount of funding available for capability investment does not include over programming.
 9. **Alternative financing.** The estimates reported here reflect the current 2026 Integrated Investment Program. In addition, as outlined in Chapter 10 of the 2026 National Defence Strategy, the Government is investing in the 2026 Integrated Investment Program through direct appropriation, new proceeds from estate divestment and alternative financing, where appropriate and feasible. Defence will prioritise developing alternative financing delivery options as part of the additional investment in the 2026 National Defence Strategy. This includes projects in the Defence estate, consolidation of the Henderson Defence Precinct and the development of the GWEO enterprise. This can include equity-based financing through Commonwealth bodies such as specialist direct investment vehicles and government business enterprises, as well as private financing.









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