

Queensland Treasurer's Media Release 24 November 2009

Subject: Treasurer backs Qld bid for Australian Defence Force contract

Treasurer and Minister for Employment and Economic Development
The Honourable Andrew Fraser
24/11/2009

Treasurer backs Qld bid for Australian Defence Force contract

A Queensland manufacturing firm is among the top contenders for a billion dollar Australian Defence Force (ADF) contract that could generate more than 250 jobs in Toowoomba.

Treasurer and Minister for Employment and Economic Development Andrew Fraser today voiced strong support for Protected Transport Systems (PTS) in their bid to build new light armoured vehicles for the ADF.

"Queensland's manufacturing industry is internationally competitive and highly skilled, and SEQ is emerging as a major defence transport manufacturing base," Mr Fraser said.

"PTS is a strong candidate for this project - they have the technology and the know-how to deliver a state-of-the-art product.

"Their proposal offers the ADF a vehicle that will increase the survival chances of soldiers in combat situations - its performance and protection standards exceed current expectations.

"I know this is a competitive process, but I hope the ADF gives this Queensland-based company every consideration in making their decision."

Member for Toowoomba North Kerry Shine said the contract would provide a boost to the local economy.

"This is a significant opportunity for PTS, and if successful this contract would have wide-ranging economic and social benefits for the local Toowoomba community and the State," Mr Shine said.

"The Queensland Government fully backs PTS in their ADF contract bid."

PTS Executive Chairman Derek Andrews said the new vehicle would be manufactured under contract by Great Western Manufacturing at its Toowoomba manufacturing plant, using an extensive local supply chain.

"The production of a blast resistant vehicle will involve the use of material, components and services sourced Australia-wide so this contract will be beneficial to the economies of a number of Australian States," Mr Andrews said.

"Great Western Manufacturing has specialised in the manufacture of components for trucks and other heavy, specialist vehicles and equipment for more than 30 years.

"We believe that Queensland has the edge and Toowoomba in particular has a very strong manufacturing base."

Mr Fraser said Queensland had a growing defence capability and presence.

"Queensland is the second largest defence employer nationally and has an estimated defence industry turnover of \$1.4 billion," he said.

"The industry employs more than 13,000 people state-wide and up to 400 companies are linked to the sector. Hopefully PTS will soon join that list."

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