

# News Release

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**Premier Mike Rann**

Minister for Economic Development  
Minister for Social Inclusion  
Minister for the Arts  
Minister for Sustainability and Climate Change

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## **NEW BATTALION MOVES INTO EDINBURGH**

The \$750 million transformation of the Edinburgh Parks precinct, in Adelaide's north, is almost complete, as the 1100-strong 7<sup>th</sup> Royal Australian Regiment Battle Group moves to town.

Mr Rann visited Edinburgh today with Defence Minister Stephen Smith and Defence Science and Personnel Minister Warren Snowden, as they joined UK Secretary of State for Defence, the Hon Dr Liam Fox MP for an inspection of South Australia's state of the art defence facilities.

Premier Mike Rann said Army personnel and their families began arriving late last year, and 7RAR will commence operations from RAAF Base Edinburgh next week.

"By next week, there's expected to be more than 550 soldiers operating from the base, growing to 700 by the end of the year," Mr Rann said.

"The 7RAR Battalion – along with other elements of Army's 1 Brigade - will continue to grow in line with Army planning to reach 1100 personnel by 2014.

"We campaigned for this Battalion to be relocated to Adelaide, because it consolidates our position at the *Defence State*, and is expected to inject an additional \$107 million into the state economy each year, with up to 1900 people including partners and children, integrating into the northern suburbs.

"Since coming to office, we have worked hard and invested heavily to grow our defence industries and jobs.

"Currently, about \$1.5 billion is being invested by government and industry in defence infrastructure in South Australia, including about \$500 million at Techport Australia, \$750 million at Edinburgh, up to \$300 million to modernise the Woomera test range and the planned five-fold expansion of the Cultana Training area.

"We have a fantastic track record of winning and delivering major defence projects, including the Air Warfare Destroyer project, the next generation of submarines, multi-billion dollar through-life support for the Collins class submarines, the \$1 billion AP-3C Orion aircraft maintenance and upgrade contract, and the \$1 Billion Customs Project Sentinel Contract."

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

“This is the most extensive reconstruction of any Defence facility in Australia, with Defence spending about \$750 million to upgrade or build new facilities, including accommodation, working and training facilities, a driver training area, a vehicle wash point and common use facilities for both Army and Air Force including health, mess, fitness and community facilities,” Mr Rann said.

“And residents in the greater Edinburgh Parks precinct are also benefiting through a \$24 million package of infrastructure upgrades in the area, including significant upgrades to roads and transport corridors across Elizabeth and Salisbury.

“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 Rann said.

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

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.