



**SENATOR THE HON MARISE PAYNE,
MINISTER FOR DEFENCE
MS MICHELLE LANDRY MP
FEDERAL MEMBER FOR CAPRICORNIA**

14 June 2016

DEFENCE INVESTMENT TO DRIVE JOBS AND GROWTH IN ROCKY AND COAST

A re-elected Turnbull Government will work with Defence to ensure businesses in the Rockhampton and Capricorn Coast region are able to participate in the benefits of a \$2.25 billion deal with the Singapore military in Queensland.

Under the agreement, Singapore will invest up to \$1 billion in Capricornia – upgrading infrastructure around the Shoalwater Bay Military training area, north of Rockhampton.

Minister for Defence Senator Marise Payne and Federal Member for Capricornia Michelle Landry today met with Rockhampton and Capricorn Coast business leaders to discuss how the Australia-Singapore Comprehensive Strategic Partnership (CSP) will benefit the local community.

Minister Payne said a re-elected Turnbull Government will work with Defence to ensure local businesses are able to participate in the substantial upgrades earmarked for the region.

As part of the landmark agreement, Singapore will:

- invest more than \$1 billion on upgrading the Shoalwater Bay Training Area;
- visit twice a year, instead of annually; and
- increase troop rotation each year in Australia from 6,000 to 14,000.

The upgrades will include new camp accommodation as well as medical, waste management, maintenance and ICT facilities. The training area will also support new training facilities, arms range and beach landing points.

Minister Payne said the CSP investment is on top off \$190 million worth of upgrades to Shoalwater Bay over the next two decades announced as part of Australia's 2016 Defence White Paper.

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Minister Payne and Ms Landry met with local businesses today from the construction, retail, hospitality and tourism sectors to outline the benefits of the new defence spends to the local economy.

“A re-elected Turnbull Government will work with Defence to ensure local businesses are able to participate in these substantial upgrades,” Minister Payne said.

“The investment at Shoalwater Bay presents a wide range of opportunities for local businesses which will drive jobs and growth in Capricornia.

“The Turnbull Government is committed to resetting the relationship between Defence and industry to ensure more of our Defence dollar can be spent in local businesses.”

Ms Landry said she was proud to be a part of a Government so serious about developing Northern Australia and with a clear commitment to Rockhampton, the Capricorn Coast and the Capricornia region.

“The deal with Singapore defence cannot be underestimated – and the benefits are something that only a Turnbull-Joyce Government can deliver to Capricornia,” Ms Landry said.

“I am pleased that the Defence Minister has today confirmed that a re-elected Turnbull-Joyce Government will work with Defence to ensure businesses in the Rockhampton and Capricorn Coast region are able to participate in the benefits of a \$2.25 billion deal with the Singapore military in Queensland – \$1 billion of which will be spent locally,” Ms Landry said.

Ms Landry will organise a business trip for local businesses to visit Singapore if she is re-elected – to provide an opportunity to network with Singapore and discuss what Central Queensland has to offer in terms of trade and business opportunities.

“In a time when Central Queensland is suffering a major mining downturn, and in need of a jobs boost, the spins off for potential new employment opportunities, business and construction contracts, retail spending and tourism could be worth hundreds of millions of dollars to local businesses over time,” Ms Landry said.

“I have been pushing hard for more defence-related spending in Capricornia and this deal is the fruition of long negotiations with Singapore. This is truly one of the most extraordinary deals to directly benefit our local economy that we will see. It’s a once in a lifetime boost to Rockhampton, Yeppoon and the Capricorn coast by a foreign country,” she said.

The Coalition’s tax cuts for small and medium sized businesses will also help drive jobs and growth in Rockhampton, Yeppoon and right across Capricornia.

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