



# Defence Industry Strategy

## Growing Queensland's defence industry capability

The Federal Government has signalled a significant increase in defence and national security investment over the next 10 years, as highlighted by the announcement of a Defence Strategic Review.

Cairns is strategically positioned as a forward operating base for the Indo-Pacific region and has been named by the Royal Australian Navy (RAN) as one of four Regional Maintenance Centres under Plan Galileo.

Cairns is expected to play an increasingly important role in Australia's national security and defence strategy. This is demonstrated in recent examples of Defence-related spending including \$155 million to expand the HMAS Cairns base, \$300 million (State and Federal) to

develop a Common User Facility at the Cairns Marine Precinct, and \$70 million for NORSTA Maritime to act as Regional Maintenance Provider for Regional Maintenance Centre North-East.

As the Far North Queensland hub for Defence activity, Cairns urgently requires a Defence Industry strategy to guide ongoing development of, and investment in, defence support industries in the region.

The strategy will also demonstrate how the State is responding to the Defence Strategic Review, support the State in delivering on its own 10-year Defence Industries plan via industry capability development, and ensure that Cairns sustainably responds to the outcomes and objectives of Plan Galileo.

### At a glance

# \$100k

**Council allocation:**  
Council has allocated \$100k towards this project, subject to 50/50 matched funding from the State for industry-led Defence Strategy development.

**Electorates:**  
Cairns, Mulgrave, Barron River

**Government Alignment:**  
Queensland Defence Industries 10-Year Roadmap and Action Plan.

**Government Minister:**  
Steven Miles, Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning

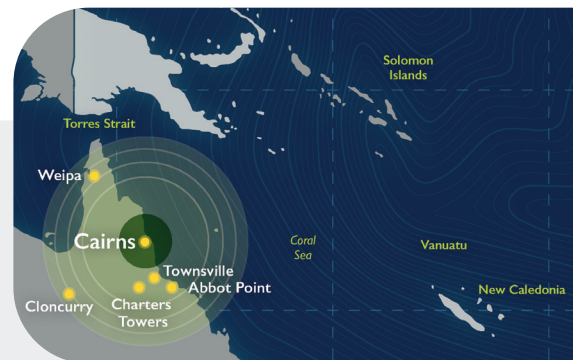
## Vision

**While Cairns has existing Defence capability and capacity, there is no clear strategy to identify how Council and industry can partner with the State to position the region to meet and exceed Defence sector requirements.**

**It is also unclear how to best action opportunities to collaborate with neighbouring**

**Councils to unlock investment across Northern Queensland.**

**In preparing the strategy, Council plans to engage with Townsville City Council, Charters Towers City Council, Regional Maintenance Centre – North East, the Department of State Development, Local Government, Industry and Planning (DSDLGIP), Cairns and Townsville**



**advocacy organisations, and industry representatives to ensure the resulting activities complement, not compete with regional Defence activities.**



## Community benefits

The strategy will support economic growth and investor confidence in Far North Queensland which in turn, will deliver jobs and wealth creation for the residents of Cairns and surrounds. The community will benefit in a number of ways including:

- 1** Increased commercial viability for private sector investors, which will drive long-term commitments and anchor tenancies for key infrastructure;
- 2** Increased enterprise capability through workforce utilisation and local procurement initiatives, driving the development of resilient northern supply chains;
- 3** A targeted pipeline of enabling infrastructure through transparent communication with Defence around future capability needs; and
- 4** Closer collaboration between industry and State and Local Governments in tackling systemic issues such as skill shortages.

**Our vision for Queensland is to lead the nation in defence industry by 2028, increasing the revenue contribution to the Queensland economy to \$7 billion and creating a 10,000 strong, highly skilled workforce.**

*Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government  
Steven Miles MP, November 2022.*

## What we need

State Government commitment for:

# \$100k

Matched funding to partner with Cairns Regional Council, Advance Cairns and other stakeholders to develop a comprehensive Cairns and Far North Queensland Defence Industry Strategy.



## Timeline

### 2023-2024

Strategy to be developed in partnership with the State.