

Australia plans big boost to defence budget

Australia will increase defence spending by nearly A\$30 billion (\$21.6 billion) over the next 10 years, amid concerns over increasing military expansion in the Asia-Pacific region

■ **Submarines:** Construction of 12 “regionally superior” vessels from 2018-2057, at cost of more than A\$50bn – Australia’s largest ever defence procurement

■ **Surface ships:** Three *Hobart*-class destroyers already scheduled to enter service in early 2020s. Navy also planning to build nine new anti-submarine warfare frigates and 12 patrol vessels

Total spend
2% of GDP
by 2021

Land combat and amphibious warfare

Strike and air combat

Air and sea lift

Ten-year division of investment to FY 2025-26

ISR*, electronic warfare, space and cyber security

Maritime and anti-submarine warfare

Key enablers (including infrastructure, technology, logistics and health services)

■ **Personnel:** Increase of around 2,500 to total of 62,400

■ **Land forces:** Purchase of armed surveillance drones, new armoured vehicles for troop transport, long-range rocket system and light helicopters for special forces operations

■ **Air force:** Two fleets of drones, plus existing plans to buy 72 *F-35* stealth jets and 12 *Growler* electronic warfare aircraft. More aerial refuelling planes

■ **Airlift capability:** Increased to include eight *C-17 Globemaster* heavy-lifters, 12 upgraded *Hercules* transport planes and 10 *Chinook* helicopters

*Intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance

Sources: Australian Government, wire agencies

Pictures: AP, Kockums AB

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