

Tuesday, 29 June 2010

\$24 MILLION UPGRADE AHEAD OF DEFENCE PERSONNEL INFLUX

Defence Industries Minister Kevin Foley today announced a \$24 million package of infrastructure upgrades around the Greater Edinburgh Parks precinct, as the State prepares for an influx of interstate defence personnel and their families.

Construction work will start in August 2010, and will see significant upgrades to roads and transport corridors across Elizabeth and Salisbury.

Mr Foley said the upgrades are needed in preparation for the relocation of the 1,200- strong 7th Royal Australian Regiment Battle Group, due to start arriving at the end of the year.

“This relocation has been five years in the making and as we enter the final stages of preparation we are now delivering a major boost to roads and transport facilities across the northern suburbs”.

“Locals will benefit from the upgrades to roads, stations, pedestrian paths and cycling lanes in the area as well as from the creation of tens of thousands of jobs within the precinct over the next couple of decades”, Mr Foley said.

The \$24 million package of infrastructure improvements include:

- Upgrade of Elizabeth South station
- Duplication of Commercial Road from Purling Avenue to Salisbury Highway
- Upgrade of the traffic signals at the Commercial Road / Salisbury Highway intersection
- Conversion of Commercial Road / Kettering Road and at Commercial Road / Purling Avenue roundabouts to dual lane roundabouts
- Conversion of roundabouts on West Avenue at Tarakani and Bellchambers Roads to dual lane roundabouts
- Conversion of the roundabout at Womma Road and Peachy Road to a dual lane roundabout
- Upgrading of the T-junction of Womma Road and Heytesbury Road to a roundabout.
- Upgrading of Nurlutta Railway station/crossing, and
- Upgrading of pedestrian and cycling facilities.

The \$24m improvements are funded by the State Government, in partnership with the City of Playford and the City of Salisbury.

The Federal Government announced the relocation of the 7RAR Battle Group to South Australia in December 2005, and construction of new facilities within RAAF Base Edinburgh itself has been underway since 2008.

The Federal Government's \$590 million investment in new facilities within RAAF Base Edinburgh includes working accommodation, training facilities, a driver training area, a vehicle wash point and common user facilities for both Army and Air Force including health, mess, fitness and community facilities.

Defence is a key presence within the Greater Edinburgh Parks precinct, which under the *30 Year Plan for Greater Metropolitan Adelaide* has been identified as a major industrial growth area.

In addition to general industry, the Greater Edinburgh Parks precinct incorporates the State's existing major Defence facilities – the Defence Science and Technology Organisation and RAAF Base Edinburgh. Commercial defence tenants include Australian Aerospace, Nova Defence, Lockheed Martin and the headquarters of BAE Systems Australia – Australia's largest defence firm.