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## **FOURTH AIR WARFARE DESTROYER WELCOMED**

Premier Mike Rann says the SA Government has been lobbying hard for a fourth air warfare destroyer ship to be built in South Australia.

“The case for it has become much stronger since the announcement that the slightly smaller Spanish frigate, designed by Navantia, had been chosen,” Mr Rann said.

“The savings made in choosing the Navantia design meant that the fourth ship became a much more viable proposition.

“This is the perfect outcome for South Australia. It extends the life of the project guaranteeing future long-term jobs.

“This is also a huge vote of confidence in the South Australian economy, our defence industry and our workers and it further justifies the \$374 million investment the SA Government is making in the infrastructure, facilities and skills training centre at the Techport Australia site at Osborne.

“Although we have yet to be briefed on the fourth ship, our initial expectation is that a fourth ship will extend the life of the build program to about 2020, given the third ship is due to roll off the platform in about 2017.

“This would add more than \$1 billion to the \$8 billion defence project, which is already the largest defence contract of its type in Australia’s history.

“Since the Spanish defence company Navantia was announced in June by the Federal Government as the preferred designers, the State Government has been lobbying to get a fourth new air warfare destroyer built at Techport.

“The AWD project will help transform the South Australian economy, with more than 4000 direct and indirect jobs to be created. And it will give us the skills and capabilities to attract future naval and defence projects,” Mr Rann said.